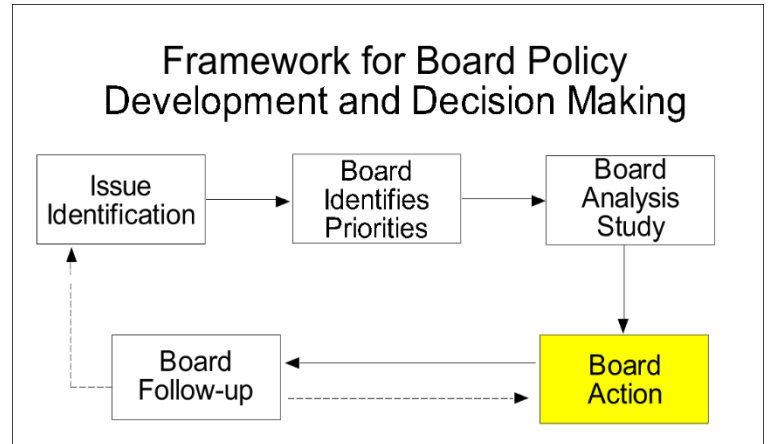


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

March 20, 2025



**Agenda Item:** Great Prairie Area Education Agency (AEA) Budget Review

**State Board Priority:** All

**State Board Role/Authority:** Iowa Code 273.3(12) requires the State Board to review the proposed budget of each area education agency (AEA) and either grant approval or return the budget without approval with comments of the State Board included. An unapproved budget shall be resubmitted to the State Board for final approval.

**Presenter(s):** Kassandra Cline, Chief  
Bureau of School Business Operations

Nathan Wood, Chief Administrator  
Great Prairie AEA

Cherie Westendorf, Chief Financial Officer  
Great Prairie AEA

**Attachment(s):** One

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the Great Prairie AEA budget as presented.

**Background:** Iowa Code 273.3(12) requires the State Board review the proposed budget of each AEA and either grant approval or return the budget without approval with comments by May 1. An unapproved budget shall be resubmitted to the State Board for final approval not later than May 15.

# FY26 Great Prairie Area Education Agency Budget Request and Report



## OUR VISION

To make a  
**positive impact**  
for all kids

## OUR MISSION

Great Prairie Area Education Agency creates a partnership with learners, families, and educators to support success.

Submitted by:

AEA Chief Administrator: Nathan Wood

Chief Financial Officer: Cherie Westendorf

Due: February 28, 2025

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## Executive Summary

[Insert a high-level overview of the information contained in the report.]

The report outlines the financial and operational overview of Great Prairie AEA for the fiscal years FY24 to FY26, providing insight into the services, expenditures, staff, and various operational aspects of the organization. Key highlights include a detailed breakdown of the GPAEA's served districts, students, teachers, and other stakeholders, as well as a review of capital assets, staffing changes, and administrative expenditures. The report also includes comparisons of budgeted funds over a three-year period and projections for FY26, with an emphasis on administrative cost reductions and service offerings.

## AEA Overview

Information relating to those served by the AEA, programs offered, location details, and a general description of capital assets is provided below.

### Served

[Enter a summary description of the different groups (e.g., districts, students, teachers, and others) served by the AEA.]

### *Districts*

[Enter information about the districts served by the AEA. Identify any districts served that are located outside the AEA. Also identify any districts that are not served by the AEA but that are located within the AEA.]

Great Prairie AEA partners with public and accredited non-public schools across seven counties to provide comprehensive educational programs and direct services for over 35,000 students from birth to age 21. These services include evaluations, assessments, and therapies for both general and special education, as well as Early ACCESS for early intervention in infants and toddlers. Teachers benefit from specialized professional development, consultation, and coaching, while district administrators, superintendents, curriculum directors, and other education professionals receive tailored support through structured learning, implementation, and sustainability phases. This integrated approach ensures that all stakeholders are equipped with the tools and guidance necessary to enhance educational outcomes.

Great Prairie Area Education Agency strives to further develop established partnerships with learners, families, and educators to support the success of all students. Through the values of collaborative partnerships, continuous improvement, and celebrating success; GPAEA's mission is to have a positive impact on all kids and educators during the 2024-2025 school year. The agency's three major current goals are as follows:

- Increase the success of all learners through every stage of development from birth through high school completion.
- Decrease the achievement gap between students in underperforming groups and all students.

- Provide opportunities to increase educator capacity to implement a sustained system of continuous school improvement

The following GPAEA public school districts listed in alphabetical order are provided services and supports across all three funding divisions of special education, educational services, and media services.

Albia	Moulton-Udell
Burlington	Mount Pleasant
Cardinal	New London
Centerville	North Mahaska
Central Lee	Oskaloosa
Chariton	Ottumwa
Danville	Pekin
Davis County	Seymour
Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont	Sigourney
Fairfield	Tri-County
Fort Madison	Van Buren County
Keokuk	Waco
Keota	Wapello
Mediapolis	Wayne
Moravia	West Burlington
Morning Sun	Winfield-Mt Union

GPAEA provides the following public school districts that are outside the GPAEA boundaries contracted library services for FY25. To be determined for next year FY26.

English Valleys - North English	Highland - Riverside
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The following accredited non-public schools listed in alphabetical order are provided services and supports across all three funding divisions of special education, educational services, and media services. GPAEA has requests from all all accredited non-public schools to provide instructional services and media supports.

Great River Christian School	Notre Dame Elementary School
Holy Trinity Elementary	Notre Dame High School
Holy Trinity Jr-Sr High	Oskaloosa Christian School
Keokuk Catholic Schools St. Vincent's School	Ottumwa Christian School

Keokuk Christian Academy	Seton Catholic School
Maharishi School	Singing Cedars School

\* Mt Pleasant Christian School will be newly accredited for July 1, 2025.

- GPAEA is providing services to all public and non-public schools within the agency in all three divisions of special education, educational services, and media services during FY25.

*Students*

[Enter information about the students who are served by the AEA.]

Great Prairie AEA works in partnership with public and accredited non-public schools to provide educational services, programs and resources for improving the learning outcomes and well-being of all children and youth in central Iowa. Great Prairie AEA staff members serve children from birth to age 21, families, educators and communities. Great Prairie AEA provides leadership and service to more than 35,000 students, 2,700 teachers and administrators in 32 school districts and 11 accredited non-public schools across 6,360 square miles in Southeast Iowa. Great Prairie AEA's programs and services are agency-wide focusing on improving student performance.

Great Prairie AEA serves children and students from birth to 21, in general education and special education. Some services are evaluation and assessment and some are direct services (e.g., occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language services).

Early ACCESS is Iowa’s early intervention system (IDEA Part C) for infants and toddlers under 3 years old who are not developing as expected or who have a medical condition that can delay typical development. Families and Early ACCESS staff work together to identify, coordinate and provide needed services and resources that help families assist their infants and toddlers in their growth and development.

Early ACCESS serves children from birth to age 3 and their families who are referred to the AEA for services. Great Prairie AEA audiologists and audiometrists provide hearing screenings for infants, young children and K-2nd grade and 5th grade students in schools.

*Teachers*

[Enter information about the teachers who are served by the AEA.]

Special education teachers receive varying levels of support from building-based GPAEA core team staff (e.g., school social workers, school psychologists and special education consultants). GPAEA special education staff design, deliver and support professional learning on a variety of special education topics.

In Educational Services and Media Services, teachers may access GPAEA content experts to support teaching and learning in classrooms. AEA content experts design, deliver and support professional learning for teachers who engage in professional learning offerings from the GPAEA.

Districts have the option to purchase GPAEA time and services. At the current time GPAEA expects all public districts and all accredited non-public schools to purchase some type of educational and media services during FY26.

From specialized professional learning to personalized consultation and coaching, AEA's ensure that districts receive the tailored support they need to meet their diverse needs.

### **Learning Support**

In the learning phase, services focus on equipping educators with the knowledge, skills and strategies necessary to enhance their teaching practices and improve student outcomes.

### **Implementation Support**

In the implementation phase, services focus on putting educational plans and strategies into action.

### **Sustainability Support**

In the sustainability phase, services aim to maintain and build upon the progress achieved during implementation.

### *Others Served*

[Enter information about others who are served by the AEA.]

Building Principals  
Superintendents  
Curriculum Directors  
Special Education Administrators  
Paraeducators  
Substitute Teachers  
District Coaches and other support staff  
Parents of Students  
Parents of School Communities through district partnerships

We are proud of partnerships with both Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa and Southeastern Community College in Burlington. GPAEA provides Four Plus special education services in partnership with both community colleges in the respective RISE and STEP programs. GPAEA staff also provide special education instruction at the Juvenile Detention Center in Montrose, Shelter School in Ottumwa, and the Correctional Facility in Mount Pleasant.

### **Programs**

[Highlight the general programs offered by the AEA as well as the programs offered that differentiate this AEA from others.]

Great Prairie AEA grounds its services to districts around the [Iowa's AEA's Portfolio of Services](#).

**Universal Services:** Career and Technical Education, College and Career Readiness, Literacy, Math,

Professional Learning School Improvement, Science, Social Studies, Computer Science Instruction, Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

**Specialized Services:** Assistive Technology, SEBH (Challenging Behavior & Autism) Team, Early ACCESS (Birth-3), Hearing Services, Mediation & Due Process facilitation, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Significant Disabilities, Section 504, Speech & Language, Transition Services, Vision Services, School Social Workers, School Psychologists, Special Education Consultants, *Correctional Facility Teachers*

**Targeted Services:** Early Childhood (3-5), English Language Learners, Gifted and Talented, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, School-Based Interventionists, Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Health, *Language and Literacy Pilot, Shared School Social Workers / SEBH Interventionist Services, New Superintendent Network, Teen Mental Health First Aid, Instructional Coaches Conference & Network, Juvenile Shelter Teachers, 4+ Programs (STEP & RISE)*

**Technology, Media, and Operations:** Application Hosting Services, Budget & Resources, Creative Services, Data & Privacy, Digital Learning, E-Rate Services, Information Technology Managed Services, Media Services, Online Resources, Professional Learning, Robust Infrastructure, Strategic Partnerships, Technology, Van Delivery, *Teacher Librarian Managed Service*

*\*Italicized / maroon services are more unique to Great Prairie AEA.*

### **Location**

[Insert a map of the AEA, map of the AEA building locations, and provide a narrative surrounding each.]

Great Prairie AEA provides leadership and service to more than 35,000 students, 2,700 teachers and administrators in 32 school districts and 11 accredited non-public schools across 6,360 square miles in 7 counties across Southeast Iowa.





### Great Prairie AEA Facilities

- Ottumwa - 2814 N. Court, Ottumwa, IA 52501
  - Located at 2814 North Court Rd, approximately 2 miles south of US Hwy 63 with access to a 4 lane hwy.
  - The Ottumwa office building is the agency’s main location for hosting professional development events for agency staff and the districts / educators we serve.
  - In addition to the administrative offices, the building houses the media library, and one of two print shop departments. It has 52,000 square feet of space, and has a variety of meeting spaces including a large auditorium with a dividable curtain, at least eight meeting rooms for at least 30 individuals; and a 21C room with innovative, collaborative technology.
  - This location also has two large areas that are used for staff office spaces that include small individual offices. The building contains large centrally located mens and womens restrooms.
  - The building is located to the east side of the current lot and there is a large parking lot directly to the west of the office building of approximately 200 spaces that was blacktop overlaid in the summer of 2023.
  - This office also contains a hearing booth.

- The building was originally built in 1965 and was renovated in 1995 when it was purchased by GPAEA.
- During the 2023 - 2024 school year new paint, flooring, public access doors, windows, and security cameras were installed.
- The agency print / creative services department in this office will be closed at the end of the 2024-2025 school year and consolidated to the GPAEA print / creative services shop in Burlington.
- Additionally, the GPAEA office in Ottumwa will house the GPAEA staffed shelter school (currently located off site) starting July 2025.
- **Fairfield - 2000 W Jackson Ave, Fairfield, IA 52556**
  - Approximately 2.5 miles off 4 lane US Hwy 34 then one-half mile off 2 lane US Hwy 34 through west central Fairfield.
  - The Fairfield satellite office building is one of the agency's satellite locations of approximately 4,300 square feet.
  - The primary purpose of this location is office space for GPAEA staff members, internal agency meetings, and monthly board of director meetings.
  - The location contains one 2600 square foot meeting space, and one small meeting room for approximately 12 individuals.
  - There is a concrete parking lot to the south of the building of approximately 18 spaces. The building was built by GPAEA in 2001 and has had no major renovations to this point in time.
  - Security cameras were installed in the spring of 2024.
- **Albia - 103 A St. S, Albia, IA 52531**
  - One block from town square and approximately one mile from 2 lane US Hwy 34.
  - The Albia satellite office building serves as one of the agency's satellite locations of approximately 14,000 square feet.
  - The primary purpose of this location is to serve as an office space for GPAEA employed staff.
  - In addition to the staff office space, the location includes a larger classroom, and three small private meeting spaces.
  - The office contains medium sized mens and womens restrooms which are centrally located in the building.
  - Adjacent to the building is a blacktop surfaced parking lot of approximately 30 spaces.
  - The building was built in 1955 with the original purpose of a HyVee. GPAEA purchased the property in 2011 and completed a renovation at that time.
  - Security cameras were installed during the spring of 2024.
- **Burlington - 3601 West Ave, Burlington, IA 52601**
  - Approximately ¼ mile west of the Highway 61 (known as Roosevelt Avenue while running through Burlington) and West Avenue intersection.
  - The Burlington satellite office building is used for hosting professional development events for agency staff and the districts / educators we serve.

- In addition to the administrative offices, the two floor building houses the media library and print shop department.
- It has 42,000 square feet of space, and has a variety of meeting spaces including conference Rooms A, B, and C with 2 movable walls; Iowa Room; Prairie Room, and 21C Room
- This location also has two large areas that are used for staff office spaces that include small individual offices; one on each level of the building. The building contains the following restrooms: men’s and women’s across from Conference Center, women’s on first floor near main entrance, Men’s and women singular restrooms in upper main office, Men’s and women’s restroom in lower level.
- This office also contains a hearing booth.
- The building was originally built in 1990 and was purchased by Great River AEA in 1999 and renovated at that time.
- The upper main level space was expanded by converting part of the lower warehouse area that previously had a very high ceiling.
- The Burlington office will serve as the sole print shop for AEA and LEA print / creative services during FY26.

### **Capital Assets**

[Provide a summary description of the AEA’s capital assets.]

- Own four (4) office buildings described above
- Own two (2) Media delivery vans and a lawn care tractor
- Print Shop equipment, including copy machines, laminators, binder, etc.
- Media Kits and Equipment, including iPads, OT/PT equipment, computers, planetarium, etc.
- Technology and Equipment, including laptops, firewalls, switches, projectors, screens, tv’s, hearing booths, audiology equipment, copy machines, printers, etc.

### **Staff**

Information about the AEA’s organizational structure, including specific positions, staff changes from FY25 to FY26, and administrative expenditures is provided below.

### **Organizational Chart**

[Insert an organizational chart and enter a related narrative.]

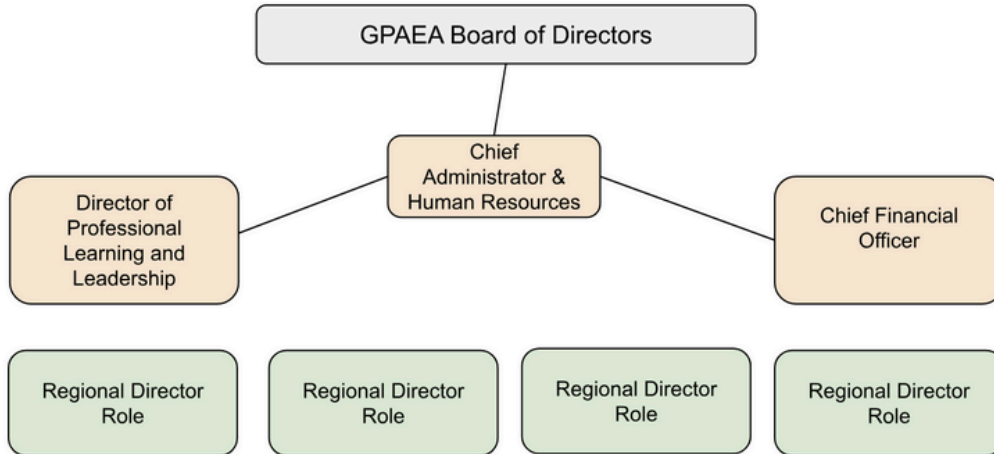
To better serve districts/schools, Great Prairie AEA will reorganize its leadership organizational structure for FY26. The restructuring of (6 - FY24) Regional Administrator positions to (3 - FY26) specialty positions will be focusing on three major areas:

- Administrator of Special Education Instructional Services
- Administrator of Special Education Related Services
- Administrator of Agency Managed Services

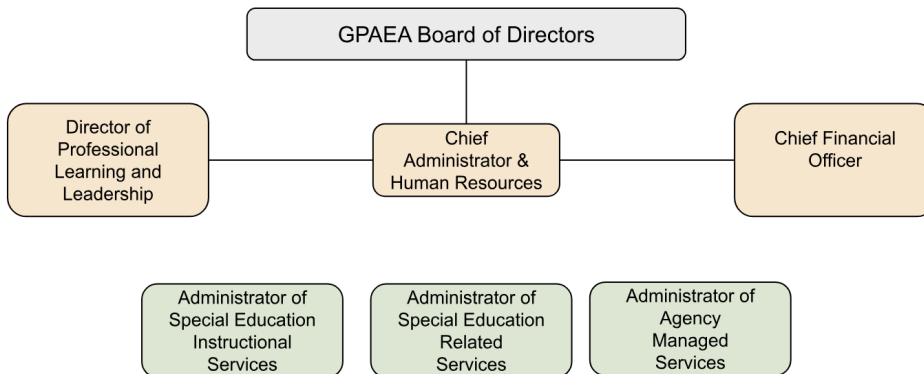
The redesigning of our leadership structure with expert content area focused leaders will provide more consistent and deeper support to GPAEA staff. We are prioritizing the development of our staff to

become effective, yet efficient expert coaches who can support systems change and instruction in classrooms which will have a positive impact on the teachers and students we support. We must think and act differently to achieve different results.

**FY25 Organizational Chart - 7 administrator**



**FY26 Organizational Chart - 6 administrators**



## BEDS Position Codes

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances for staff.]

**Table Name: AEA BEDS Position Codes - All Staff**

Position Name	Position Code	FY25 FTE Count	FY26 FTE Count	Variance
AEA Chief Administrator	510	1.00	1.00	0.00
AEA Other Administrator	550	1.0	1.0	0.00
School Business Official	612	1.18	1.00	-0.18
AEA Regional/Zone Coordinator	533	5.00	3.00	-2.00
Paraprofessionals/Aides	101	12.96	7.50	-5.46
Paraprofessionals/Aides	101	3.00	2.00	-1.00
Library/Media Associate	104	1.00	1.00	0.00
Student Support	106	8.00	8.00	0.00
Other Support	107	3.96	3.00	-0.96
Other Support	107	2.00	1.00	-1.00
Other Support	107	7.00	7.00	0.00
Other Supervisors/Managers	139	1.00	1.00	0.00
Technology Support	141	2.00	1.00	-1.00
District Wide Administrative Support	152	0.83	1.00	0.17
Transportation - Other than pupil transportation	175	1.90	1.90	0.00
Operations and Maintenance	181	1.84	3.44	1.60
Special Education Consultant	616	38.00	40.00	2.00
Content/Curriculum Consultant	618	13.50	11.50	-2.00
Social Worker	624	20.20	23.00	2.80
Specialist	626	3.00	0.00	-3.00
Specialist	626	2.00	2.00	0.00
Special Ed Support	660	66.40	73.00	6.60
Teacher Librarian/Media Specialist	722	3.00	2.00	-1.00
Itinerant Teacher	731	4.00	3.00	-1.00
Home Intervention Teacher	744	10.00	9.00	-1.00
Special Education Teacher	745	1.50	1.50	0.00
Juvenile Home Teacher	746	3.00	3.00	0.00

<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>218.27</b>	<b>211.84</b>	<b>-6.43</b>
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Position is of Chief Administrator / Human Resources Director is a shared role.

### FY25 to FY26 Staff Changes

Staff changes from FY25 to FY26 are detailed below for each position in the following programs: special education support services, educational services, and media services.

#### *Special Education Support Services Program*

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances for staff in the special education support services program.]

**Table Name: AEA BEDS Position Codes - Special Education Support Services Program**

<b>Position Name</b>	<b>Position Code</b>	<b>FY25 FTE Count</b>	<b>FY26 FTE Count</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Paraprofessionals/Aides	101	12.96	7.50	-5.46
Student Support	106	8.00	8.00	0.00
Other Support	107	3.96	3.00	-0.96
Special Education Consultant	616	38.00	40.00	2.00
Social Worker	624	20.20	23.00	2.80
Specialist	626	3.00	0.00	-3.00
Special Ed Support	660	66.40	73.00	6.60
Itinerant Teacher	731	4.00	3.00	-1.00
Home Intervention Teacher	744	10.00	9.00	-1.00
Special Education Teacher	745	1.50	1.50	0.00
Juvenile Home Teacher	746	3.00	3.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>171.02</b>	<b>171.00</b>	<b>-0.02</b>

GPAEA plans to reduce the number of paraprofessionals / aides that were hired for FY25 due to our inability to hire licensed Special Education Support staff such as School Psychologists and Speech & Language Pathologists. GPAEA is budgeting to increase the number of Special Education Support staff members such as Special Education Consultants, and School Social Workers.

#### *Educational Services Program*

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances for staff in the educational services program.]

**Table Name: AEA BEDS Position Codes - Educational Services Program**

<b>Position Name</b>	<b>Position Code</b>	<b>FY25 FTE Count</b>	<b>FY26 FTE Count</b>	<b>Variance</b>
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Content/Curriculum Consultant	618	13.50	11.50	-2.00
Specialist	626	2.00	2.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15.50</b>	<b>13.50</b>	<b>-2.00</b>

Through attrition GPAEA will reduce two educational services consultants. Final staffing decisions in educational services will be determined after district service plan meetings have been finalized and the agency has been able to determine the final need for educational services and supports.

### *Media Services Program*

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances for staff in the media services program.]

**Table Name: AEA BEDS Position Codes - Media Services Program**

Position Name	Position Code	FY25 FTE Count	FY26 FTE Count	Variance
Library/Media Associate	104	1.00	1.00	0.00
Other Support	107	2.00	1.00	-1.00
Other Supervisors/Managers	139	1.00	1.00	0.00
Transportation - Other than pupil transportation	175	1.90	1.90	0.00
Teacher Librarian/Media Specialist	722	3.00	2.00	-1.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>8.90</b>	<b>6.90</b>	<b>-2.00</b>

Through the closing of the Ottumwa office print shop GPAEA will reduce a support staff member and additional operating costs. Additionally, GPAEA will be reducing a teacher librarian as a result of a more effective contracted services program for school districts.

### **Administrative Expenditures**

Administrative expenditures include costs related to administration and administrators, as defined by HF2612 Sec. 17 (Iowa Acts 2024), which includes chief administrators, directors and department heads, regional administrators, regional and zone coordinators, district coordinators, and human resources and personnel managers. This section includes FY24 actual, FY25 re-estimated, and FY26 proposed administrative staff levels and administrative expenditures.

### **Administrative Staff by FTE**

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances.]

**Table Name: AEA Administrative Staff by FTE**

Administrative Staff	FY24 Actual	FY25 Re-Estimated	FY26 Proposed	FY24-FY26 Variance Amount	FY24-FY26 Variance Percent

Chief Administrator	1.0	1.0	1.00	0	0%
Directors and Department Heads	3.0	1.0	1.0	-2.0	-33%
Regional Administrators	6.0	4.0	3.0	-3.0	-50%
Regional and Zone Coordinators	0	0	0	0	0
District Coordinators	0	0	0	0	0
Other Administrative Positions	2.0	1.18	1.0	-1.0	-50%
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>7.18</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>-50%</b>

- The Chief Administrator position has been shared with the Human Resources Director role since July 2023.
- The change in “other administrative positions” for FY25 to FY26 is due to the mid-year hiring of a new Chief Financial Officer in the late fall of 2024.
- Restructuring of Regional Administrator positions to specialty positions focusing on three major areas:
  - Administrator of Special Education Instructional Services
  - Administrator of Special Education Related Services
  - Administrator of Agency Managed Services



**Total Administrative Expenditures: FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed**

Total administrative expenditures, detailed below by administration and administrative staff, are required to be reduced by at least thirty percent by July 1, 2026.

[Complete the table below and enter the related narrative.]

	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Re-Estimated</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed</b>	<b>FY24 to FY26 Reduction Amount</b>	<b>FY24 to FY26 Reduction Percent</b>
<b>Expenditures: Administration</b>					
General Administration (Func. 2300-2399)	\$1,506,529.47	\$1,011,157.00	\$978,314.00		
School Administration (Func. 2400-2499)	\$1,585,283.40	\$1,332,520.00	\$1,062,904.00		
Business and Central Administration (Func. 2500-2519, 2540-2599)	\$948,117.54	\$975,332.00	\$839,111.00		
Purchasing, Distributing, Printing (Func. 2520-2539)	\$407,580.10	\$294,959.00	\$270,521.00		
<b>Expenditures: Administration</b>	<b>\$4,447,510.51</b>	<b>\$3,613,968.00</b>	<b>\$3,150,850.00</b>		
<b>Revenue: Administration</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Re-Estimated</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed</b>		
General Administration (Func. 2300-2399)	\$22,336.17	\$0.00	\$49,200.00		
School Administration (Func. 2400-2499)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Business and Central Administration (Func. 2500-2519, 2540-2599)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Purchasing, Distributing, Printing (Func. 2520-2539)	\$239,519.03	\$186,000.00	\$175,000.00		
<b>Total Revenues: Administration</b>	<b>\$261,855.20</b>	<b>\$186,000.00</b>	<b>\$224,200.00</b>		
	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Re-Estimated</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed</b>	<b>FY24 to FY26 Reduction Amount</b>	<b>FY24 to FY26 Reduction Percent</b>
General Administration (Func. 2300-2399)	\$1,484,193.30	\$1,011,157.00	\$929,114.00	\$555,079.30	37.40%

School Administration (Func. 2400-2499)	\$1,585,283.40	\$1,332,520.00	\$1,062,904.00	\$522,379.40	32.95%
Business and Central Administration (Func. 2500-2519, 2540-2599)	\$948,117.54	\$975,332.00	\$839,111.00	\$109,006.54	11.50%
Purchasing, Distributing, Printing (Func. 2520-2539)	\$168,061.07	\$108,959.00	\$95,521.00	\$72,540.07	43.16%
<b>Total Expenditures: Administration</b>	<b>\$4,185,655.31</b>	<b>\$3,427,968.00</b>	<b>\$2,926,650.00</b>	<b>\$1,259,005.31</b>	<b>30.08%</b>
<b>Administrative Staff</b>					
Chief Administrator	\$297,489.00	\$302,683.00	\$302,683.00	\$5,194.00	-1.75%
Directors and Department Heads	\$651,385.00	\$223,325.00	\$223,325.00	-\$428,060.00	65.72%
Regional Administrators	\$1,012,393.00	\$728,084.00	\$546,063.00	-\$466,330.00	46.06%
Regional and Zone Coordinators	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
District Coordinators	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Human Resources	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$121,073.20	\$121,073.20	0
Other Administrative Positions	\$338,066.00	\$214,916.00	\$155,180.00	-\$182,886.00	54.10%
<b>Total Expenditures: Administrative Staff</b>	<b>\$2,299,333.00</b>	<b>\$1,469,008.00</b>	<b>\$1,348,324.20</b>	<b>-\$951,008.80</b>	<b>41.36%</b>
<b>Summary</b>					
	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Re-Estimated</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed</b>	<b>FY24 to FY26 Reduction Amount</b>	<b>FY24 to FY26 Reduction Percent</b>
<b>Total Administrative Expenditures</b>					
Total Expenditures: Administration * Non Personnel	\$1,886,322.31	\$1,958,960.00	\$1,578,325.80	\$307,996.51	16.33%
Total Expenditures: Administrative Staff	\$2,299,333.00	\$1,469,008.00	\$1,348,324.20	\$951,008.80	41.36%
<b>Total Administrative Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,185,655.31</b>	<b>\$3,427,968.00</b>	<b>\$2,926,650.00</b>	<b>\$1,259,005.31</b>	<b>30.08%</b>

**Total Administrative Expenditures: Reduction**

[Provide narrative for progress made toward administrative expenditure reduction.]

Great Prairie AEA’s administrative staff positions are being reduced from 12 to 6 FTE (50%) resulting in a reduction of approximately 41.36% in administrative staff expenses. GPAEA has also made reductions in administration non personnel expenses of over \$300,000. These cumulatively equal a reduction of \$1,259,005.31 which is 30.08% of the administrative expenditures during FY26 which meets the expectations outlined in HF2612, Section 17.

**Services**

[Insert a table and a narrative description of services provided, the recipients of those services, and associated cost to the entity purchasing the service (e.g., rates, fee schedule), if applicable, and the cost to the AEA to provide the service.]

[See Great Prairie AEA Annual Service & Cost Report - Appendix A \(supplemental attachment\)](#). This provides an overview of the services provided to school districts, the costs associated with the services provided, and the agencies costs to provide the service.

**Centralized Services**

[Include a narrative to describe the AEA’s centralized services, which are defined for this purpose as staff and services that are centralized and shared with other AEA’s.]

Services Provided	Lead Agency	Collaborating Agency
Early Childhood LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling)	Great Prairie	Heartland
Sharing Networking with Teacher Librarians	Great Prairie	Mississippi Bend, Grant Wood
Data Lead Support	Great Prairie	Grant Wood
DHH Database Support	Great Prairie	Keystone
Shared Early ACCESS Administrator	Grant Wood	Great Prairie
Shared TAG (Talented and Gifted) Consultant	Grant Wood	Great Prairie
Shared science VAST kits	Grant Wood	Great Prairie, Keystone, Mississippi Bend
Shared Science Consultant	Grant Wood	Great Prairie, Mississippi Bend
Audiology Services	Grant Wood	Great Prairie
IT Services	Grant Wood	Great Prairie,

		Mississippi Bend
Shared Administrative Positions	Grant Wood	Great Prairie
Powerschool Supports	Grant Wood	Great Prairie
English Learners Network	Grant Wood	Systemwide
Library Program Services	Great Prairie	Grant Wood
Creative Services Graphic Design Support	Great Prairie	Heartland
Child Find Team	Green Hills	Great Prairie
Preschool SDI (Specially Designed Instruction)	Green Hills	Great Prairie
ELL Services	Green Hills	Great Prairie
PD Registrar	Heartland	Great Prairie
Curriculum Network	Heartland	Systemwide
Counseling Network	Heartland	Systemwide
Cybersecurity Support	Heartland	Systemwide
Computer Science Professional Learning	Heartland	Great Prairie
Ed Tech Network	Heartland	Systemwide
Braille	Heartland	Systemwide
TAG Consultant	Heartland	Systemwide
Principals Network	Heartland	Systemwide
Special Education Leadership Network	Heartland	Systemwide
Canvas User Network	Heartland	Systemwide
Talented & Gifted/Extended Learning Network	Heartland	Systemwide
Computer Science Professional Learning	Heartland AEA	Great Prairie AEA
Special Education Nurse	Heartland, Northwest	Systemwide
Tech Network	Heartland, Northwest, Central Rivers, Grant Wood	Systemwide
Regionalized Technology Services	Heartland/Green Hills, Keystone/Central Rivers, Grant Wood/Miss Bend/Great Prairie,	Systemwide

	Northwest/Prairie Lakes	
Data	Keystone	Systemwide
Data dashboard	Mississippi Bend	Great Prairie

The table above provides a list of the services that GPAEA is centralizing through sharing with other AEA’s in the Iowa AEA system. Many of these centralized services will provide efficiency in management of the services but maintain effective services and supports to the schools, teachers, and students of GPAEA. Some of these centralized services are in place for the current year, while others will begin July 1, 2025 and others July 1, 2026.

**Centers of Excellence**

[Include a narrative to describe the AEA’s centers of excellence, which are defined for this purpose as content expertise and capacity in a targeted special education service area with statewide impact.]

Iowa AEA’s are committed to collaborate with each other as a statewide system to establish additional Center’s of Excellence, which will bring additional efficiencies and effectiveness to the system.

<b><u>Center of Excellence (CoE)</u></b>	<b><u>Lead AEA</u></b>	<b><u>Partnering AEA’s</u></b>	<b><u>Implementation Date</u></b>
Recruitment, Retainment, Onboarding, Mentoring & Professional Learning for AEA Special Education Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iowa AEA School Psychologist</li> </ul>	Heartland AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2025
Iowa AEA Early Access CoE	Keystone/Central Rivers AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2025
Assistive Technology Support for Learners with Disabilities	Green Hills AEA/Heartland AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2026
Leadership for Closing the Achievement Gap for Learners with Disabilities	Mississippi Bend AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2026
Explicit Instruction Practices for Learners with Disabilities	Prairie Lakes AEA	Systemwide	January 1, 2026
Assessment, Linkages, and Instructional Programming Practices for Successful Post Secondary Transition for Learners with Disabilities	Grant Wood AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2026
Instruction for Learners with Significant Cognitive Disabilities	Northwest AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2026
Language and Literacy for Learners with Disabilities	Great Prairie AEA	Systemwide	January 1, 2026

## Fiscal Detail

[Enter narrative of information provided in the section.]

### General Fund Balance: FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed

[Include narrative to explain fund balance type (e.g., non-spendable, restricted, committed) reflected in the table below, including reasons for purposeful balances and plans for use.]

Great Prairie AEA's non-spendable fund balances relate to prepaid expenses at the end of FY24. GPAEA had special education-restricted fund balances for TSS and TQ professional development. We also had other restricted fund balances for media center resource materials. GPAEA committed fund balances for the next phase of a remodeling project at our offices in Ottumwa and Burlington. These projects are currently on hold until final revenues for FY26 have been determined and the Iowa AEA task force provides recommendations for AEA facilities.

**Table Name: General Fund Balance Detail FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed**

General Fund Balance Detail	FY24 Actual	FY25 Re-Estimated	FY26 Proposed
Non-Spendable Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services			
Non-Spendable Fund Balance, Other	\$99,348.00	\$99,348.00	\$99,348.00
Restricted Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services			
Restricted Fund Balance, Other	\$58,075.00	\$20,789.00	\$20,789.00
Committed Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services	\$1,011,938.00	\$1,011,938.00	\$1,011,938.00
Committed Fund Balance, Other	\$1,015,478.00	\$1,015,478.00	\$1,015,478.00
Assigned Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services			
Assigned Fund Balance, Other	\$7,391.00		
Unassigned Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services	\$1,892,533.00	\$1,816,093.00	\$1,642,533.00
Unassigned Fund Balance, Other	\$3,494,193.00	\$3,081,890.00	\$2,106,257.00
<b>Total General Fund Balance (Rows 1-10)</b>	<b>\$7,578,956.00</b>	<b>\$7,045,536.00</b>	<b>\$5,896,343.00</b>

### Three-Year Comparison for Budgeted Funds: FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed

[Include narrative of the budget detail. Summarize the FY26 proposed budget assumptions mentioned earlier in the report (e.g., districts served, programs offered). Explain the assumptions used to estimate revenues and expenditures. Additionally, include any assumptions used to generate the budget that were not already covered in the report narrative above (e.g., types of contracts for services, programs, sharing agreements, capital purchases).]

Great Prairie AEA's FY26 budget is based on a 0% SSA increase and the continuation of the \$32.5 million cut to the Iowa AEAs. We anticipate receiving 90% of the special education funding flowing to the districts and do not anticipate an increase to the IDEA federal grants and budgeted a decrease to the Title I and Title III grants. Great Prairie AEA does not currently have any outstanding loans and is not budgeting for additional debt in FY26.

**Table Name: Resources, Expenditures & Financing Uses, and Funds Balance FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed**

Resources: Revenues, Other Financing Sources and Beginning Funds Balance	FY24 Actual	FY 25 Re-Estimated	FY26 Proposed
Taxes (Controlled Funding)	\$7,256,666.00	\$4,643,855.00	\$2,900,057.00
Tuition/Transportation	\$241,118.73	\$254,185.00	\$252,770.00
Earnings on Investments	\$307,764.92	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00
Nutrition Program Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Student Activities & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Revenues from Local Sources	\$1,301,520.09	\$1,765,076.00	\$3,497,054.00
Intermediate Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State Aid (Controlled Funding)	\$7,822,577.00	\$8,051,035.00	\$6,905,295.00
Juvenile Home Tuition Aid	\$356,605.86	\$429,552.00	\$415,357.00
Other State Revenues	\$1,898,522.97	\$1,510,000.00	\$1,425,511.00
IDEA Federal Grant	\$10,421,310.72	\$10,219,476.00	\$10,218,476.00
Other Federal Revenues	\$364,256.24	\$285,000.00	\$101,000.00
Long-term Debt Proceeds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interfund Transfers In	\$354,748.34	\$5,178.00	\$5,144.00
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Financing Sources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Beginning Funds Balance	\$7,972,507.90	\$7,656,262.46	\$7,122,841.00
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>\$38,297,598.77</b>	<b>\$35,019,619.46</b>	<b>\$32,943,505.00</b>
<b>Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses</b>			
	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY 25 Re-Estimated</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed</b>
Instruction	\$2,248,459.18	\$2,055,000.00	\$1,903,023.00
Student Support Services	\$11,318,057.71	\$11,248,165.00	\$11,180,915.00

Instructional Staff Support Services	\$8,888,371.58	\$8,003,389.00	\$7,536,751.00
General Administration	\$1,506,529.47	\$1,011,157.00	\$978,314.00
School Administration	\$1,585,283.40	\$1,332,520.00	\$1,062,904.00
Business & Central Support	\$948,117.54	\$975,332.00	\$856,131.00
Purchasing, Distributing, Printing, Duplicating	\$407,580.10	\$294,959.00	\$270,521.00
Plant Operations & Maintenance	\$1,252,806.66	\$872,100.00	\$1,010,275.00
Student Transportation	\$ -	\$100.00	\$100.00
Other Support Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Non-Instructional Programs	\$113,078.33	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	\$347,382.00	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interfund Transfers Out	\$354,748.34	\$5,178.00	\$5,144.00
Other Financing Uses	\$1,670,922.00	\$1,598,878.00	\$1,670,923.00
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>\$30,641,336.31</b>	<b>\$27,896,778.00</b>	<b>\$26,975,001.00</b>
<b>Funds Balance</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY 25 Re-Estimated</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed</b>
Total Resources	\$38,297,598.77	\$35,019,619.46	\$32,943,505.00
Total Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	\$30,641,336.31	\$27,896,778.00	\$26,975,001.00
<b>Ending Funds Balance</b>	<b>\$7,656,262.46</b>	<b>\$7,122,841.46</b>	<b>\$5,968,504.00</b>

**Additional FY26 Budget Assumptions**

[Please insert narrative on additional assumptions informed by potential opportunities and challenges not otherwise detailed in the report.]

For FY26 Great Prairie AEA is budgeting a revenue reduction of approximately \$5.35 million in the General Fund in comparison to FY24. As a result of the revenue reductions, the Agency’s administrative staff is being reduced from 12 FTE to 6 FTE (50%) and the total administrative costs have been reduced by 30.08% which meets the statute outlined in HF2612.

Great Prairie AEA has taken a different approach to staff allocations. Given the hiring challenges from FY24 to FY25, the Agency was careful not to reduce too many positions that provide services to schools and students for FY26. While GPAEA is presenting a deficit for FY26 of approximately \$1.15 million, we are being strategic to try to hire as many highly qualified professionals that may be reduced from other Area Education Agencies. Please note that any Supplemental State Aid increase and settlement packages with our employment groups may help reduce the projected deficit. In addition, Great Prairie AEA is also working with our public and non public school partners to establish service plans for FY26. These service plans will most likely produce increased revenues for FY26 than what is solidified at the time of the budget submission. Great Prairie AEA is in a position with solid ending fund balances to run a deficit by retaining as many staff members as possible into FY26.