

# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

September 12, 2025

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	Red Barn Schoolhouse Facilities Progress Report
<b>State Board Goal:</b>	Goal 5
<b>State Board Role/Authority:</b>	The State Board of Education is the sole authorizer of Iowa charter schools (Iowa Code section 256E.1(4)).
<b>Presenter(s):</b>	Barbara Ohlund, Executive Officer 4 Division of PK-12 Learning  Shawn Shea, Red Barn Schoolhouse  Sharon Oamek, Red Barn Schoolhouse
<b>Attachment(s):</b>	One
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.
<b>Background:</b>	As the sole authorizer with oversight and authority over Iowa's charter schools, the State Board of Education may request updates, reports, and specific information from charter schools at any time (Iowa Code section 256E.9(1)). Red Barn Schoolhouse was approved for a one-year delay in opening, as allowed in Iowa Code section 256E.6(2); the primary reason for the delay was facilities. The State Board has requested Red Barn Schoolhouse report on progress regarding facilities acquisition.



**RED BARN**  
Schoolhouse

*Where Nature Teaches*

# **CCSA dba Red Barn Schoolhouse meeting with Iowa State Board of Education**

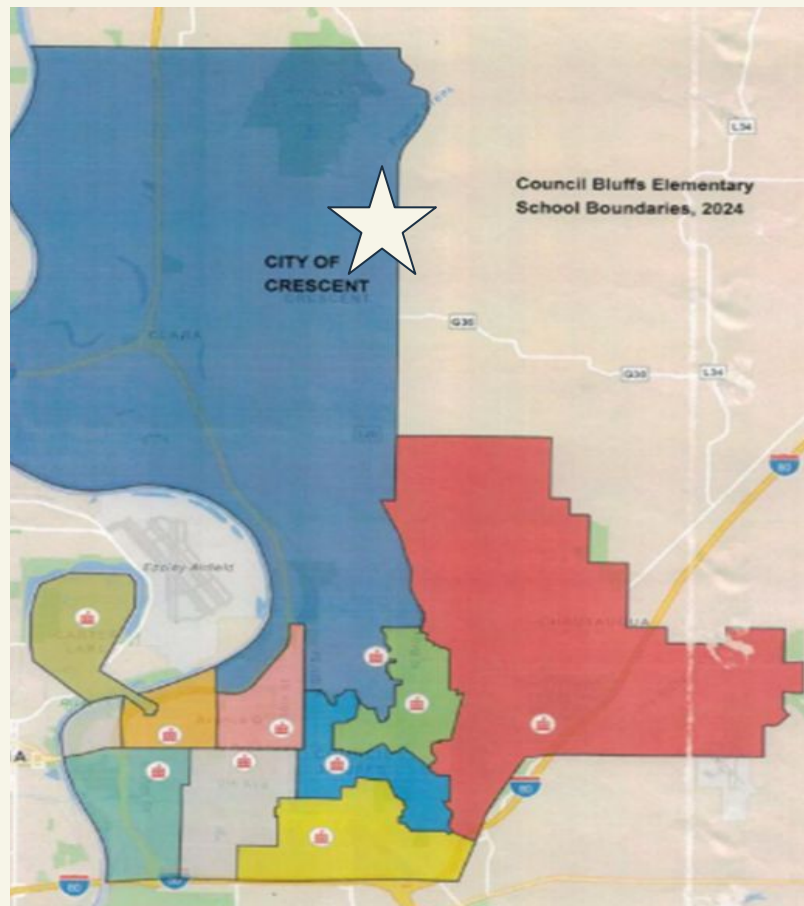
**September 12, 2025**



# Demographics

The Red Barn Schoolhouse will provide a high-quality, local educational experience in Loess Hills for up to 100 students in K-5. The primary service area for the school are the townships of Crescent and Honey Creek with roughly 6,900 people (2,670 households). The secondary market includes the communities of Neola, Underwood and northern Council Bluffs with a population base of 22,760 persons.

*Our model was driven by community outreach conducted over a two-year period including written surveys and community meetings to formulate school preferences.*



# Site Options





# Site Updates

Former Crescent Elementary School – Approaching CBCSD School Board members and seeking to be on agenda requesting purchase on Sept 9 or September 23. Building with 4.5 acres. We believe this is a low probability to obtain this site.

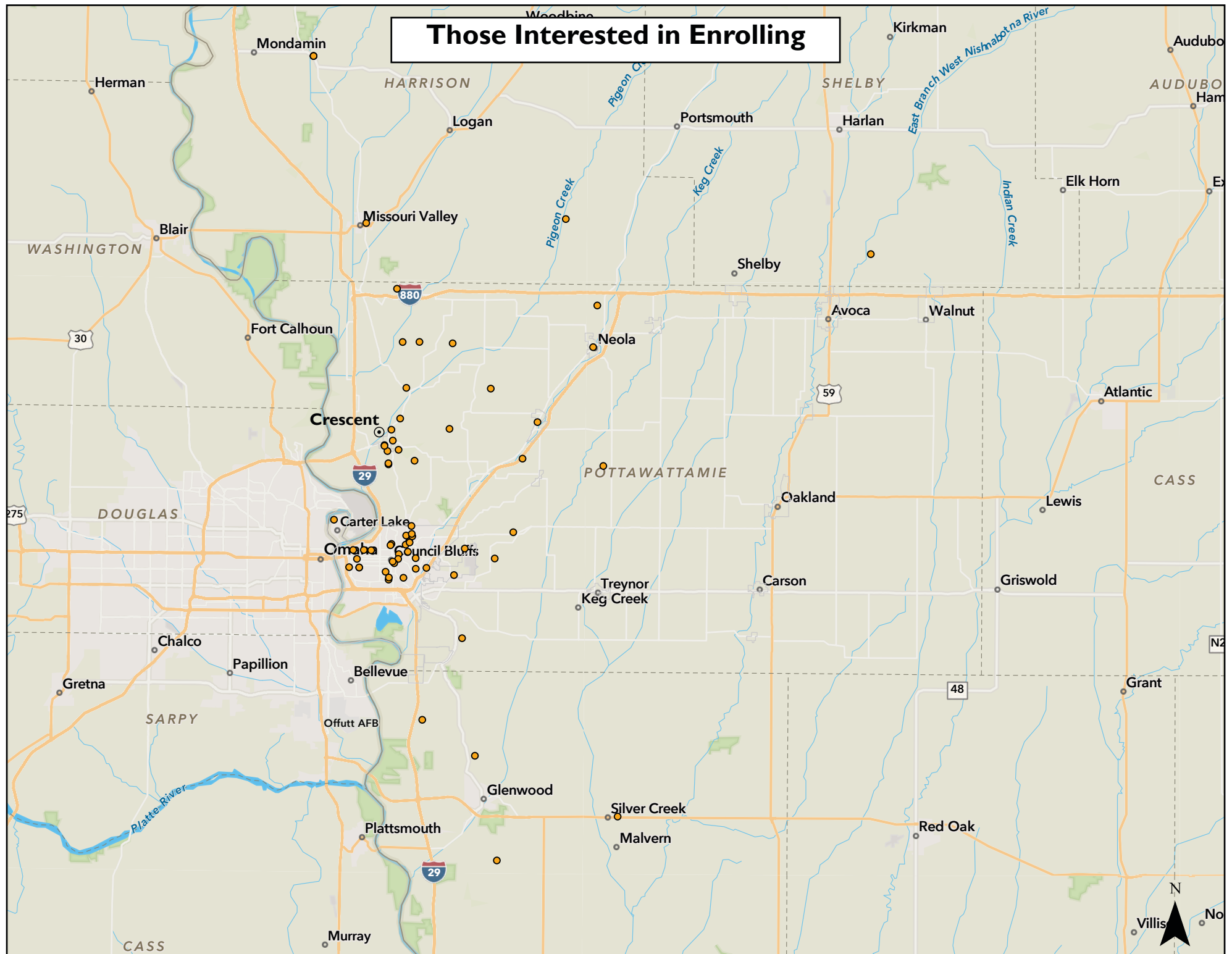
McNeil – Shawn has spoken with owners over 4 times. Original owner died and he has been working with heirs. Shawn will be touring the site September 7 before we could put a bid in on the site. Site includes commercial building and roughly 4 acres. Commercial building would suffice for 1 st year opening with some upgrades. This site would be conducive to new construction and is centrally located.

Johnsen – Have final agreement for 5 acres adjacent to the Crescent City park with new construction. This is our back up site.

Regardless of site, we may need a temporary facility for the school. We have a good working relationship with Hitchcock Nature Center and we are negotiating a short-term lease for a temporary site as a contingency. HNC has already discussed this agreement with its County attorney.



Those Interested in Enrolling	
1. <b>Age</b>	18-24
2. <b>Gender</b>	Male
3. <b>Marital Status</b>	Married
4. <b>Education</b>	High School
5. <b>Income</b>	\$10,000 - \$20,000
6. <b>Occupation</b>	Unemployed
7. <b>Health Status</b>	Good
8. <b>Insurance</b>	Medicaid
9. <b>Location</b>	Urban
10. <b>Referral Source</b>	Family



# RBS Enrollment 2025-26

