

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

February 12, 2026

Agenda Item: State Board of Education Student Member:
Postsecondary Readiness and Transition Opportunities

**State Board
Goal(s):** All Goals

**State Board
Role/Authority:** The State Board promotes effective and educational opportunities for all students in Iowa.

Presenter(s): John Elkin
Deputy Director/Chief of Staff

Attachment(s): One

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.

Background: The State Board would like to discuss enrichment experiences that may be made available to the student member. These opportunities were identified to provide practical learning for the student member.

State Board of Education Student Member: Postsecondary Readiness and Transition Opportunities

The following opportunities were identified to provide practical learning for the Student Board Member. Items are intended for informational discussion and to gather State Board input or guidance on potential next steps.

Category and Opportunity	Contact, Resource, or Legal Analysis
<p style="text-align: center;">College and University Exposure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitate structured connections with Iowa’s public universities, if desired. ● Opportunities may include admissions information sessions, virtual or in-person campus engagement, and program overviews aligned to student interests. 	<p>Rachel Boon Chief Academic Officer Iowa Board of Regents</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Scholarship and Financial Aid Literacy</p> <p>Coordinate a meeting with a representative from the Iowa Department of Education or a qualified partner to provide a “<i>Scholarship 101</i>” overview, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understanding available scholarships ● Required documentation and timelines ● Best practices for writing effective scholarship essays 	<p>Christina Sibaouih Section Chief Iowa College Aid</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FAFSA Completion Support</p> <p>Arrange a guided session with an approved college-aid organization to assist the student and family in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) accurately and on time.</p>	<p>Christina Sibaouih Section Chief Iowa College Aid</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Community College Exploration</p> <p>Coordinate a personalized, one-on-one campus visit to an Iowa community college selected by the student, with emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Program alignment ● Transfer pathways ● Workforce and credential opportunities 	<p>Amy Gieseke Bureau Chief Community Colleges</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Career and Workforce Preparation</p> <p>Provide several individualized sessions with a workforce or career advisor to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a professional résumé • Explore career pathways aligned to strengths and interests • Receive coaching on employability skills and next steps 	<p style="text-align: center;">Linda Rouse AJC Division Administrator Iowa Workforce Development</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Career Exploration / Job Shadowing</p> <p>Organize a job-shadow experience with a local employer in a field aligned to the student’s stated career interests, where feasible and appropriate.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Linda Rouse AJC Division Administrator Iowa Workforce Development</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Organize a Personal Introduction with the Governor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jane Dufoe Education Policy Advisor Governor’s Office</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Postsecondary Transition Support Consideration Including Funding and Scholarship Considerations</p>	<p><i>Legal analysis and/or recommendation along with collaboration and conversation with leaders representing Iowa College Aid and Iowa Community Colleges:</i></p> <p>Specifically, requesting scholarships from institutions that are accredited or overseen by the Iowa Department of Education could reasonably be perceived as undue influence, even absent intent.</p> <p>Based on that guidance, such requests are not recommended.</p>