

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

March 13, 2026

Agenda Item: FY27 Grant Wood Area Education Agency Budget Review

State Board Goal: All

State Board Role/Authority: Iowa Code section 273.3(12) requires the State Board to review the proposed budget of each area education agency (AEA) by March 15 and either grant approval or return an unapproved budget with comments. An unapproved budget shall be resubmitted to the State Board for final approval before May 1.

Presenters:

Angelisa Fynaardt, Administrator
Division of Special Education – Regional Team

Tina Wahlert, Administrator
Division of PK-12 Learning

Kassandra Cline, Chief
Bureau of School Business Operations

Susie Meade, Chief Administrator
Grant Wood AEA

Barb Harms, School Business Official
Grant Wood AEA

Attachment(s): One

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board approve the Grant Wood AEA budget.

Background: Iowa Code section 273.3(12) requires the State Board to review the proposed budget of each AEA by March 15 and either grant approval or return an unapproved budget with comments. An unapproved budget shall be resubmitted to the State Board for final approval before May 1.



GRANT WOOD
AREA EDUCATION AGENCY



FY27

Grant Wood AEA Budget Request & Report

FY27 AEA Budget Request & Report

Grant Wood Area Education Agency

Submitted by:

Susie Meade - Chief Administrator

Barb Harms - Director of Business Services

Board of Directors:

Randy Bauer - Board President - District 3

Carol Montz - Board Vice President - District 2

Deb Bowman - Board Member - District 5

Dennis McDermott - Board Member - District 4

Marilyn Wirtz - Board Member - District 1

Matt Degner - Board Member - At-Large, Superintendent

Chad Garber - Board Member - At-Large, Superintendent

Melissa Hocking - Board Member - At-Large, Designee

Kyle Koeppen - Board Member - At-Large, Superintendent

Due: February 27, 2026

Resubmitted: March 3, 2026

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Executive Summary

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

This report provides an overview of Grant Wood AEA's financial position, staffing, services and operational priorities, including fiscal year FY27 budget requests and projections. Iowa's AEAs are educational partners embedded in Iowa schools. We exist to create a thriving educational landscape where all learners and educators have access to high-quality, evidence-based and strategic supports and services, collaboratively provided within districts, to help all learners achieve their full potential.

Iowa's AEAs support accredited schools, educators and learners from birth through age 21 through special education support services, educational services, media services and centralized statewide initiatives. These services help strengthen educator effectiveness, expand access to high-quality instruction and improve academic outcomes for Iowa learners.

The FY27 budget request and financial projections align with Iowa's Area Education Agencies Strategic Plan 2025–2030, which focuses on excellence, accountability, collaboration and sustainability. AEAs continue to prioritize evidence-based practices, coordinated statewide service delivery and data-driven decision-making. The [Iowa AEA Strategic Plan's](#) mission, vision and goals are aligned to the State Board of Education Goals. A copy of the plan is included in Appendix A.

This report also outlines organizational structure, staffing, capital assets, administrative expenditures and program changes. The report includes administrative cost management, operational efficiency and strategic allocation of resources to directly support schools, educators and learners. Fiscal comparisons across multiple years show funding trends, expenditure management and responsible planning for FY27 and beyond.

Grant Wood AEA remains committed to delivering high-quality services that strengthen Iowa's educational system. The FY27 budget request reflects a continued focus on sustainability, accountability and measurable outcomes, ensuring AEAs continue to effectively serve Iowa's students, educators and districts/schools.

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, charter schools, nonpublic schools, students, teachers, and others) served by the AEA.]

Grant Wood AEA partners with public, accredited non-public and charter schools across seven counties to provide comprehensive educational programs and direct services for over 74,000 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.

Public Districts - Total of 32

[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.]

Grant Wood AEA serves all districts within our AEA. We currently don't provide direct services to any districts outside our AEA boundaries.

Alburnett	College Community	Lone Tree	Olin
Anamosa	English Valleys	Marion	Solon
Belle Plaine	Highland	Midland	Springville
Benton	H-L-V	Mid-Prairie	Tipton
Cedar Rapids	Iowa City	Monticello	Vinton-Shellsburg
Center Point-Urbana	Iowa Valley	Mount Vernon	Washington
Central City	Linn-Mar	North Cedar	West Branch
Clear Creek Amana	Lisbon	North Linn	Williamsburg

Accredited Non-Public Schools - Total of 35

All Saints School (Xavier System)	Hillside Christian School	Montessori School-Marion	St. Matthew School (Xavier System)
Andrews Christian Academy	Hidaya Academy	Pathway Christian School	St. Patrick School
Calvary Christian Academy	ICCR Academy	Regina Elementary School	St. Pius X School (Xavier System)
Cedar Valley Christian School	Iowa Conservatory	Regina Jr/Sr High School	Summit Schools, Inc.
Central Lutheran School	Isaac Newton Christian Academy	Regis Middle School (Xavier System)	Tamarack Discovery School
Ehsan Islamic School	LaSalle Catholic Elementary (Xavier System)	Sacred Heart Grade School	Trinity Lutheran School
Faith Academy	LaSalle Catholic Middle School (Xavier System)	Scattergood Friends School	Willowwind School
Heritage Christian	Lutheran Interparish School	St. James Elementary School	Xavier High School (Xavier System)
Hillcrest Academy (formerly Iowa Mennonite School)	Montessori School-Iowa City	St Joseph School (Xavier System)	

Authorized Charter Schools - Total of 4

Cedar Rapids Prep (OEN)	CIVICA - Cedar Rapids (planned opening August 2026)	Empowering Excellence Charter School	Horizon Science Academy-CR (planned opening August 2026)
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Students

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

Grant Wood AEA partners with public, accredited non-public and charter schools to provide educational programs, services and resources designed to support quality education and improve learning outcomes for all children ages birth-21, families, educators and communities. Agency services support **more than 74,000 students** in schools across a seven-county region. This area includes Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington counties.

Grant Wood AEA serves children in both general education and special education. Services include evaluation and assessment, while others 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 encourage their infants and toddlers in their growth and development.

Nearly 60 percent of agency staff are assigned to specific schools as part of a regional team. They work directly with children and educators as an integral part of the local school staff. Others serve schools on a consultant or itinerant basis, offer courses or workshops or link schools with other persons, agencies or materials that meet their needs.

Teachers

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

Grant Wood AEA serves approximately 5,800 teachers (both public and non-public).

Special education teachers receive support from building-based AEA core team staff (e.g., school social workers, school psychologists and special education consultants). AEA special education staff design, deliver and support professional learning on various special education topics approved by the Iowa Department of Education.

Through our Educational and Media/Technology Services, teachers may access AEA content experts to support teaching and learning in classrooms. Those content experts design, deliver and support professional learning aligned to the professional development offerings approved by the Iowa Department of Education.

From specialized professional learning to personalized consultation and coaching, AEA ensures that districts receive the tailored support they need to meet their diverse needs from initial learning to sustained impact.

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.]

Grant Wood AEA supports over 250 school district administrators, including Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Directors and Special Education Directors. Services are also available for paraeducators and more than 4,600 substitute teachers.

Programs

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

Grant Wood AEA grounds its services to districts around the Iowa Department of Education-approved [AEA Professional Development](#), the Iowa Department of Education's eleven education priorities, and the [Iowa AEA Strategic Plan](#) (Appendix A).

Universal Services:

- Career & Technical Education
- College & Career Readiness
- Computer Science Instruction
- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
- Literacy
- Math
- Professional Learning
- School Improvement
- Science
- Social Studies
- Social, Emotional & Behavioral Support
- Technology Consultant

Specialized Services:

- Assistive Technology
- C-BAT (Challenging Behavior Autism Team)
- Early ACCESS (Birth-3)
- Hearing Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Significant Disabilities
- Section 504 - coaching and support
- Speech & Language
- School Social Workers
- School Psychologists
- Special Education Education Teacher Development & Support
- Special Education Consultants
- Special Education Leadership
- Transition Services
- Vision Services

Specialized Services Specific to Grant Wood:

Adapted PE

Offsite Programs:

Foundation II Shelter

Linn County Detention Center

Anamosa State Penitentiary

Iowa Medical Classification Center

Vocational Individualized Training And Learning (VITAL) Program - Kirkwood Community College

GWAEA Onsite Behavioral Coaching and Support Program

Targeted Services:

Crisis Support

Early Childhood (ages 3-5)

English Language Learners

Gifted & Talented

Positive Behavior Intervention Supports

School-Based Interventionists

Social, Emotional & Behavioral Health

Targeted Services Specific to Grant Wood:

Childcare Alliance Response Team

College for Kids - academic enrichment summer school program

Mentoring & Induction Consortium

Coaching Services

School Counselor Consultant

VAST Center - FOSS/Open Sci-Ed Science Kits

Technology, Media, and Operations:

Application Hosting Services

Budget & Finance Resources

Computer Science

Creative Services & Printing

Data & Privacy

Data Dashboards

Digital Learning & Resources

E-Rate Services

Information Technology Services

Media Services

Online Media Resources

Professional Learning

Technology Infrastructure

Strategic Partnerships

Van Delivery

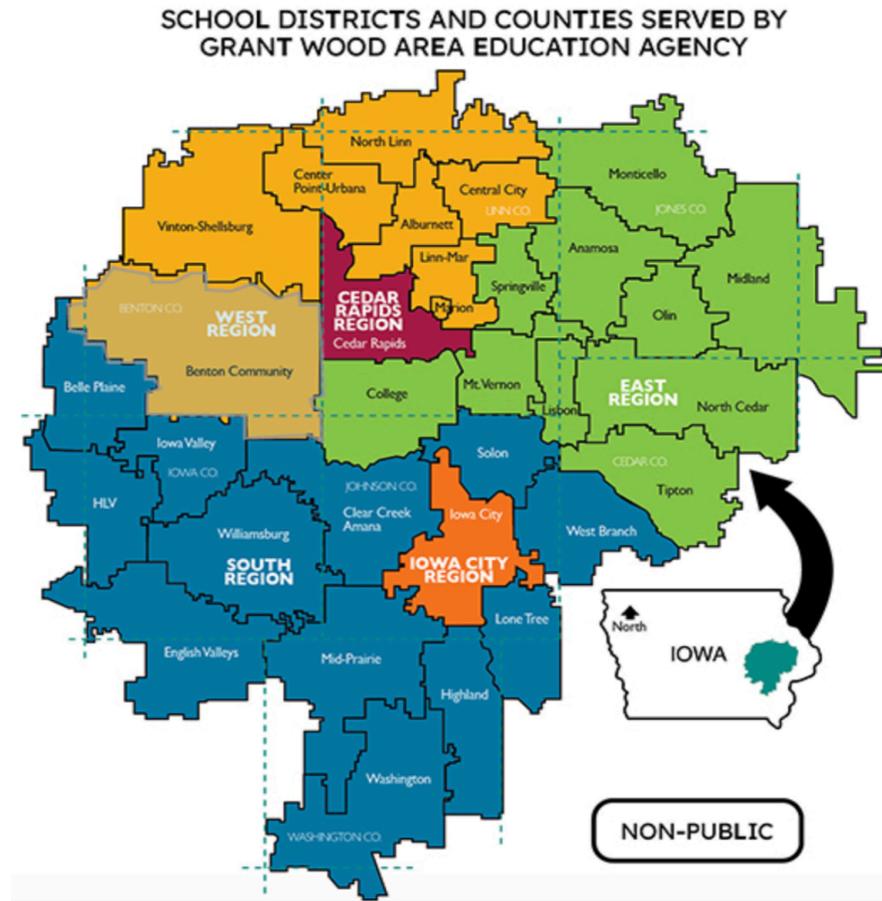
Technology, Media, and Operations Specific to Grant Wood:

Student Information System Support

Substitute Management System (Sub Central)

Location

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



Grant Wood AEA Offices:

- **4401 6th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Main Facility - Owned)**
 - Conference Center - hosts professional learning events for agency staff and the educators we serve. By reservation, outside entities may use meeting spaces outside of agency office hours. Monthly board meetings are held at this facility.
 - Media library - houses our physical collection of professional reference materials, as well as book sets & other materials.
 - Staff Distribution Center - stores special education equipment, Early ACCESS equipment and special education assessment materials.
 - Creative Services - includes areas for printing (small and large format), graphic design, laminating, cutting, etc.
 - Hearing Booth - used for hearing testing by audiologists.
 - Observation Room - used for Early ACCESS/early childhood behavior observations.
 - Administrative offices house Human Resources, Business Services, Communication, Professional Learning, and Technology.

- Staff offices and workspaces are available for staff to work independently or collaboratively. Meeting rooms are available for use by teams.
- **4301 6th Street SW, Cedar Rapids (Owned)**
 - This building is currently used for the storage of materials. The Agency may consider selling this building in the future.
- **1120 33rd Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids (Owned)**
 - VAST Center is the distribution center for science kits. Kits are stored, refilled/organized, and distributed to districts through van delivery.
 - Conference Rooms are used for professional learning and internal meetings.
 - The Autism Support room is used for professional learning & modeling directly with students.
 - Leased warehouse space provides storage for special education equipment, including adaptive physical education items, as well as science kit storage.
- **2852 Coral Court, Coralville (Owned)**
 - Conference Rooms offer professional development and staff collaboration space.
 - Hearing Booth used for hearing testing by audiologists.
 - Staff workspaces are used by individuals and teams who serve our Iowa City/South regions.
 - Administrative offices house administrators who serve our southern districts and are assigned to this facility for proximity.

Capital Assets

[Provide a summary description of the AEA's capital assets. For this purpose, capital assets should include buildings, land, vehicles and other large assets; it does not include inventory.]

Summary of Capital Assets

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

Owned Buildings:

- 4 owned buildings (see previous section).
- 1 leased warehouse space (used for science kits and special education equipment).

Vans:

- 4 delivery vans for school routes.
- 1 box truck used for science kit delivery.
- 2 vehicles available for staff check-out.
- 7 vehicles available for tech support, hearing and maintenance staff.

Changes or Planned Changes in Capital Assets

Our board approved the purchase of a new delivery van in December 2025. Our delivery fleet had not been updated in recent years due to supply challenges related to the pandemic and budget concerns. We plan to purchase another replacement van in FY27. The Board may also consider selling the building adjacent to our main facility in the coming year.

Staff

[Information about the AEA’s organizational structure, including specific positions, staff changes from FY25 to FY27, and administrative expenditures is provided below.]

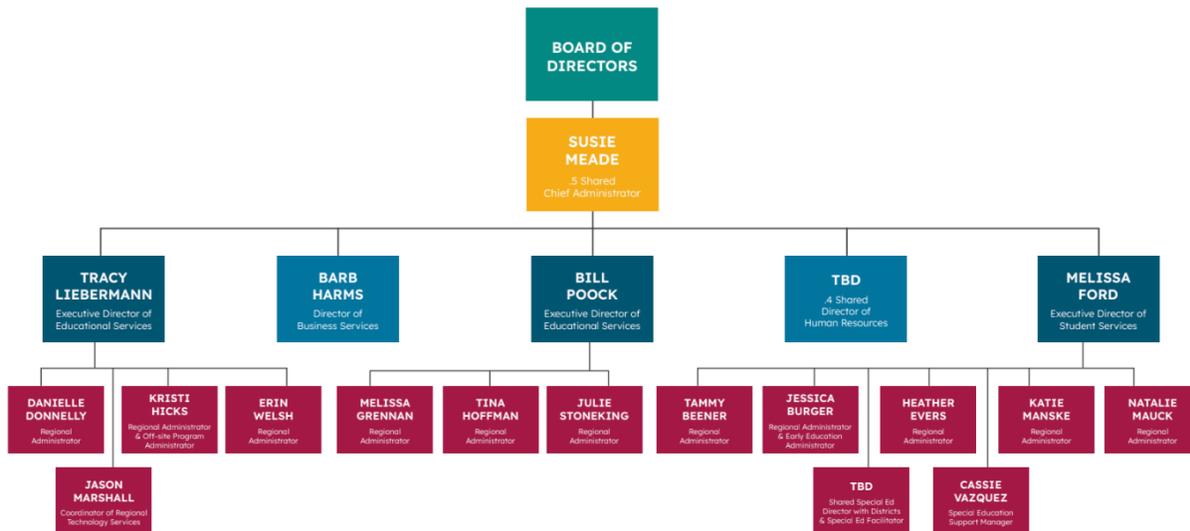
Organizational Chart

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

- Grant Wood AEA plans to employ 18.9 administrators for FY27:
- 0.5 Chief Administrator
 - 4.4 Directors/Executive Directors
 - 11.0 Regional Administrators
 - 3.0 Manager/Coordinators

Grant Wood AEA Management Organizational Chart

Draft 2026/2027



BEDS Position Codes: FTE Count

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

Grant Wood AEA's staffing reflects the impact of legislation, which has reduced revenues over the past two years. Our FTE decreased by 82 staff from FY24 to FY25. We are projecting a total net reduction of 31 FTE between FY25 and FY27.

Table Name: AEA BEDS Position Codes - All Staff

Position Name	Position Code	FY25 FTE Count	FY26 FTE Count	FY27 FTE Count	Variance FY25 to FY27
Chief Administrator	510	1.0	0.5	0.5	-0.5
School Business Official	612	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
Other Administrator	550	8.5	5.9	5.0	-3.5
AEA Regional/Zone Coordinator	533	11.0	11.1	11.0	0.0
Administrative Support	152	14.9	14.3	14.3	-0.6
Special Education Support	660	202.6	190.1	201.0	-1.6
Special Education Consultant	616	42.0	38.2	40.6	-1.4
Paraprofessional/Aides	101	9.6	6.76	8.2	-1.4
Library Media Associate	104	4.4	2.3	2.3	-2.1
Content/Curriculum Consultant	618	40.5	30.9	25.4	-15.1
AEA Supervisors/Managers	139	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
Other Support	107	5.7	5.0	5.0	-0.7
Technology Support	141	14.2	15.0	14.0	-0.2
Records Transfer Staff	130	1.9	3.0	2.0	0.1
HR/Personnel Manager	134	1.0	0.5	0.4	-0.6
Itinerant Teacher	731	23.0	23.0	23.0	0.0
Transportation (Non-pupil)	175	2.2	1.8	2.0	-0.2
Technology	121	10.0	10.9	9.9	-0.1
Juvenile Home Teacher	746	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0
Special Education Teacher	745	6.0	6.0	6.0	0.0
Other Professional	137	7.0	6.0	6.0	-1.0
Board Secretary	112	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
Other Technical	142	4.0	4.5	3.5	-0.5
Student Support	106	8.8	7.2	7.2	-1.6
Total FTE		425.3	390.3	394.3	-31.0

FY25 to FY27 Program and Staff Changes

Staff changes from FY25 to FY27 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, including identification of fee-based programs and services.]

Special Education Support Services Program

The Special Education FTE decrease from FY25 to FY26 of 17.3 FTE was due to the 10% reduction in AEA Special Education funding. We are actively hiring. The FTE is projected to increase by 14.5 FTE for FY27. Total projected change from FY25 to FY27 is a 2.6 FTE decrease. FTE variances from our fall BEDS submissions are 'point-in-time' differences. Fee-based program enhancement services, which factor into staffing plans, include Special Education Teacher Development & Support, Shared Special Education Director, Special Education Dashboards and Special Education Program Review. FTE dedicated to the Shared Special Director was 0.4 for FY25 and FY26. We anticipate an increase to 0.6 FTE for FY27.

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

Position Name	Position Code	FY25 FTE Count	FY26 FTE Count	FY27 FTE Count	Variance FY25 to FY27
Special Education Support	660	202.6	190.1	201.0	-1.6
Special Education Consultant	616	42.0	38.2	40.6	-1.4
Other Administrator	550	6.5	5.4	5.0	-1.5
AEA Regional/Zone Coordinator	533	9.7	11.1	10.6	0.9
Other Professional	137	1.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0
Special Education Teacher	745	6.0	6.0	6.0	0.0
Juvenile Home Teacher	746	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0
Itinerant Teacher	731	23.0	23.0	23.0	0.0
Records Transfer Staff	130	1.9	3.0	2.0	0.1
Student Support	106	8.8	7.2	7.2	-1.6
Administrative Support	152	3.4	6.5	8.1	4.9
Paraprofessionals/Aides	101	9.6	6.7	8.2	-1.4
Total FTE		318.5	301.2	315.7	-2.6

Educational Services Program

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances for staff in the educational services program, including identification of fee-based programs and services.]

Educational Services FTE changes are due to reductions in state funding and projections for services purchased from the districts we serve. FTE decreased by 11.1 from FY25 to FY26, and is projected to decrease another 7.6 by FY27, for a total decrease of 18.7 FTE. FTE variances from our fall BEDS submissions are 'point-in-time' differences.

Staffing is determined based on district service plans. All curriculum, school improvement, school counseling, career education, early childhood and teacher mentoring supports are now on a service-for-fee basis. 45.5 FTE were directly providing services for a fee in FY25. 35.4 FTE were directly providing services for a fee in FY26. We project 29.5 FTE will directly provide services for a fee in FY27.

Table Name: AEA BEDS Position Codes - Educational Services Program

Position Name	Position Code	FY25 FTE Count	FY26 FTE Count	FY27 FTE Count	Variance FY25 to FY27
Content/Curriculum Consultant	618	36.5	27.0	21.5	-15.0
Administrative Support	152	2.5	2.5	0.9	-1.6
Other Support	107	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0
Other Professional	137	4.0	3.0	3.0	-1.0
Other Administrator	550	0.5	0.3	0.3	-0.2
AEA Regional/Zone Coordinator	533	1.3	0.9	0.4	-0.9
Total FTE		49.8	38.7	31.1	-18.7

Media/Technology Services Program

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances for staff in the media services program, including identification of fee-based programs and services.]

Media/Technology Services FTE changes are due to reductions in state funding and projections of services purchased from the districts we serve. FTE decreased by 1.2 from FY25 to FY26, and is projected to decrease another 2.8 by FY27, for a total decrease of 4.0 FTE. FTE variances from our fall BEDS submissions are 'point-in-time' differences.

Staffing is determined based on district service plans, since all technology, creative services, media library and van delivery support services are now on a service-for-fee basis. 31.2 FTE were directly providing services for a fee in FY25. 32.9 FTE were directly providing services for a fee in FY26. We project 30.1 FTE will directly provide services for a fee in FY27.

Table Name: AEA BEDS Position Codes - Media/Technology Services Program

Position Name	Position Code	FY25 FTE Count	FY26 FTE Count	FY27 FTE Count	Variance FY25 to FY27
Content/Curriculum Consultant	618	4.0	3.9	3.9	-0.1
Library Media Associate	104	4.4	2.3	2.3	-2.1
Technology	121	10.0	10.9	9.9	-0.1
AEA Supervisor/Managers	139	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
Technology Support	141	14.2	15.0	14.0	-0.2
Other Technical	142	4.0	4.5	3.5	-0.5
Transportation	175	2.2	1.8	2.0	-0.2
Other Administrator	550	0.5	0.2	0.2	-0.3
Administrative Support	152	1.0	0.5	0.5	-0.5
Total FTE		41.3	40.1	37.3	-4.0

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 actual, FY26 re-estimated, and FY27 proposed administrative staff levels and administrative expenditures.

Administrative Staff by FTE: FY24-FY26

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to FTE variances from FY24 to FY26.]

Grant Wood AEA has reduced its administrative staff by 10.5 FTE, a 35% reduction from FY24 to FY26.

Table Name: AEA Administrative Staff by FTE FY24-FY26

Administrative Staff	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Re-Estimated	FY24-FY26 Variance Amount	FY24-FY26 Variance Percent
Chief Administrator	1.0	1.0	0.5	-0.5	-50%
Directors & Department Heads	4.0	4.5	3.0	-1.0	-25%
Regional Administrators	17.0	13.0	11.2	-5.8	-34%
District Coordinators	1.0	1.0	0.8	-0.2	-20%
Human Resources	2.0	1.5	0.5	-1.5	-75%
Other Administrative Positions	5.0	2.5	3.5	-1.5	-30%
Total FTE	30.0	23.5	19.5	-10.5	-35%

Administrative Staff by FTE: FY26-FY27

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to FTE variances from FY26 to FY27.]

Grant Wood AEA plans to reduce its administrative staff by an additional 0.6 FTE from FY26 to FY27.

Table Name: AEA Administrative Staff by FTE FY26-FY27

Administrative Staff	FY26 Re-Estimated	FY27 Proposed	FY26-FY27 Variance Amount	FY26-FY27 Variance Percent
Chief Administrator	0.5	0.5	0.0	0%
Directors & Department Heads	3.0	3.0	0.0	0%
Regional Administrators	11.2	11.0	-0.2	-2%
District Coordinators	0.8	0.0	-0.8	-100%
Human Resources	0.5	0.4	-0.1	-20%
Other Administrative Positions	3.5	4.0	0.5	14%
Total FTE	19.5	18.9	-0.6	-3%

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

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 narrative comparing FY24, FY25, and FY26 expenditures, including whether or not the thirty percent statutory reduction to administrative expenditures was met.]

Table Name: Administrative Expenditures – Administration and Administrative Staff: FY24 Actual, FY25 Actual, and FY26 Re-Estimated

Part A: Expenditures: Administration (Obj. 300 & Over)	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Re-Estimated	FY24 to FY26 Reduction Amount	FY24 to FY26 Reduction Percent
General Administration (Func. 2300-2399)	674,265	477,638	370,200	(304,065)	(45%)
School Administration (Func. 2400-2499)	156,144	97,622	97,750	(58,394)	(37%)
Business and Central Administration (Func. 2500-2519, 2540-2599)	218,187	291,080	386,758	168,571	77%
Purchasing, Distributing, Printing (Func. 2520-2539)	238,041	243,008	377,800	139,759	59%
Part A: Total Expenditures: Administration	1,286,637	1,109,348	1,232,508	(54,129)	(4%)
Part B: Expenditures: Administrative Staff (Obj. 100-299)	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Re-Estimated	FY24 to FY26 Reduction Amount	FY24 to FY26 Reduction Percent
Chief Administrator	340,371	352,360	296,401	(43,970)	(13%)
Directors and Department Heads	906,940	1,007,672	688,615	(218,325)	(24%)
Regional Administrators	3,033,079	2,339,570	2,017,432	(1,015,647)	(33%)
District Coordinators	134,052	153,039	129,006	(5,046)	(4%)
Human Resources	353,287	293,346	102,073	(251,214)	(71%)
Other Administrative Positions	724,785	462,810	626,638	(98,147)	(14%)
Other Staff	3,005,585	2,973,096	3,404,491	398,906	13%
Sub-Total Expenditures: Administrative Staff	8,498,099	7,581,893	7,264,656	(1,233,443)	(15%)

Less Sharing Revenue (Sources: 1952, 1953, 1954, 1957)	(112,973)	(162,575)	(354,652)	(241,679)	214%
Less: Other Revenue	(3,775,934)	(3,967,252)	(4,487,042)	(711,108)	19%
Part B: Total Expenditures: Administrative Staff	4,609,192	3,452,066	2,422,962	(2,186,230)	(47%)
				FY24 to FY26 Reduction Amount	FY24 to FY26 Reduction Percent
Total Administrative Expenditures	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Re-Estimated		
Part A: Total Expenditures: Administration	1,286,637	1,109,348	1,232,508	(54,129)	(4%)
Part B: Total Expenditures: Administrative Staff	4,609,192	3,452,066	2,422,962	(2,186,230)	(47%)
Total Administrative Expenditures	* 5,895,829	4,561,414	3,655,470	(2,240,359)	(38%)

*Note - Total Administrative Expenditures reported last year for FY24 were overstated by \$58,947 in error. The current amount of \$5,895,829 matches the FY24 CAR.

Grant Wood AEA has reduced its administrative expenditures by over \$2.2 million, a 38% reduction from FY24 to FY26. This exceeds the statutory reduction requirement of 30%. Sharing revenues reported include the positions of Chief Administrator, Superintendent, Special Education Director, Curriculum Director and Coordinator of Behavior Supports.

Total Administrative Expenditures: FY26 Re-Estimated and FY27 Proposed

[Complete the table below and enter the narrative for FY26 re-estimated and FY27 proposed expenditures, including an explanation regarding the variance.]

Table Name: Administrative Expenditures - Administration and Administrative Staff: FY26 Re-Estimated and FY27 Proposed

	FY26 Re-Estimated	FY27 Proposed	FY26 to FY27 Variance Amount	FY26 to FY27 Variance Percent
Part A: Expenditures: Administration (Obj. 300 & Over)				
General Administration (Func. 2300-2399)	370,200	396,000	25,800	7%
School Administration (Func. 2400-2499)	97,750	99,000	1,250	1%

Business and Central Administration (Func. 2500-2519, 2540-2599)	386,758	469,350	82,592	21%
Purchasing, Distributing, Printing (Func. 2520-2539)	377,800	358,300	(19,500)	(5%)
Part A: Total Expenditures: Administration	1,232,508	1,322,650	90,142	7%
Part B: Expenditures: Administrative Staff (Obj. 100-299)	FY26 Re-Estimated	FY27 Proposed	FY26 to FY27 Variance Amount	FY26 to FY27 Variance Percent
Chief Administrator	296,401	303,811	7,410	2%
Directors and Department Heads	688,615	705,830	17,215	2%
Regional Administrators	2,017,432	2,115,504	98,072	5%
District Coordinators	129,006		(129,006)	(100%)
Human Resources	102,073	104,625	2,552	3%
Other Administrative Positions	626,638	684,850	58,212	9%
Other Staff	3,404,491	3,538,851	134,360	4%
Sub-Total Expenditures: Administrative Staff	7,264,656	7,453,471	188,815	3%
Less Sharing Revenue (Sources: 1952, 1953, 1954, 1957)	(354,652)	(236,300)	118,352	(33%)
Less: Other Revenue	(4,487,042)	(4,615,000)	(127,958)	3%
Part B: Total Expenditures: Administrative Staff	2,422,962	2,602,171	179,209	7%
Total Administrative Expenditures	FY26 Re-Estimated	FY27 Proposed	FY26 to FY27 Variance Amount	FY26 to FY27 Variance Percent
Part A: Total Expenditures: Administration	1,232,508	1,322,650	90,142	7%
Part B: Total Expenditures: Administrative Staff	2,422,962	2,602,171	179,209	7%
Total Administrative Expenditures	3,655,470	3,924,821	269,351	7%

Grant Wood AEA projects that total administrative expenditures will increase 5% from FY26 to FY27. This includes projected cost increases for legal and audit services, liability insurance, staff mileage, licensing for software purchased by districts, staff compensation packages and a slight increase in FTE for contracted services requested by districts. Sharing revenues reported include the positions of Chief Administrator, Special Education Director, Curriculum Director and Coordinator of Behavior Supports for FY26 and FY27.

Total Administrative Expenditures: Reduction

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

Grant Wood AEA has reduced its administrative expenditures by over \$2.2 million between FY24 and FY26. This equates to a reduction of 38% and exceeds the threshold of 30% established by legislation. The agency will continue to monitor administrative expenditures during FY27, and consider collaboration opportunities that would create efficiencies and be effective in serving our districts.

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 **Appendix B** to find the report delivered to the Iowa Department of Education in December 2025 that outlines a detailed description of the services available for purchase at Grant Wood AEA and the associated cost for the entity purchasing the service.

The Iowa AEA System has partnered with the Iowa Public Libraries to facilitate the delivery of inter-library loans.

Link for **Appendix B** is [here](#).

Centralized Services

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

The AEA system continues to seek opportunities to share services with other AEA’s to increase efficiencies while delivering high-quality services to schools.

Centralized Services GWAEA provides to other AEA’s:

Science Consultant	GPAEA, KAEA
VAST Science Kits	GPAEA, KAEA, MBAEA
Regionalized Technology Services	GPAEA, MBAEA
Teacher Librarian Network	GHAEA & GWAEA to Systemwide

PowerSchool/Infinite Campus Supports (SIS)	Systemwide
English Learner Network	Systemwide
Counseling Network	Systemwide

Centralized Services GWAEA receives from other AEA's:

Computer Science Consultant	MBAEA
Braille Support	HAEA - Systemwide
Canvas Network	HAEA - Systemwide
Curriculum Network	HAEA - Systemwide
Cybersecurity Support	HAEA - Systemwide
Ed Tech Network	HAEA - Systemwide
TAG Consultant	HAEA - Systemwide
Talented & Gifted/Extended Learning Network	HAEA - Systemwide
Technology Network	HAEA, NWAEA, CRAEA, GWAEA
Hearing Screenings	Systemwide
Chief Administrator	HAEA (Chief Academic Officer)
Human Resource Director	MBAEA
Van Delivery	Systemwide
Communications Team	Systemwide
Statewide Print Collaborative/Creative Services	Systemwide
Data Analytics	MBAEA & GPAEA - Systemwide
Audiology Services	Systemwide
Professional Development Registrar	HAEA & CRAEA - Systemwide
Special Education Nurse	NWAEA - Systemwide
Data Dashboard	KAEA - Systemwide
Occupational Therapist	GPAEA
Dietician	Systemwide

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.]

Grant Wood AEA’s Center of Excellence is “Assessment, Linkages, & Instructional Programming Practices for Successful Post-Secondary Transition for Learners with Disabilities”. During our year of pre-planning, we have established a core team of leaders to develop an implementation timeline, connected with a variety of stakeholders to identify needs, engaged in national training on best practices in secondary transition, and started developing resources for AEA staff to strengthen secondary transition through their work in schools. Our Center will launch on July 1, 2026. It will provide a model for training, collaboration, and best practices to increase the percentage of students with disabilities engaged in postsecondary learning and working.

Center of Excellence (CoE)	Lead AEA	Partnering AEs	Implementation Date
Recruitment, Retainment, Onboarding, Mentoring & Professional Learning for AEA Special Education Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iowa AEA School Psychologist 	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.]

The historical overview table shows a stable financial picture from FY21 to FY24. The decrease in revenues in FY25 of \$8.2 million was matched with a decrease in expenditures of \$8.8 million; a direct result of the legislative changes to the AEA system.

General Fund: Historical Overview FY21-FY25

[Complete the table below. Enter narrative with a high-level explanation for the changes in revenue, expenditures, and balance.]

Table Name: General Fund - Historical Overview FY21-FY25

General Fund	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Revenues	57,565,739	61,050,149	60,896,226	62,543,008	54,283,568
Expenditures	54,551,314	58,888,680	62,782,273	62,758,715	53,943,120
Balance	\$12,972,157	\$15,133,625	\$13,247,579	\$13,031,872	\$13,372,320

General Fund Balance: FY25 Actual, FY26 Re-Estimated, and FY27 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.]

Grant Wood AEA’s non-spendable fund balance is for inventory, and the restricted fund balance includes state categorical funds. Committed fund balances are for cash flow purposes, as well as planned equipment replacement. Cash flow is now a significant concern, as we receive no state or federal funds for the first several months of the fiscal year. Assigned fund balances include outstanding encumbrances, accrued staff professional leave funds, and carryover funds for local projects with outside funding.

It is also important to note that AEA’s have no taxing authority or other funding source for facilities, property insurance, or emergency needs.

Table Name: General Fund Balance Detail - FY25 Actual, FY26 Re-Estimated, and FY27 Proposed

General Fund Balance Detail	FY25 Actual	FY26 Re-Estimated	FY27 Proposed
Non-Spendable Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services			
Non-Spendable Fund Balance, Other	123,353	100,000	70,000
Restricted Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services	406,139	400,000	100,000
Restricted Fund Balance, Other	174,131	10,000	
Committed Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services	200,000	3,300,000	3,600,000
Committed Fund Balance, Other	161,000	180,000	180,000
Assigned Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services	286,873	286,100	275,000
Assigned Fund Balance, Other	308,785	294,000	254,000
Unassigned Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services	3,629,639	2,996,137	3,023,725
Unassigned Fund Balance, Other	8,082,400	7,036,181	5,686,152
Total General Fund Balance	\$13,372,320	\$14,602,418	\$13,188,877

Three-Year Comparison for Budgeted Funds: FY25 Actual, FY26 Re-Estimated, and FY27 Proposed

[Include narrative of the budget detail. Summarize the FY27 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).]

Grant Wood AEA's FY27 budget is based on 0% SSA increase and continuation of the \$7.5 million AEA Statewide Reduction. We do not anticipate an increase in IDEA federal funding, and we expect a slight decrease in local district revenues for general education services. Over 78% of budgeted FY27 expenditures are related to Instruction, Student Support Services and Instructional Staff Support Services. Staffing for special education support services is projected to increase to meet the needs of our districts.

Table Name: Resources, Expenditures & Financing Uses, and Funds Balance FY25 Actual, FY26 Re-Estimated, and FY27 Proposed

Resources: Revenues, Other Financing Sources, and Beginning Funds Balance	FY25 Actual	FY26 Re-Estimated	FY27 Proposed
Taxes (Controlled Funding)	9,605,919.00	5,739,938	5,955,913
Tuition/Transportation	435,494.42	435,000	445,000
Earnings on Investments	383,840.00	300,000	275,000

Nutrition Program Sales			
Student Activities & Sales			
Other Revenues from Local Sources	8,268,263.73	10,434,151	9,210,500
Intermediate Revenues			
State Aid (Controlled Funding)	16,406,420.00	14,581,150	17,599,450
Juvenile Home Tuition Aid	624,866.78	601,297	643,452
Other State Revenues	3,458,854.90	3,581,297	3,437,661
IDEA Federal Grant	15,788,495.81	14,557,486	14,543,000
Other Federal Revenues	521,156.28	559,939	255,000
Long-Term Debt Proceeds			
Interfund Transfers In	212,693.48	110,000	100,000
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions			
Other Financing Sources			
Beginning Funds Balance	13,143,703.57	13,490,896	14,722,948
Total Resources	\$68,849,707.97	\$64,391,154	\$67,187,924
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses			
	FY25 Actual	FY26 Re-Estimated	FY27 Proposed
Instruction	3,362,237.47	3,675,649	3,802,177
Student Support Services	20,483,325.42	21,106,331	26,436,205
Instructional Staff Support Services	16,942,175.71	13,861,434	12,183,358
General Administration	2,025,975.00	1,634,851	1,692,268
School Administration	2,504,552.91	2,300,574	2,358,194
Business & Central Support	4,418,987.07	4,719,592	4,986,006
Purchasing, Distributing, Printing, Duplicating	726,145.78	822,147	833,256
Plant Operations & Maintenance	1,286,684.66	1,408,172	1,453,945
Student Transportation			
Other Support Services	4,766.38	5,100	5,300
Non-Instructional Programs	122,136.70	24,356	24,945
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	12,693.48		
Debt Service			
Interfund Transfers Out	3,469,131.48	110,000	100,000
Other Financing Uses			
Total Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	\$55,358,812.06	\$49,668,206	\$53,875,654
Funds Balance			
	FY25 Actual	FY26 Re-Estimated	FY27 Proposed
Total Resources	\$68,849,707.97	\$64,391,154	\$67,187,924
Total Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	\$55,358,812.06	\$49,668,206	\$53,875,654
Ending Funds Balance	\$13,490,895.91	\$14,722,948	\$13,312,270

Additional FY27 Budget Assumptions

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

Our budget reflects a small decrease in our fund balance of \$1.4 million from FY26 to FY27. We have been meeting with our public, non-public and charter partners to establish service plans for FY27 based on their needs. Grant Wood AEA has been known for its varied offerings of technology support for schools. We expect to continue to grow that revenue potential. Given the increasing needs in Special Education, the Agency is projecting a net increase in staffing for FY27. Grant Wood AEA has stabilized after the legislative challenges of the past two years and is in a healthy financial position to move forward.

APPENDIX A: [AEA System Strategic Plan](#)

APPENDIX B: [Annual AEA Service and Cost Report - December 2025](#)