

# Every Learner Forward

## Professional Learning for Iowa Educators

The Iowa Department of Education is pleased to offer professional learning sessions at Every Learner Forward, a three-day learning experience focused on enhancing high-quality instruction in every classroom and narrowing and closing achievement and opportunity gaps for all students. This learning is provided at no cost to classroom teachers, instructional coaches, building and district leaders, and educational partners.

**July 7-9; HQIM only July 10, 2026**

**Iowa Events Center**

[Registration Link for Every Learner Forward](#)

### Sessions:

#### Early-Stage Intervention

Session Specifics	Session Details
Session Length	2 Days
Dates and Times	July 7 or July 8 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m. each day
Presenter	Safe & Civil Schools Tricia Berg
Location	Iowa Events Center
Description	<p>Early-Stage Interventions help teachers <i>start strong</i>, intervene early with approachable tools, and reserve more intensive support for when early attempts don't work.</p> <p>Attendees will learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and implement a sequence of simple classroom interventions to address an individual student's chronic misbehavior</li> <li>• Collect data to determine the scope of a problem and assess the effectiveness of interventions</li> <li>• Identify and improve classroom management issues that may be contributing to student misbehavior</li> <li>• Consider academic issues that may play a role in student misbehavior</li> <li>• Address problem behavior in its early stages so a school's Tier 2 and 3 resources can be focused on the most difficult problems</li> </ul> <p>Teachers and other staff report the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and maintain productive, respectful learning environments.</li> <li>• Respond effectively to behavior, discipline, and motivation problems.</li> <li>• Develop a repertoire of evidence-based strategies such as planned discussion, using reinforcement, responding consistently to inappropriate behavior, setting goals, and so on.</li> <li>• Learn to collect data to ensure that the function of the behavior is identified and that results of intervention can be evaluated objectively.</li> </ul>

## Engaging Learners: Access without Barriers

Session Specifics	Session Details
Session Length	1 Day
Dates and Times	July 7, July 8, or July 9 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m. each day
Presenter	Lead4ward Kathy Clapsaddle
Location	Iowa Events Center
Description	<p>Engaging Learners: Access without Barriers is an interactive session around accessible instruction. Participants will explore options for universal accessibility within district/school instructional materials that ensure access to the rigor of instruction and support growth in student achievement.</p> <p>Attendees will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• examine principles of universally designated instruction and how they connect with the instructional cycle</li><li>• enhance the lesson internalization process to ensure that rigorous learning experiences meet the needs of all learners</li><li>• explore options for engagement, representation, and expression that reduce barriers for diverse learners across content areas</li><li>• practice teaching strategies that support effective student engagement</li></ul>

## Engaging Learners with Emphasis on Scaffolding, Monitoring, and Accountability

Session Specifics	Session Details
Session Length	1 Day
Dates and Times	July 7, July 8 or July 9 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m. each day
Presenter	Lead4ward Brad Gibson
Location	Iowa Events Center
Description	<p>Engaging Learners is an interactive session during which participants will learn strategies to put students at the center of their learning, including ways to engage even reluctant students to actively think, talk, and write. Participants will use activities that engage students in learning academic vocabulary, comprehending content, correcting mistakes, and deepening connections.</p> <p>Attendees will learn the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strategies to gain meaningful participation by all students</li> <li>• questioning techniques to promote student critical thinking and productive struggle</li> <li>• thinking stems to support student cognition</li> <li>• strategies to check for understanding</li> </ul> <p>Emphasis will be placed on scaffolds for students with IEPs and English Language Learners; ways to ensure student participation and production, such as roles and teaming; and methods to monitor students' evidence of learning to inform instructional decisions.</p>

## Language Support Strategies

Session Specifics	Session Details
Session Length	2 Day
Dates and Times	July 7 and July 8 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m. each day
Presenter	TBD based on informal bid awardee
Location	Iowa Events Center
Description	<p>Professional learning on language support strategies from a research-based and validated instructional model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• emphasis on second language acquisition at a variety of language proficiency levels for students in grades K-12, with actionable language learning strategies for teachers to apply to daily instruction</li><li>• include a toolbox of ready-to-implement strategies to support language learning within all grade levels/content areas of instruction</li><li>• provide techniques for building academic language in reading, writing, listening, and speaking</li><li>• connect to English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards</li><li>• differentiated for the educators of Iowa, specifically those working in schools designated for comprehensive support and improvement and targeted support and improvement</li></ul>

## Encyclopedia of Behavior Intervention

Session Specifics	Session Details
Session Length	1 Day
Dates and Times	July 9 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m.
Presenter	Safe & Civil Schools Tricia Berg
Location	Iowa Events Center
Description	<p>Even with a solid classroom management plan in place, some misbehavior is bound to happen. Fortunately, teachers and other educators can implement simple interventions without a specialist's help to reduce problem behavior, thereby focusing their time and energy on instruction and student success.</p> <p>The Encyclopedia of Behavior Intervention features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New problems, such as sleeping in class and vaping</li> <li>• Best-practice recommendations around emerging and timely themes such as trauma-informed practice, electronic use/classroom technology, artificial intelligence, bullying and harassment, and attendance</li> <li>• Better alignment with other existing Safe &amp; Civil Schools resources to create a consistent problem-solving and intervention planning framework</li> <li>• More guidance in recognizing signs and symptoms of mental health and social risk factors</li> <li>• Greater focus on individual behavior rather than group behavior</li> </ul> <p>The interventions in the Encyclopedia of Behavior Intervention are based on research that shows proactive, positive, and instructional approaches to student misbehavior are far more effective in managing and motivating students than traditional authoritarian and punitive approaches. Encyclopedia of Behavior Intervention translates these broad ideas about behavior management and intervention into specific actions you can take to improve individual students' behavior.</p> <p>For each misbehavior addressed, the Encyclopedia of Behavior Interventions offers a range of plans so you can select an intervention tailored to the purpose, duration, and severity of your situation. A series of questions guides you through relevant considerations to help you identify the plan that best suits your situation or develop your own custom intervention.</p>

## Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) Strands

Session Specifics	Session Details
Session Length	<p>3 Days</p> <p>Participation in each SDI strand is intended to enable district teams to begin engaging in the SDI learning component of their IDEA DA Implementation Plan. Attendance at any one of these strands will address a portion of the learning in each package. Participation should include the full district team. Opportunities for teacher and administrator-specific break-out sessions will be incorporated into the strands.</p> <p><i>Please note: Registration for the SDI strands closes at the end of the day on Thursday, April 30, 2026.</i></p>
Dates and Times	<p>July 7-9</p> <p>Tuesday and Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.</p>
Presenter	Department Team
Location	Iowa Events Center
SDI Strand: Preschool Description	<p>An interactive strand focused on supporting all preschool students, including those with IEPs, through targeted evidence-based practices. Participants will connect content to Iowa’s SDI Framework, DEC Recommended Practices, and tools to implement the content.</p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the 3 Key Components and 9 Critical Features of Iowa’s SDI Framework; enhancing connections and application of Iowa’s SDI Framework and DEC Recommended Practices.</li> <li>• Discuss the unique challenges that Preschool presents and how the evidence- informed practices can be used to accommodate all learners in an inclusive environment.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities to increase program fidelity through the use of SDI practices, tools, coaching and support.</li> </ul>
SDI Strand: K-6 Literacy Description	<p>An interactive strand focused on a common statewide understanding of the concept, principles, and practice of Specially Designed Instruction within the Iowa SDI Framework. This session emphasizes clarity about what SDI is and is not, while establishing how it functions as the core of special education and as a lever for instructional impact on student learning outcomes.</p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain awareness of the SDI Guiding Principles and insight through unpacking the federal definition of SDI, as well as clarity around misconceptions and the reality of SDI.</li> <li>• Gain knowledge of what is meant by “...adapting the content, methodology or delivery of instruction...” and an appreciation of the instructional impact purpose of SDI.</li> <li>• Gain an overview of Iowa’s SDI Framework to support diagnosis, design and delivery of SDI.</li> </ul>

Session Specifics	Session Details
<p>SDI Strand: Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities Description</p>	<p>This strand is designed to provide educators with foundational knowledge and skills to expand language, communication, and comprehensive literacy skills for emergent readers and writers.</p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the 3 Key Components and 9 Critical Features of Iowa’s SDI Framework with a focus on SDI Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities.</li> <li>• Examine classroom conditions and instruction related to supporting students with significant disabilities in comprehensive literacy.</li> <li>• Enhance understanding of how to develop interprofessional collaboration in order to diagnose, design, and deliver high-quality, specially designed language, communication and text comprehension literacy instruction.</li> </ul>
<p>SDI Strand: Secondary Transition Description</p>	<p>An interactive strand focused on supporting college and career readiness for students with IEPs. Participants will connect content to Iowa’s SDI Framework, priority postsecondary readiness indicators, and principles of the IDEA.</p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine the 3 Key Components, 9 Critical Features, and 4 Indicators of Learner Engagement in Iowa’s SDI Framework.</li> <li>• Enhance connections and application of Iowa’s SDI Framework within the context of secondary special education.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to strengthen collaborative practices and the continuum of services within the school’s system of college and career readiness.</li> </ul>

## HQIM Leadership Academy - Invitation only

Session Specifics	Session Details
Separate Registration	<p>Please note: This session will require a separate SchoolKit and the Department of Education registration. A registration link will be shared in April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When completing your Every Learner Forward registration, please indicate which HQIM session date (July 9 or July 10) you plan to attend.</li> </ul> <p><i>As a reminder, this session is intended for participants who have completed the preceding sessions in the HQIM Leadership Academy series (Sessions 1-3 or Sessions 2-3).</i></p>
Session Length	1 Day
Dates and Times	July 9 or July 10 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Repeat Session - select <b>one day</b> to attend.)
Presenter	Schoolkit Presenters
Location	Iowa Events Center
Description	<p>This session builds on prior learning to support Literacy Leadership Teams in strengthening literacy instruction through intentional leadership actions and the effective implementation of High-Quality Instructional Materials. Serving as the fourth and final session in the <b>HQIM Leadership Academy</b> series, the session will emphasize examining alignment across initiatives and identifying leadership actions that support continuous improvement in literacy outcomes.</p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflect on learning across the four-session Leadership Academy series</li> <li>Examine current district or schoolwide systems that support HQIM implementation</li> <li>Identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for stronger alignment</li> <li>Consider leadership actions to sustain and deepen implementation over time</li> </ul>

## Iowa Charter School Network Kick-Off Event - Charters only

Session Specifics	Session Details
Session Length	1 Day
Dates and Times	July 7 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Repeat Session - select <b>one day</b> to attend.)
Presenter	Iowa Coalition for Public Charter Schools, the Iowa Department of Education, and experts in the charter sector
Location	Iowa Events Center
Description	<p>Welcome to the Iowa Charter School Network Kick-off Event! The Network is a new, dedicated support for Iowa's charter schools—providing timely information and ongoing guidance on authorization, performance contracting, charter law, finance and evidence-based programming across content areas. Through targeted learning series, collaborative peer networks, and expert-led professional development, the Network helps schools launch strong and grow with confidence. Join us for this inaugural event and stay connected throughout the year as we offer monthly webinars focused on the issues that matter most to Iowa's charter leaders.</p> <p><b>Welcome to Iowa's Charter Sector!</b></p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• connect with charters across the state</li> <li>• understand the charter sector within the state</li> </ul> <p><b>All Kids Can!</b></p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop a unified schoolwide approach to motivating students for the upcoming school year</li> </ul> <p><b>Charters in Iowa</b></p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• learn about the similarities and differences between traditional and charter public schools in Iowa</li> <li>• understand how each entity supports charters: Iowa Coalition, Iowa Department of Education, and AEAs</li> <li>• understand what existing resources are available from the Department to improve instruction and operations, including the new Iowa Charter School Program grant</li> </ul> <p><b>Peer-2-Peer Collaboration</b></p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• problem solve collaboratively with other members of the ICSN - Examples</li> <li>• Student recruitment and retention</li> <li>• Chronic Absenteeism</li> <li>• How to maximize literacy within an alternative model</li> </ul>