

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

April 16, 2026

Agenda Item: Area Education Agencies Strategic Plan Overview
July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029

**State Board
Goal(s):** Goal 2

**State Board
Role/Authority:** Per Iowa Code section 273.2 and Iowa Administrative Code 281—72, the area education agency (AEA) boards are to jointly develop a three-year statewide strategic plan that is approved by the State Board of Education

Presenter(s): Angelisa Fynaardt, Administrator
Division of Special Education

Nathan Wood, Chief Administrator
Great Prairie Area Education Agency

Attachment(s): One

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

Background: This is an overview of the AEAs' agency boards' Strategic Plan focused on actualizing the AEAs' statewide vision, mission and values. It is centered on providing high-quality, evidence-based services while adapting to legislative reforms that emphasize improved services for learners with disabilities, centralized services, establishing "Centers of Excellence" and shifting to a "fee-for-service" model. Key goals in the strategic plan include promoting safe, orderly, welcoming learning environments; promote excellence in education by closing achievement and opportunity gaps; and ensuring consistent quality in the delivery of AEA services.

Iowa's Area Education Agencies

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2027 TO 2028-2029

Our Mission

To deliver high-quality, evidence-based, and strategic services to our educational partners that meet the diverse needs of Iowa's learners (birth-21), educators, and school communities.

Our Vision

Iowa's Area Education Agencies 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.

Our Core Values



C

Collaboration

Emphasizing the importance of working together with schools, districts, and families to achieve common educational goals.



A

Accountability

Prioritizing strategies that create measurable impact (using analytics) and being accountable for outcomes.



R

Relationships

Driving positive change through the power of strong partnerships. We partner with educators to create a shared vision for student success.



E

Excellence

Striving for excellence in all aspects of service delivery, including the quality, evidence-based nature and strategic alignment of supports and services.



S

Sustainability

Committing to ongoing reflection, learning and improvement to ensure the sustainability and impact of effective services.

Serve

Engage and address the immediate needs

Support

Provide continuous assistance and backing

Impact

Achieve meaningful and lasting positive outcomes



Iowa's Area
Education
Agencies



Our Goals

1 Promote safe, orderly, and welcoming learning environments.

AEA Actions

- Support schools in applying appropriate behavioral principles to implement effective problem analysis practices and design and deliver instructional/ intervention supports at all Tiers.
- Provide Department of Education approved professional development which includes ongoing coaching and consultation to support implementation.

2 Promote excellence in education by closing achievement and opportunity gaps.

AEA Actions

- Support schools in implementing appropriate instructional practices across all Tiers, including specially designed instruction.
- Provide Department of Education approved professional development which includes ongoing coaching and consultation to support implementation.

3 Implement measures to ensure consistent quality in the delivery of AEA services to Iowa's accredited schools.

AEA Actions

- Systemwide Professional Learning for AEA Educational Services Staff on Implementation Science for Educational Initiatives with Ongoing Coaching
- Ensure consistent and effective evaluation and eligibility practices across all nine agencies
- Ensure consistent delivery of support and related services across all nine agencies