



Summer 2026 Professional Development Opportunities



Department of Education

Every Learner Forward Sessions

[Register Here](#)

Early-Stage Intervention:

Early-Stage Interventions helps teachers start strong, intervene early with approachable tools and reserve more intensive support for when early attempts don't work.

Attendees will learn to:

- Plan and implement a sequence of simple classroom interventions to address an individual student's chronic misbehavior
- Collect data to determine the scope of a problem and assess the effectiveness of interventions
- Identify and improve classroom management issues that may be contributing to student misbehavior
- Consider academic issues that may play a role in student misbehavior
- Address problem behavior in its early stages so a school's Tier 2 and 3 resources can be focused on the most difficult problems

Teachers and other staff report the following outcomes:

- Create and maintain productive, respectful learning environments.
- Respond effectively to behavior, discipline and motivation problems.
- Develop a repertoire of evidence-based strategies such as planned discussion, using reinforcement, responding consistently to inappropriate behavior, setting goals.
- Learn to collect data to ensure that the function of the behavior is identified and that results of intervention can be evaluated objectively.

Engaging Learners: Access without Barriers

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.

Attendees will:

- Examine principles of universally designated instruction and how they connect with the instructional cycle
- Enhance the lesson internalization process to ensure that rigorous learning experiences meet the needs of all learners
- Explore options for engagement, representation and expression that reduce barriers for diverse learners across content areas
- Practice teaching strategies that support effective student engagement

Engaging Learners with Emphasis on Scaffolding, Monitoring and Accountability

Engaging Learners is an interactive session during which participants will learn strategies to put students at the center of their learning, including engaging even reluctant students to actively think, talk and write. Participants will utilize activities that engage students to learn academic vocabulary, comprehend content, correct mistakes and deepen connections.

Attendees will learn the following:

- Strategies to gain meaningful participation by all students
- Questioning techniques to promote student critical thinking and productive struggle
- Thinking stems to support student cognition
- Strategies to check for understanding

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 student evidence of learning to make instructional decisions.

Language Support Strategies

Professional learning on language support strategies from a research-based and validated instructional model:

- 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
- Include a toolbox of ready-to-implement strategies to support language learning within all grade levels / content areas of instruction
- Provide techniques of building academic language in reading, writing, listening and speaking
- Connect to English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards
- Differentiated for the educators of Iowa, specifically those working in schools designated for comprehensive support and improvement and targeted support and improvement

Encyclopedia of Behavior Intervention

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 the help of a specialist to reduce problem behavior and instead focus their time and energy on instruction and student success.

The Encyclopedia of Behavior Intervention features:

- New problems, such as sleeping in class and vaping
- Best-practice recommendations around emerging and timely themes such as trauma-informed practice, electronics use/classroom technology, artificial intelligence, bullying and harassment and attendance
- Better alignment with other existing Safe & Civil Schools resources to create a consistent problem-solving and intervention planning framework
- More guidance in recognizing signs and symptoms of mental health and social risk factors
- Greater focus on individual behavior rather than group behavior

The interventions in 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 the behavior of individual students.

For each misbehavior addressed, the Encyclopedia of Behavior Interventions offers an assortment of plans so you can select an intervention tailored to the purpose, duration and severity of your particular 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.

Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) Strands

Participation in each SDI strand is intended for district teams to begin engaging in the SDI learning that is a component of their Implementation Plan for IDEA-DA. 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.

SDI Strand: Preschool

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. Participants will:

- 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
- Discuss the unique challenges that Preschool presents and how the evidence-informed practices can be used to accommodate all learners in an inclusive environment
- Provide opportunities to increase program fidelity through the use of SDI practices, tools, coaching and support

SDI Strand: K-6 Literacy

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 on what SDI is and is not, while establishing how it functions as the core of special education and a lever for instructional impact in student learning outcomes. Participants will:

- Gain awareness of the SDI Guiding Principles and insight through unpacking the federal definition of SDI, as well as clarity around misconceptions and reality of SDI
- 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
- Gain an overview of Iowa's SDI Framework to support diagnosis, design and delivery of SDI

SDI Strand: Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities

This strand is designed to provide educators foundational knowledge and skills to expand language, communication and comprehensive literacy skills for emergent readers and writers. Participants will:

- 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

- Examine classroom conditions and instruction related to supporting students with significant disabilities in comprehensive literacy
- 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

SDI Strand: Secondary Transition

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. Participants will:

- Examine the 3 Key Components, 9 Critical Features and 4 Indicators of Learner Engagement in Iowa's SDI Framework
- Enhance connections and application of Iowa's SDI Framework within the context of secondary special education
- Explore opportunities to strengthen collaborative practices and continuum of services within the school's system of college and career readiness

Iowa Charter School Network Kick-off Event - Charters Only

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 around authorization, performance contracting, charter law and 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.

- **Welcome to Iowa's Charter Sector!** - Participants will:
 - Connect with charters across the state
 - Understand the charter sector within the state
- **All Kids Can!** - Participants will:
 - Develop a unified schoolwide approach to motivating students for the upcoming school year
- **Charters in Iowa** - Participants will:
 - Learn about the similarities and differences between traditional and charter public schools in Iowa
 - Understand how each entity supports charters: Iowa Coalition, Iowa Department of Education and AEAs
 - Understand what existing resources are available from the Department to improve instruction and operations, including the new Iowa Charter School Program grant
- **Peer-2-Peer Collaboration** - Participants will:
 - Problem solve collaboratively with other members of the ICSN, such as:
 - Student recruitment and retention
 - Chronic Absenteeism
 - How to maximize literacy within an alternative model

HQIM Leadership Academy

This year, schools and districts across Iowa, including CLSD subgrantees as well as ESSA- and IDEA-identified schools, were invited to participate in the HQIM Leadership Academy. The academy is designed to build leadership capacity for the successful implementation of High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) in literacy. These sessions are designed to support district and school leaders in creating coherent, sustainable literacy systems that improve outcomes for all students.

Session 4 will take place during the Every Learner Forward event and will be the final session for the 2025-26 school year. We will begin a second cohort of the HQIM Leadership Academy during the 2026-27 school year and the CLSD subgrantees will continue their learning and support into the 2026-27 school year, as well.

Safe & Civil Professional Learning Sessions

[Register Here](#)

CHAMPS & Discipline in the Secondary Classroom (combined session)

Training is intended for: District and building leaders, K-12 classroom teachers, coaches, support staff

At its heart, the CHAMPS/DSC approach is designed to help teachers create and implement a classroom management plan that is proactive, positive and instructional. Using practical strategies that set the stage for appropriate behavior, the teacher is able to focus on maintaining positive interactions. Students become more motivated and engaged in the classroom. This process improves the classroom dynamics by building a strong sense of classroom community.

Through CHAMPS/DSC training, teachers learn to:

- Create a desired classroom culture and environment
- Organize their classroom effectively
- Identify and teach expectations
- Learn effective supervision
- Improve student motivation through positive interactions
- Correct in a calm, consistent and concise manner

Engaging and Supporting Students with Challenging Behavior

Training is intended for: K-8 District and building leaders, classroom teachers, coaches, support staff

Featuring content from William R. Jenson, this professional development is designed to provide ready-to-use, classroom-tested materials to help motivate and manage students. This training focuses on providing practical, proven strategies to help difficult students manage their behavioral excesses and deficits and learn appropriate behaviors. Minimize student disruptions and maximize learning for all.

Training covers practical, evidence-based strategies for dealing effectively with challenging problems like:

- Arguing
- Aggression toward staff and other students

- Noncompliance
- Lack of motivation
- Poor academic performance

Staff will learn:

- What causes challenging behavior
- How to practically assess it
- How to implement proactive strategies to remediate these behaviors

This training focuses on the 1-3 students in your classroom who are pushing up against Tier 2 and have behavior excesses such as noncompliance, as well as behavior and social deficits. It will walk you through using antecedent and motivational strategies to challenge behaviors and, lastly, “reductive techniques” (corrections) that are effective for them.

The training provides deeper insight and a broader toolkit for educators dealing with more complex behavioral issues or when early interventions are insufficient.

Coaching CHAMPS

Pre-requisite: CHAMPS or Discipline in the Secondary Training

Training is intended for: District and building leaders, coaches, teacher leaders

The three-day training will be split into two sections: two days back to back and one day later. This schedule allows for leaders and coaches to take learning back into practice immediately. This training will dig deeper into data collection, data analysis and action steps.

Coaching CHAMPS training provides detailed guidance on how to build a schoolwide program for implementing proven, research-based classroom management practices through coaching. A formalized structure for collaborative coaching clears the path for administrators and nonevaluative coaches to support teachers in creating calm, orderly and positive classrooms.

Coaching CHAMPS is designed to close the gap between the ideal of research-based practices and the actual implementation of positive classroom management.

Using what we know about effective support for students, Coaching CHAMPS training offers a comprehensive guide for supporting teachers in using effective behavior management practices.

Through a structured, tiered coaching model, Coaching CHAMPS training empowers schools to better bridge professional development to real-world classroom success. By offering a clear framework rooted in research and aligned with MTSS principles, it equips administrators and coaches to provide differentiated support that meets the unique needs of every teacher. With Coaching CHAMPS training, schools can build a strong foundation for positive, effective classroom management—ensuring that every teacher is supported and every student benefits.

Statewide EL Professional Development

The Department will launch statewide professional learning designed to narrow and close achievement gaps experienced by English Learners using ESEA block grant funds from Iowa’s Unified Allocation Plan. Each EL professional development topic will be offered in two cohorts—Des Moines (Heartland AEA) and Cedar Rapids (Grant Wood AEA)—and will include one in-person half-day session followed by two virtual sessions. The sessions will be facilitated by the Department in partnership with the American Institutes for Research (AIR). Sessions will run from April 14, 2026, through May 22, 2026. The content overview, dates and registration link are included in the handout.

May 2026 Session Schedule (Virtual Follow-Ups)

Topic #1 – Instruction & Learning Environments

- **Des Moines Cohort**
 - May 5, 4:00–5:00 PM
 - May 19, 4:00–5:00 PM
- **Cedar Rapids Cohort**
 - May 5, 5:00–6:00 PM
 - May 19, 5:00–6:00 PM

Topic #2 – Staffing & Educator Preparation

- **Des Moines Cohort**
 - May 6, 4:00–5:00 PM
 - May 20, 4:00–5:00 PM
- **Cedar Rapids Cohort**
 - May 6, 5:00–6:00 PM
 - May 20, 5:00–6:00 PM

Topic #3 – Leadership & Policy

- **Des Moines Cohort**
 - May 7, 4:00–5:00 PM
 - May 21, 4:00–5:00 PM
- **Cedar Rapids Cohort**
 - May 7, 5:00–6:00 PM
 - May 21, 5:00–6:00 PM

Topic #4 – Community & Family Engagement

- **Des Moines Cohort**
 - May 8, 4:00–5:00 PM
 - May 22, 4:00–5:00 PM
- **Cedar Rapids Cohort**
 - May 8, 5:00–6:00 PM
 - May 22, 5:00–6:00 PM

Embed Computer Science into Everyday Instruction

Studies show participation in computer science learning provides students with better career opportunities after they leave school, and that early exposure to computer science learning is key to getting students interested in computer science and engineering. To help schools improve computer science learning opportunities, the Iowa Department of Education is partnering with Green Hills AEA to provide two elementary-focused computer science professional learning opportunities.

In the **Embedding Computer Science into Everyday Instruction** hands-on, virtual workshop series, participants will:

- Explore simple, developmentally appropriate ways to embed computer science into their current instruction
- See how computer science standards naturally connect to literacy, math and patterning through a physical computing device and picture book
- Leave with concrete lesson ideas and classroom-ready strategies
- Gain a clearer understanding of computer science standards and the confidence to integrate computer science without adding one more thing to your plate

[Register Here](#)

Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services

School Nutrition Trainings:

Farm to Summer Culinary Trainings

May 7, 8, 21 and 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This hands-on, in-person regional workshop will provide information on using proper knife skills, using standardized recipes, incorporating local produce and techniques to improve the quality of congregate and non-congregate meals.

The locations for the training are:

- May 7 - Kirkwood Community College, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids
- May 8 - Indian Hills Community College, 525 Grandview Ave #149, Ottumwa
- May 21 - Western Iowa Tech Community College, 4647 Stone Ave, Sioux City
- May 22 - Des Moines Area Community College, 2006 S Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny

[Register Here](#)

2026 Procurement Training Sessions

May 13, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services will be offering a three-hour procurement training at multiple locations across Iowa. The training will focus on procurement basics that will enable SFAs to complete the SY 2026-27 written procurement plan. As a reminder, one of the provisions of the USDA Child Nutrition: Program Integrity Final Rule requires annual NSLP procurement training for school nutrition program directors, management and staff who work on NSLP procurement activities. This provision was effective Aug. 23, 2024. As a reminder, School Meal Program application packets will not be approved unless a completed procurement plan is provided to the State agency.

SFAs are required to be in compliance with federal and program-specific procurement rules and regulations. The Bureau encourages SFA staff who are responsible for issuing, evaluating, awarding and managing contracts on behalf of the SFA to attend this training. This may include the school nutrition director/manager, superintendent and/or business manager.

The locations for the training are:

- Coralville Public Library, 1401 5th St., Coralville
- Evans Jr. High Professional Development Training Center, 812 Chester Ave., Ottumwa
- ~~Greene County Career Academy at Greene County High School, 1901 N. Grimmell Rd., Jefferson~~ **Site is at capacity**
- Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn Commons, 400 Highland Dr., Marcus

- Marshalltown Public Library, 105 W. Boone St., Marshalltown
- Oakland Community Building, 614 Dr. Van Zee Rd., Oakland
- ~~Urbandale Public Library, 3250 86th St., Urbandale~~ **Site is at capacity**
- West Union Community Library, 210 N. Vine St., West Union

Register Here

Recipe Standardization Training for School Meals
July 7, North Liberty. July 9th, Oakland. July 21st, Bondurant

This full day, hands-on class is designed to put the steps of recipe standardization into practice. Participants will see how standardized recipes, nutrition labels and ingredient choices all come together to demonstrate meal pattern compliance.

Classroom and culinary lab training will cover the following:

- School nutrition standards
- Recipe verification phase
 - Recipe crediting
 - Nutrition analysis
 - Kitchen accuracy and culinary practice lab
- Product evaluation phase
- Quantity adjustment phase

Register by selecting the desired date and location below:

7/7 Registration

7/9 Registration

7/21 Registration

New Directors: Know Your School Meal Requirements

Aug. 3 and Aug. 4, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A two-day training providing an overview of the management components of school meal programs. Presented by Iowa Consultants with the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services.

Location: FFA Enrichment Center, 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny (DMACC campus)

Audience: Newer school nutrition directors in Iowa (fewer than five years experience)

Lesson topics include:

- Program accountability, integrity and the role of the school nutrition director
- Professional standards
- Civil rights and customer experience

- Food safety
- Money management
- Point-of-service, counting and claiming meals
- Overview of eligibility
- Reimbursable meals, meal patterns and supporting documentation
- Menu planning, special diets and meal modifications
- USDA Foods
- Farm to School
- Introduction to procurement
- Inventory management

Professional Standards: 16 hours

No cost. Space is limited. Lunch will be on your own and time will be provided.

[Register Here](#)

Back-to-School Nutrition Conference

Aug. 11 and Aug. 12, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Annual professional development offered to Iowa school nutrition leaders from the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. **Location:** Gateway Hotel & Conference Center, 2100 Green Hills Drive, Ames. **Audience:** School Nutrition Directors, Managers and key nutrition staff

Aug. 11: Nutrition and Operations: Set Up for Success this School Year

Recognize challenges and opportunities in school nutrition programs. Gain inspiration from guest presenters including Chef Sharon Schaefer, SNS, Culinary Institute of America, on menu planning, marketing and promoting local school nutrition programs. Improve understanding of food allergies with an accredited food allergy training to build confidence in providing accommodations in school nutrition programs.

Aug. 12: School Nutrition Know Your Numbers: Administration and Finance

Review resource management requirements in school nutrition to help school food authorities set up for success in the upcoming school year. Learn how to prepare for an Administrative Review and avoid common findings. Build an understanding of school nutrition procurement and Buy American requirements.

Professional Standards: 12 hours (6 hours/day)

[Register Here](#)