



Minutes State Board of Education April 16, 2026

John Robbins
President
Iowa Falls

Brooke Axlotis
Vice President
Des Moines

Todd Abrahamson
Arnolds Park

Cassandra Halls
Carlisle

Brian J. Kane
Dubuque

Mary Meisterling
Cedar Rapids

Grace Bechtel
Student Member (non-voting)
Lake Mills

Beth Townsend
Iowa Workforce Development
(non-voting)

McKenzie Snow
**Director and
Executive Officer**

The State Board of Education meeting was held on April 16, 2026, at the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. The meeting was conducted in person, with remote access information provided in the notice of the meeting.

State Board members present: John Robbins, Brooke Axiotis, Todd Abrahamson, Mary Meisterling and Grace Bechtel. Brian Kane and Cassandra Halls attended virtually.

Iowa Department of Education staff members present: McKenzie Snow, John Elkin, Heather Doe, Thomas Mayes, Eric St Clair, Tina Wahlert, Jay Pennington, Angelisa Fynaardt, Cassandra Cline, Kimberly Villotti, Stefanie Wager, Amy Gieseke, Robin Shaffer Lilienthal, Lindsay Harrison, Liza Garcia and Jeremy Anzevino.

State Board Business Meeting

John Robbins called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Todd Abrahamson seconded to approve the agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced public comment for 30 minutes.

No public comment was made.

The following reports were provided:

Director's Report, by Director Snow.

Community College Advisory Committee Update.

Consent Agenda

March 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Rules: Chapter 120 - Early ACCESS

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Mary Meisterling seconded to approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Eastern Iowa Community College Paraprofessional Program Approval

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the Eastern Iowa Community College's Paraeducator preparation program through the next review scheduled for the 2031-2032 academic year.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Area Education Agency Strategic Plan Overview

The matter was discussed.

Great Prairie Area Education Agency Annual Accreditation Performance Review*

The matter was discussed.

John Robbins announced a break until 11:48 a.m.

Grant Wood Area Education Agency Annual Accreditation Performance Review*

The matter was discussed.

Heartland Area Education Agency Annual Accreditation Performance Review*

The matter was discussed.

John Robbins announced a lunch break until 1:03 p.m.

Green Hills Area Education Agency Annual Accreditation Performance Review*

The matter was discussed.

Northwest Area Education Agency Annual Accreditation Performance Review*

The matter was discussed.

Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency Annual Accreditation Performance Review*

The matter was discussed.

Central Rivers Area Education Agency Annual Accreditation Performance Review*

The matter was discussed.

Keystone Area Education Agency Annual Accreditation Performance Review*

The matter was discussed.

John Robbins announced a break until 2:45 p.m.

Accreditation Report Comprehensive State Evaluation of Northwest Iowa Community College

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion: and Todd Abrahamson seconded to grant continued accreditation for Northwest Iowa Community College.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Revised Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards - First Read

The matter was discussed.

Morningside University Educator Preparation Progress Monitoring Update

The matter was discussed.

March School Budget Review Committee Hearing Update

The matter was discussed.

Meeting recessed at 4:07 p.m.

John Robbins
President

McKenzie Snow
Director

*This is the first year implementing the Area Education Agency accreditation process. Please refer to the State Board of Education recording available on the Department's YouTube page for the full context of the discussion.