

# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

June 18, 2026

**Agenda Item:** Iowa's Area Education Agencies Strategic Plan

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

**State Board Role/Authority:** Iowa area education agencies (AEAs) are required by Iowa Code section 273.2 and Iowa Administrative Code chapter 281—72 to develop a three-year statewide strategic plan that supports State Board goals and accreditation standards, establishes performance targets, identifies statewide efforts to improve student learning and promotes efficiencies in services and operations for AEAs and school districts. The statewide strategic plan must be approved by the State Board. The AEA boards must provide the State Board with annual updates on the performance measures.

**Presenter(s):** Nathan Wood, Chief Administrator  
Great Prairie AEA

Stan Rheingans, Chief Administrator  
Central Rivers and Keystone AEAs

Angelisa Fynaardt, Administrator  
Division of Special Education

**Attachment(s):** One

**Recommendation:** It is recommended the board approve the statewide strategic plan for three years and require the AEA system to provide an annual update in 2027.

**Background:** Iowa's AEAs Strategic Plan 2025-2030 is focused on actualizing the AEAs' statewide vision, mission and values. It is centered on providing high-quality, evidence-based services. Key goals in the strategic plan include promoting safe, orderly, welcoming learning environments; promoting equity in learning environments by closing achievement and opportunity gaps; and ensuring consistent quality in the delivery of AEA services. This is the second reading of the AEA Strategic Plan.

# 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