

Our Mission

As educational partners, Northwest AEA staff work to further our agency's mission:

"To provide visionary leadership and quality, student-centered services through relationships with families, schools and communities."

Our Vision

We will provide exemplary leadership and educational services to all children, families and communities in Northwest AEA.



Our Beliefs

- ✓ *Responsive service - quality, timely and appropriate service is our primary responsibility.*
- ✓ *Support - with appropriate support, all people have the ability to grow.*
- ✓ *Professional growth - professional growth and development are career-long endeavors.*
- ✓ *Community involvement - the power of community partnerships will expand agency effectiveness.*
- ✓ *Reflection - a successful future is built upon the solid foundations of the past.*

Our Strategic Priorities

- ✓ *Develop and implement a cohesive statewide system for Child Find.*
- ✓ *Ensure quality control and fidelity for the Iowa Core Curriculum implementation.*
- ✓ *Identify additional services needed for children with autism and implement those through a cohesive system.*

Our Goals

- ✓ *Increase the percentage of all students who perform at the proficiency level in reading, mathematics and science.*
- ✓ *Improve the positive social, emotional, behavioral and intellectual development of all students.*



Why AEAs?

Iowa's educational structure dates back to 1858, but the first regional services were not established until 1910, when Iowa school districts numbered over 5,000. In that year, county superintendents were appointed to oversee the schools in each county.

Over the years, the number of districts steadily declined. In 1957, the state legislature allowed counties to jointly employ one superintendent to handle the smaller number of districts. Then, in 1965, the legislature approved the merger of two or more counties into joint county school systems.

But problems developed under this new arrangement. The availability of services varied greatly from one county or joint-county system to another.

The state legislature responded in 1974 by replacing county systems with 15 area education agencies to provide equity across the state. As a result of AEA mergers, that number has decreased to nine.

Since its inception, Iowa's AEA system has been widely regarded as one of the finest systems of intermediate services in the country.

For more information about Iowa's AEA system, please go to <www.iowaaea.org>.

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- **Northwest AEA Battle Creek Center**
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- **Northwest AEA Cherokee Center**
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- **Northwest AEA Denison Center**
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888/472-6050 or 712/263-4625
- **Northwest AEA Le Mars Center**
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Le Mars, Iowa 51031
888/472-6054 or 712/546-4192
- **Northwest AEA Onawa Center**
801 10th St., Ste. A
Onawa, Iowa 51040
888/472-6037 or 712/433-2071

Northwest AEA Administration

- Chief Administrator Tim Grieves
- Program/Services Pam Barry
- Administrators Jim Gorman
Jon Wibbels
- Communications Liz Determan
- Coordinator
- Chief Financial Officer Wayne Hess
- Board Secretary Gloria Miller



Produced by the Communications Office, Northwest AEA, 1520 Morningside Ave., Sioux City, Iowa 51106. 712/222-6003, 800/352-9040 ext. 6003.

For tours of the agency, more information, or to arrange for a presentation about Northwest AEA for your organization, contact the Northwest AEA Communications Office at 800/352-9040 ext. 6003, 712/222-6003 or visit our Web site at <www.nwaea.k12.ia.us>

Northwest Area Education Agency does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran status or as otherwise prohibited by law in its educational programs, services and employment practices. Questions or grievances related to this policy may be addressed to: Sally Hudek, Equity Coordinator, 1520 Morningside Ave., Sioux City, IA 51106-1716, 712/222-6114. March 2010



An Introduction to Northwest AEA

Northwest Area Education Agency is one of nine Iowa area education agencies (AEAs) established by the Iowa Legislature in 1975 to provide equity in educational programs across the state.

Iowa's AEAs work as educational partners with local public and accredited private schools to help assure that all children reach their potential. Iowa AEAs are widely regarded as one of the foremost regional service systems in the country, offering programs equitably, efficiently, and economically on a regional or cooperative basis among school districts.



AEAs provide access to resources for both large and small school districts. Services are provided in the following areas:

Special Education Support

Providing specialized services for children and students birth to age 21 with diverse learning needs, including students with disabilities.

Instructional Media

Providing instructional videos, books and kits to support K-12 classroom instruction and teacher training. Printing, graphics and Teacher Work Center services are also available.

School Technology

Providing assistance with technology planning and integration, training, cooperative purchasing, networking, printing and distance learning.

Instructional Services

Offering support and expertise on best practices in skill areas for children birth to age 5 and in content areas for K-12 teachers.

Professional Development

Coordinating workshops, courses, materials and ongoing consultation for area educators and support staff.

Leadership

Providing leadership services that assist with the recruitment, induction, retention and professional development of educational leaders.

School-Community Planning

Providing support for School Improvement processes and communication with families and communities.

Multicultural, Gender-Fair

Providing services that assist schools and school districts to ensure supportive learning environments for all students.



Here are just a few of the key roles the agency plays in the communities it serves:

- ◆ The AEA identifies the needs of children with disabilities and provides for, or supplements, a wide variety of services to meet those needs.
- ◆ The AEA supports schools in the use of the Iowa Professional Development Model. It also offers professional skill-enhancements to teachers and administrators, including credit courses for licensure renewal, as well as certification classes for paraeducators.
- ◆ The AEA supports district personnel in curriculum and assessments, which address, at a minimum, reading, language arts, mathematics and science. Support is also available for establishing and analyzing student achievement and learning climate data, and for using this information to improve student learning.
- ◆ The agency provides staff with specialized skills that many schools could not afford to have on their own. This includes school psychologists, social workers, speech-language pathologists and curriculum consultants, just to name a few.
- ◆ School districts benefit from shared resources, such as videos and DVDs,

supplemental materials, educationally designed databases and search engines for school libraries, and science kits for classroom experiments.

- ◆ The AEAs engage in economical group purchasing of food, paper, office and janitorial supplies, and many other items, saving millions of dollars statewide.
- ◆ Schools also benefit from high quality, Internet-based licensed databases and multimedia resources provided by the agency. These products provide 24/7 access to information that teachers and students can use at school and at home.

Services in Northwest AEA

Northwest AEA provides support to more than 43,262 students and over 4,200 teachers, administrators, media specialists, nurses, and paraeducators in 36 kindergarten to 12 public school districts and 33 accredited nonpublic schools, preschools and daycare centers. The Northwest AEA service area, includes Cherokee, Crawford, Ida, Lyon, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Sioux and Woodbury counties in Iowa.

The ultimate goal of our work is that every child will receive a quality education.

Staff services and materials from the agency are available without charge, except for services such as printing, data-processing, special events with outside speakers or individualized requests.

The agency operates seven centers in northwest Iowa. However, nearly 60 percent of agency staff is assigned to specific schools as part of a regional team. They work directly with children and educators as an integral part of the local school staff.

Others serve schools in a consultant or itinerant role, offer courses or workshops, or link schools with other persons, agencies or materials that meet their needs.



Approximately 80,000 Iowa students, birth to age 21, have been identified as having some type of disability. This means about one in eight students in K-12 classrooms needs some form of special assistance. Virtually all students with disabilities receive support services from the AEAs.

As educational partners, Northwest AEA helps students, local district staff, families and communities meet the growing challenge of accountability and student achievement.

Board of Directors

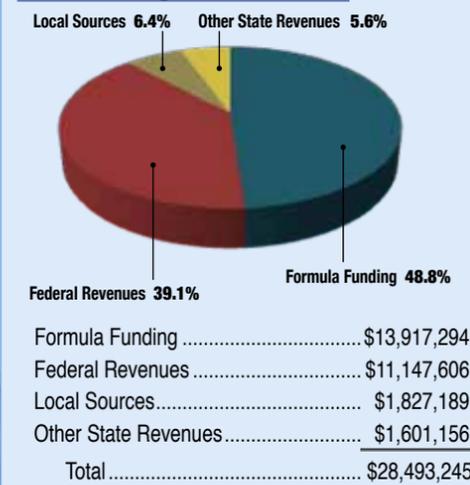
A nine-member board of directors elected by area school boards governs Northwest AEA. Board members represent designated segments of the agency's service area called director districts. They are elected to four-year rotating terms by the school district board members in their director districts.

The Northwest AEA Board of Director meetings are normally held on the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Le Mars Educational Service Center.

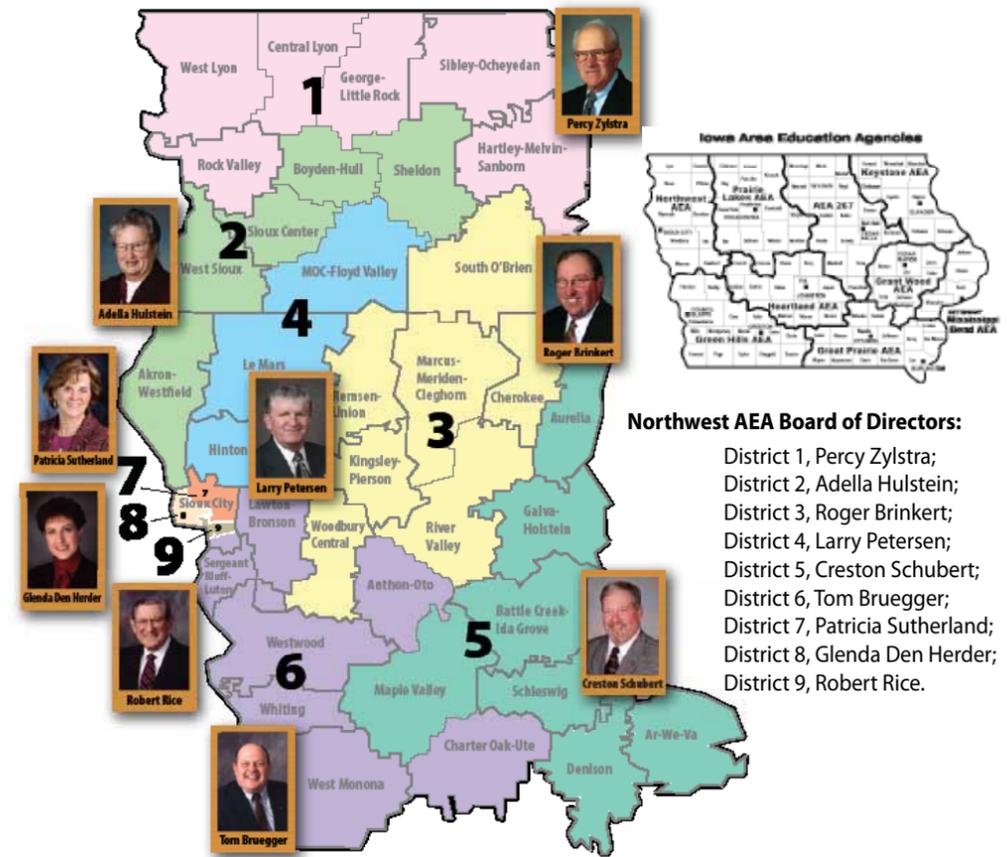
Funding

Unlike local school districts, the AEA system has no taxing authority. The agency is funded by a per-pupil assessment designated by the Legislature, by federal funds, various grants and sale of services. Northwest AEA invests approximately 75 percent of its funding in serving children with disabilities. The remainder of the agency's budget provides a variety of educational and media/technology services to schools and communities.

2009-2010 Budgeted Revenues



School Districts and Directors in the Northwest AEA service area



The Northwest AEA service area includes...

- › 36 public school districts
- › 33 accredited nonpublic schools
- › over 150 school administrators
- › over 4,200 teachers, administrators, counselors, teacher librarians, nurses, and paraeducators
- › 43,262 students
- › 5,050 children ages 3 to 21 who receive special education services
- › 264 board members
- › 10 counties (Cherokee, Crawford, Ida, Lyon, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Sioux and Woodbury)
- › testing 32,000 children for hearing every year
- › following up on over 500 referrals a year for children, ages birth to three years old

