

# Elementary Report

## December Board Report Elementary Principal, Carolyn Maher

- This has been a busy December at Sidney Elementary. The students had a great music program on December 5. The second and third grade students went to the Ambassador to sing for the residents on December 14. All students are scheduled to be treated to a movie at the Hamburg Theater on December 16.
- All students created holiday placemats to be given to the Ambassador, Sidney Senior Center, Grape Hospital, and United Faith Church as a way of giving back to our community.
- Monday morning professional development on Dec. 5 was led by Mrs. Wehling. She led a great presentation on the use of classroom discussions as an effective instructional practice. As the year continues more effective practices will be discussed and implemented through our Monday morning PD.
- Notices have been sent home to inform parents of the change in dismissal time at the elementary building that will begin in January. This change will be made to better coordinate buses between the three facilities.
- The week of December 19: **Wednesday**: Presents for Parents in the morning hosted by the United Faith Church; classroom Christmas parties in the afternoon; **Thursday**: PBIS Assembly in the morning; all students will meet in the Cowboy Cafe for singing Christmas songs; dismissal at 1:10. Classes resume on January 3. 2107!

**Board of Directors: Merry Christmas to all of your families. We appreciate all you do for our staff and students!**



Superintendent  
Report  
Gregg Cruickshank <gcruickshank@sidney.k12.ia.us>

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## Dismissal time change

1 message

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**Carolyn Maher** <cmaher@sidney.k12.ia.us>

Mon, Dec 12, 2016 at 10:09 AM

To: Erika <erika-graham@hotmail.com>, "Lowthorp, Heidi D [CO PD]" <hlowtho@iastate.edu>, Matthew McLaren <cyzmclaren@gmail.com>, Alisha Ettleman <aettleman@sidney.k12.ia.us>, Mike Daly <dalym38@gmail.com>, Gregg Cruickshank <gcruickshank@sidney.k12.ia.us>, Bill Huntington <bhuntington@sidney.k12.ia.us>, Shannon Wehling <swehling@sidney.k12.ia.us>

Dear Board of Directors,

Our administrative team and Pat Barrett met recently to discuss some issues with bus scheduling. In the course of the meeting it was determined that the differences in dismissal times between buildings was the issue. Elementary dismissal has been 3:15 and High School dismissal is 3:23. To get the buses to the elementary at dismissal time, the high school students at the VoAg building were being picked up first; thus missing a considerable amount of instructional time every day. To solve this problem, we decided that if we moved the dismissal time at the elementary school to 3:22 rather than 3:15, it would allow the classes at the VoAg building to receive more minutes of instruction.

Mr. Cruickshank spoke to the elementary staff this morning about this change. I just wanted to let you know about the change before I inform the parents today that the 3:22 dismissal time will begin in January.

Thanks!

Carolyn Maher  
Principal  
Sidney Elementary School  
1-712-374-2647

Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right. --Henry Ford



**ARBOR BANK**

*Helping You Grow*

COPY

November 16, 2016

Sidney Community School  
Jennifer Maher  
PO Box 609  
Sidney, IA 51652

Dear Ms. Maher,

Yesterday we became aware of an error that occurred with a check deposit on November 18, 2015. A check in the amount of \$28,475.80 drawn on State of Iowa Warrant made payable to Fremont Co Bd. Supervisor was deposited into account #38664 owned by Sidney Community School.

Enclosed is a copy of the transaction.

Because these funds were not intended for your company, today we are posting a withdrawal from the above mentioned account.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Melissa Turner  
Vice President  
Deposit Services Manager

[www.ArborBanking.com](http://www.ArborBanking.com)



301 Oakland Avenue  
PO Box 68  
Oakland, IA 51560  
712.482.6431

716 Illinois Street  
PO Box 189  
Sidney, IA 51652  
712.374.2622

911 Central Avenue  
PO Box 429  
Nebraska City, NE 68410  
402.873.3388

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Omaha, NE 68130  
402.964.0595





Gregg Cruickshank &lt;gcruickshank@southpageschools.com&gt;

**RELEASE: Interim study of Iowa's teacher leadership system shows positive results**

1 message

Hupp, Staci [IDOE] &lt;Staci.Hupp@iowa.gov&gt;

Tue, Dec 6, 2016 at 9:07 AM

To: South Page Comm School District &lt;gcruickshank@southpageschools.com&gt;



Iowa Department of Education

**News Release****For Immediate Release:**

Dec. 6, 2016

**For More Information:**

Staci Hupp

515-281-5651

staci.hupp@iowa.gov

**Interim study of Iowa's teacher leadership system shows positive results*****System supports great teaching; impact on students not yet known***

DES MOINES – The first school districts to launch teacher leadership plans through Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation System reported a positive impact on educators' professional climate and classroom instruction, according to an interim evaluation report released today by the Iowa Department of Education.

Teachers and administrators in the first 115 school districts chosen to launch teacher leadership plans – 39 districts in the 2014-15 school year and 76 in 2015-16 – reported greater availability, frequency and quality of teacher leadership roles, support through professional development, and collaboration among teachers compared to school districts that had not yet entered the system. Teachers and administrators also reported the system had improved instruction, teacher satisfaction and professional climate.

The interim report, conducted by American Institutes of Research (AIR), concluded it's too soon to determine how the teacher leadership system is impacting student achievement. This is because the benefits of the support structures put in place for teachers may not yet be apparent. A data analysis – focused only on the 39 districts in their second year of implementation during the 2015-16 school year – showed students improved slightly less on state assessments than their counterparts in other Iowa school districts.

"Iowa's teacher leadership system is about supporting the complex work of teaching so that teachers can do their best work, which will position students to do their best work," Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise said. "The investment we've made in Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation System will have a lasting return over the long term. This interim report shows we're heading in the right direction and, at the same time, a lot of work lies ahead."

Wise announced the report during a conference call with reporters. He was joined by Sioux City Superintendent Paul Gausman, teacher Kevin Ericson of the Nevada Community School District and instructional coach Andrea Townsley of the Benton Community School District.

Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation System taps into the expertise of teachers to improve instruction and raise student achievement. The system rewards effective teachers with leadership opportunities, attracts promising teachers with competitive starting salaries and support, and fosters greater collaboration for all teachers to learn from each other instead of operating largely in isolation.

The system is the centerpiece of the landmark education reform package adopted by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Branstad in 2013. It is the nation's most comprehensive teacher leadership system.

AIR's interim report aimed to evaluate the early progress of Iowa's teacher leadership system in meeting its five goals: attracting new teachers, retaining effective teachers, promoting collaboration, rewarding professional growth and effective teaching, and improving student achievement.

The report's findings were based on teacher and administrator surveys, interviews and focus groups as well as student achievement data.

This is the first year that all 333 Iowa school districts are implementing teacher leadership plans, although at varying stages. One in four Iowa teachers now holds a formal, compensated teacher leadership role. The system costs \$150 million annually.

Iowa's teacher leadership system was phased in statewide over three years. School districts were chosen for the system based on recommendations from the Commission on Educator Leadership and Compensation, which evaluated applications. District plans must include a vision and goals, as well as a rigorous selection process for leadership roles, plans for coaching new teachers, and a minimum teacher salary of \$33,500.

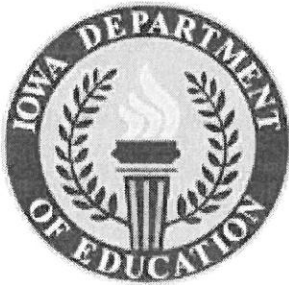
Ongoing evaluation is a key component of Iowa's teacher leadership system. In addition to AIR's interim report, the Iowa Department of Education compiles summary end-of-year reports from participating school districts and is supporting the Commission on Educator Leadership and Compensation's development of a

teacher leadership status report. The Department also is required to submit a legislative report every three years; the first will be submitted in early 2017.

“Students and schools today face higher expectations, and if we are to improve instruction and student achievement we must support the complex role of teaching,” Wise said. “I’m proud that so many education stakeholders share this commitment. Together, we will facilitate changes that create a better learning environment for teachers and students alike.”

To read the AIR report, visit the Iowa Department of Education’s website.

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Colleen Anderson, assessment emeritus, was one of the trainers for the Smarter Balanced Train the Trainer model, Nov. 10 and 11, at Halverson Center.

**I**owa has articulated a vision of preparing all students with the knowledge and skills they need for success beyond high school. A critical part of achieving that vision is having clear, consistent statewide standards that outline expectations for what students should know and be able to do.

When Iowa transitions to the Smarter Balanced Assessment System in the 2017-18 school year, the assessments will provide better information to Iowa teachers and parents about how students are improving from year to year. This will help set the stage for improved student achievement.

Iowa will begin using the Smarter Balanced Assessment System (SBAC) in the 2017-2018 school year for students in grades 3-11. By the summer of 2017, there is an expectation that all teachers, administrators and support staff will be trained on SBAC. In an effort to facilitate this, GHAEA offered a train the trainer model on November 10 and 11. This training invited districts to send personnel to take training back to their staff supporting this requirement from the DE.

The Department of Education has provided talking points that you can access [here](#). Additionally, parents and students can access a short video [here](#) about Smarter Balanced.

For information about the transition to Smarter Balanced, the Iowa Dept. of Education website offers details about the rationale for change, FAQs and links to practice tests and additional resources.

**How does SBAC offer improvements over the current state assessment?**

- It reflects the expectations outlined in our state standards for what students should know and be able to do in English language arts and mathematics.
- It asks students to demonstrate high levels of knowledge and skills.
- It provides teachers and parents with a more detailed and immediate picture of skills that their students have mastered, as well as those areas where students are struggling.
- It provides teachers with an online library of resources, including professional development and classroom resources.



**For more information:**  
**Jenny Barnett, Terri Bush, Patrick Rabbitt or Joe Woracek**  
**712-366-0503 • 844-366-0503**



Gregg Cruickshank <gcruickshank@southpageschools.com>

## Fwd: Action Advocacy Workshops: State Penny Sales Tax for School Infrastructure

1 message

Gregg Cruickshank <gcruickshank@sidney.k12.ia.us>

Sat, Dec 3, 2016 at 12:30 PM

To: Gregg Cruickshank <gcruickshank@sidney.k12.ia.us>, Gregg Cruickshank <gcruickshank@southpageschools.com>

Cc: Alisha Ettleman <aettleman@sidney.k12.ia.us>, Erika Graham <erika-graham@hotmail.com>, Heidi Lowthorp <slowthorp@iowatelecom.net>, Matt McLaren <cyzmclaren@gmail.com>, Chris Drennen <chrisd@nwmissouri.edu>, Darin McClarnon <darinmcclarnon@gmail.com>, Jacque Autry <jjacquelyn@yahoo.com>, Kenny Jackson <powerstroke@iamotelephone.com>, Ron Peterman <rpeterman@dedicatedbooks.com>

Will include in December board packets. Let me know if you want to go and I will get you signed up.

Gregg Cruickshank  
 Shared Superintendent  
 Sidney CSD and South Page CSD  
 gcruickshank@sidney.k12.ia.us  
 gcruickshank@southpageschools.com  
 712-374-2141 Sidney  
 712-582-3212 South Page  
***People before Policy and Paperwork***  
***Rules without Relationships leads to Rebellion***

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Iowa Association of School Boards** <IASB@ia-sb.org>

Date: Sat, Dec 3, 2016 at 10:00 AM

Subject: Action Advocacy Workshops: State Penny Sales Tax for School Infrastructure

To: gcruickshank@sidney.k12.ia.us

News from the Iowa Association of School Boards

Is this email not displaying correctly?  
 View it in your browser.



**Action Advocacy Workshops**  
**Focus: State Penny Sales Tax for School Infrastructure**  
**Jan. 11–Feb. 16, locations across the state**





## Action Advocacy Workshops

The state penny sales tax for school infrastructure is a critical source of funding to ensure safe, modern school facilities and technology, while providing property tax relief. Removing the 2029 sunset of this critical funding stream is a top priority set by Iowa school boards.

This year's Action Advocacy Workshops will help you engage citizens and legislators in moving legislation to repeal the sunset and extend the funding stream, known in law as SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education).

Attend the workshop near you in order to:

 **Register Now**

- Strengthen your ability to make a persuasive case to legislators, using IASB communication and data tools as well as your own district's story.
- Understand the political dynamics at play in the 2017 legislature on this issue, and how your legislators connect to those dynamics.
- Learn how to use a "see for yourself" site visit to help legislators and citizens understand the impact of the funding stream on student learning and safety.
- Identify ways to generate local support among community leaders and organizations. You'll strategize how to use key resources from the community like member relationships and resources to engage on this issue, and leave with a practical plan of action.
- Share your efforts and network with other board/superintendent teams to take home useful ideas.

Workshops will run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A light meal will be served at 5:45 p.m.

### Choose from one of the following dates and locations:

January 11 - Osceola  
 January 12 - Clarinda  
 January 19 - Decorah  
 January 26 - Ankeny  
 February 7 - Lisbon  
 February 8 - Armstrong  
 February 9 - Holstein  
 February 15 - Parkersburg  
 February 16 - Mt. Pleasant

**Fee:** \$75 for IASB members; IASB members may bring a guest to the workshop, for a fee of \$15 to cover the cost of the meal.

For more information, contact Jessica Hulen at [jhulen@ia-sb.org](mailto:jhulen@ia-sb.org) or by phone at (515) 247-7055.

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Gregg Cruickshank <gcruickshank@sidney.k12.ia.us>

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## BOARDS: Politics and the State Budget for 2017 - 18

1 message

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Gregg Cruickshank <gcruickshank@sidney.k12.ia.us>

Tue, Dec 13, 2016 at 10:09 AM

To: Alisha Ettleman <aettleman@sidney.k12.ia.us>, Erika Graham <erika-graham@hotmail.com>, Heidi Lowthorp <slowthorp@iowatelecom.net>, Matt McLaren <cyzmclaren@gmail.com>, Mike Daly <dalym38@gmail.com>, Chris Drennen <chrisd@nwmissouri.edu>, Darin McClarnon <darinmcclarnon@gmail.com>, Jacque Autry <jjacquelyn@yahoo.com>, Kenny Jackson <powerstroke@iamotelephone.com>, Ron Peterman <rpeterman@dedicatedbooks.com>, "bhuntington@sidney.k12.ia.us" <bhuntington@sidney.k12.ia.us>, Denise Green <dgreen@southpageschools.com>, Carolyn Maher <cmaher@sidney.k12.ia.us>, Sherri Ruzek <sruzek@southpageschools.com>, Jennifer Maher <jmaher@sidney.k12.ia.us>

[http://www.kmaland.com/politics/eroding-tax-receipts-likely-signal-budget-cuts/article\\_ead6260e-b321-5da7-a5bf-41334d9d9561.html](http://www.kmaland.com/politics/eroding-tax-receipts-likely-signal-budget-cuts/article_ead6260e-b321-5da7-a5bf-41334d9d9561.html)

DES MOINES - Gov. Terry Branstad and state lawmakers likely will have to cut about \$100 million in spending from the current state general fund budget after a state panel Monday lowered the rate it expects state tax collections will grow between now and June 30, officials said Monday.

Members of the state Revenue Estimating Conference lowered its October tax collection target for the current fiscal year by \$96.2 million to nearly \$7.212 billion - which still represents 4.2 percent growth for the year but less than previously expected as farm income and other Iowa economic sectors lag.

The three-member panel also shaved about \$51 million from its fiscal 2018 projection, meaning the governor and GOP-led Legislature can expect about \$7.556 billion, or 4.8 percent growth, in revenue when they meet in January to chart a new state general-fund spending plan.

"We're still having positive growth," said David Roederer, director of the state Department of Management who also serves as Branstad's budget director and leader of the revenue panel, "it's just not at the rate that was anticipated."

With the state's ending balance depleted but its cash reserves full at about \$730 million, state budget-makers already were looking at a fiscal 2017 shortfall before Monday's lower tax collection projections exacerbated the problem.

Branstad, meeting with representatives of the Older Iowans' Legislature earlier in the day in his Capitol office, said he anticipated he would have to recommend a "modest de-appropriation" for

the current fiscal year when he presents his budget plan to state lawmakers on Jan. 10 with his Condition of the State address.

"We probably have to cut about \$100 million out of the current budget," Roederer told reporters after the REC meeting in which he pushed for higher tax growth projections than conferees Holly Lyons and David Underwood supported. Lyons had recommended lowering the growth projections by nearly \$200 million through June 30, 2018, but the panel agreed to trim \$147.2 million from its October estimates.

"We have been looking at the possibility that we would have some reductions," Roederer said, but added it was premature to detail what selective spending cuts might be proposed. He ruled out the governor ordering an across-the-board reduction and he said the plan would not call for reducing the level of state supplemental aid that K-12 school districts are receiving this year.

"There's a difference between the economy growing, and then government needing more than what the economy is currently growing at in order to honor the commitments that have been made," said Roederer, who noted 4 percent yearly growth is still healthy but he called plans by GOP legislators to cut taxes next session "challenging" unless they find a "revenue-neutral" way to accomplish the changes.

Sen. Bill Dix, R-Shell Rock, who will take over as the Senate's majority leader in January, said Monday's REC numbers underscore the need for economic growth in Iowa and reform in state government.

"Senate Republicans are committed to implementing pro-growth policies which will provide confidence to job creators and reform government to protect the taxpayers," Dix said. "These policies will put Iowa on a strong path to address the current budget situation."

Across the Capitol rotunda, Rep. Pat Grassley, R-New Hartford, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said state revenue so far this fiscal year has been flat, noting that "a sluggish agricultural economy, driven by low commodity prices, continues to have a ripple effect in other industries throughout the state. This challenge will require us to closely examine the effectiveness of every program to find areas of efficiency and duplication."

During Monday's REC meeting, Underwood noted there is still uncertainty in Iowa's economy, with industrial sales and manufacturing sectors weak and sales taxes lagging even though wages and employment are up slightly.

Lyons said Iowa's growth continues but at a "decelerating or flattening" rate that is "perplexing." Roederer said Iowa's economic indicators have "been a mixed bag," but he was optimistic about fiscal 2018 when he expects to see more positive news out of Iowa's agricultural sector.

Rep. Chris Hall, D-Sioux City, ranking member of House Appropriations Committee, accused the Branstad/Reynolds administration and House Republicans of putting the state general fund budget "\$135 million in the red and stalled the state's economy."

"It's clear their unsustainable tax giveaways to out-of-state corporations have not produced good jobs, skilled workers, rising incomes for hard-working Iowans, or a stronger economy like they promised," Hall said in a statement.

"I hope Republicans and Lt. Gov. (Kim) Reynolds will heed the warning from our non-partisan budget experts," he added. "We must recognize that short-changing schools again to make way for massive corporate tax giveaways will not help working families or grow Iowa's economy."

*This article originally ran on muscatinejournal.com.*

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***People before Policy and Paperwork***  
***Rules without Relationships leads to Rebellion***