

2022-2023



DIRECTORY OF SERVICES



**Prairie
Lakes**
Area Education Agency

PLAEA Calendar

■ Holidays
 ■ Office Closed

July 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



**Prairie
Lakes**
 Area Education Agency

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Welcome to Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency

Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency (PLAEA) serves educators, families, and our community partners as we work toward one ultimate goal - to improve student learning. Prairie Lakes AEA provides support in the areas of special education, educational services, media, and technology.

What is an AEA?

Prairie Lakes AEA is one of nine Area Education Agencies in Iowa. Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs) were created in 1974 by the Iowa legislature to ensure that all Iowa children have equal opportunity for an exceptional education. AEAs remain responsible in ensuring that all children with disabilities receive the assistance they need to be successful. Support to local schools is provided through three service areas: Educational Services, Media Services, and Special Education Services. Area Education Agencies are funded from federal and state aid payments; legislatively controlled property tax; federal, state and private grants; and tuition from classes.

At Prairie Lakes AEA, a seven-member board of directors is elected by local school boards to govern budget decisions. The chief administrator handles the daily operations of the agency's service areas in partnership with agency and regional administrators.

Who does Prairie Lakes AEA serve?

32,000 students

11 accredited, non-public schools

3,000 administrators & educators

14 counties covering over 8,000 square miles

38 public school districts

4,600 students & families with IEP/IFSP



Our School Partners

- Albert City-Truesdale
- Algona
- Alta-Aurelia
- Bishop Garrigan
- Clarion-Goldfield-Dows
- Clay Central/Everly
- Community Christian
- Eagle Grove
- East Sac County
- Emmetsburg
- Emmetsburg Catholic
- Estherville Lincoln Central
- Fort Dodge
- Gilmore City-Bradgate
- Graettinger-Terril
- Greene County
- Harris-Lake Park
- Humboldt
- Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran
- Laurens-Marathon
- LuVerne
- Manson Northwest Webster
- Newell-Fonda
- North Kossuth
- North Union
- Okoboji
- Paton-Churdan
- Pocahontas Area
- Pocahontas Catholic
- Prairie Valley
- Ruthven-Ayrshire
- Sacred Heart- Spencer
- St. Edmond
- St. Mary's-Humboldt
- St. Mary's-Storm Lake
- St. Paul Lutheran
- St. Thomas Aquinas
- Schaller- Crestland
- Sioux Central
- South Central Calhoun
- South Hamilton
- Southeast Webster-Grand
- Spencer
- Spirit Lake
- Storm Lake
- Stratford
- Twin Rivers
- Webster City
- West Bend-Mallard

PLAEA Offices

All offices can be reached by calling 866-540-3858.

Algona Office

116 South Thorington
Algona 50511
Route 3 Bldg 189
Fax: 515-295-3548

Jefferson Office

118 E State Street
Jefferson 50129
Route 2 Bldg 127
Fax: 515-386-3109

Spencer Office

23 East 7th Street
Spencer 51301
Route 4 Bldg 220
Fax: 712-262-5114

Estherville Office

14 South 6th Street
Estherville 51334
Route 3 Bldg 171
Fax: 712-362-5395

Pocahontas Office

500 Northeast 6th Street
Pocahontas 50574
Route 7 Bldg 97
Fax: 712-335-5871
Media Services
Fax: 712-335-5870

Storm Lake Office

824 Flindt Drive Suite 105
Storm Lake 50588
Route 1 Bldg 117
Fax: 712-732-7654

Fort Dodge Office

1235 5th Avenue South
Fort Dodge 50501
Route 2 Bldg 101
Fax: 515-574-5508

Lending Library:
712-335-6005
800-594-9494
Creative Services:
712-335-6017
Graphics:
712-335-6015

Webster City Office

825 Beach Street
Webster City 50595
Route 5 Bldg 126
Fax: 515-832-5365



Staff Listed by Category

ADMINISTRATION

Chief Administrator

Dr. Susie Meade

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)/

Board Secretary

Michelle Dowd

Director of Special Education

Kris Ahrens

Director of Marketing & Communications

Connie Johnson

Regional Administrators (RA)

Molly Elston

Valerie Jergens

Jennifer Peter

Jennifer Sammons

Marta Sandoval

Chris Wells

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Kate Besch

Sara Koenecke

BEHAVIOR

Coletta Jaeger - Department Chair

Behavior Strategist

Stephanie Haman

Lyndsey Johnson

Jillian Nelson

Rachel Nieland

Challenging Behavior/Autism

Rose Terrell-Cartee

Jennifer Zollicoffer

School Psychologists

Deb Hamm

Kristy Hughett

Coletta Jaeger

Lauren Leonard

Lisa Lundy

Jean Mohr

Cassidy Remsburg

Sharon Richardson

Travis Schlenger

Denise Schwery

Jennifer Traub

School Social Workers

Beth Borchardt

Christie Cuttell

Ruth Eley

Susan Fairweather

Molly Giddings

Joan Hansen

Kris Manteufel

Kayti Pohlman

Laura Reinders

Anna Saunders

Anna Speers

Jessica Ulrich

BUSINESS OFFICE

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Michelle Dowd

Associate Financial Officer

Josh Bader

Payroll/Benefit Specialist

Brenda Hebert

CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR/AUTISM

Rose Terrell-Cartee

Jennifer Zollicoffer

CREATIVE SERVICES

Chief Printer

Jenifer Krischel

Graphic Artist

Kimberly Geisler

Media Specialist I

Jackie Boysen

Brady Krischel



EARLY ACCESS

Jessica Hawkins - Department Chair

Audiologists

Michelle Conrad
Shannon DeMoss
Angela Harvey
Maureen Salinas

Early ACCESS Service Coordinators

Patricia Burma
Cassady Peterson

Early ACCESS Regional Liaison

Jessica Hawkins
Jennifer Sammons

Service Coordinators & Teachers

Debra Bennett
Summer Boes
Gretchen Brown
Erin Christensen
Lynn Eby
Jessica Hawkins
Nicole Hinrichs
Melissa Lamaak
Denise Lundell
Alicia Pauley
Gale Randall
Jane Thilges
Stacey Wardell
Lynn Weringa
Occupational Therapists (OT)
Cari Hepperle
Megan Hicks
Joanna Lange
Nicole Peter
Martha Poland
Jordyn Sippel
Briana Swanson
Teresa Vance
Angela Vogel

Physical Therapists (PT)

Dawn Higgins
Kelly Mills
Katie Nelson
Jennifer Woodruff
Pearl Wuebker

Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)

Amy Profit

Speech Language Pathologists (SLP)

Laurel Bezoni
Tracey Carlson
Kimberly Johnson
Claire King
Sheila King
Sally Legleiter
Addy Leistikow
Ally Leners
Laura Lucchesi
Amy Peterson
Susan Rasmussen
Lisa Richter
Melissa Smith
Amy Thompson
Jodi Ward
Jessica Wright

Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Jill Johnston
Brenda Kulow
Becky Singer



EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER/CONSULTANTS (ECSE)

Kelly Olson - Department Chair

Deb Bennett
Summer Boes
Gretchen Brown
Erin Christensen
Lynn Eby
Jessica Hawkins
Nicole Hinrichs
Kathie Kauffman
Melissa Lamaak

Denise Lundell
Kelly Olson
Alicia Pauley
Gale Randall
Deb Shelton
Jane Thilges
Stacey Wardell
Lynn Weringa



FAMILY & EDUCATOR PARTNERSHIP (FEP)

Family and Education Partners

Deb Maguire
McKaylee Heuton

Family Educator Program Coordinator

Deb Shelton

HEARING

Maureen Salinas - Department Chair

Audiologists

Michelle Conrad
Shannon DeMoss
Angela Harvey
Maureen Salinas

Audiometrists

Nichole Gustafson
Jill Heinen
Teresa Laufersweiler
Patti Meyer
Julie Pannhoff
Tori Woiwood

Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Jill Johnston
Brenda Kulow
Becky Singer

HOME SCHOOLING/PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

Brenda Prentice

HOMELESS LIAISON

Chris Wells





JUVENILE SHELTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Prison (Fort Dodge)

Derek Guddall, Teacher

Youth Shelter Care (Fort Dodge)

Sarah Hansen, Teacher

Maria Weydert, Teacher

Patty Harp, Paraprofessional

LAKES PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

Lead Teacher

Brianne Goings

Behavior Interventionists

Amy Baker

Danielle Korthals

Erin Pullen

Kristy Riley

Special Education Teachers

Victoria Bern

Shelby Krause

Felicia Rasmussen

Educational Paraprofessionals

Lindsey Brown

Melissa Leer

Sarah Matthews

Molly Swygman

Sheryl Watkins

Steve Watkins



MAINTENANCE

Jim Hebert - Maintenance Supervisor

Deb Severson - Custodian

MEDIA/LENDING LIBRARY

Educational/Media Services Facilitator

Tabitha DeMey

Technology Innovation Consultant

Torrey Proctor

Media Specialist II

Laura DeWall

Media Specialist I

Deb Severson

Van Drivers

Dennis Ellwanger

Cory Sroufe





OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT)

Cari Hepperle - Department Chair **Occupational Therapists**

Cari Hepperle
Megan Hicks
Joanna Lange
Nicole Peter
Martha Poland
Jordyn Sippel
Briana Swanson
Teresa Vance
Angela Vogel

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTAs)

Kathy Behrens
Roni Engeldinger
Kathy Jo Kruse

PHYSICAL THERAPY (PT)

Jennifer Woodruff - Department Chair **Physical Therapists**

Dawn Higgins
Kelly Mills
Katie Nelson
Jennifer Woodruff
Pearl Wuebker
Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)
Amy Profit

PRESCHOOL

Marcie Lentsch

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PD)

Internal/External Professional Development Facilitator

Haley Offerman

License Renewal Coordinator

Linda Ankeny

License Renewal Specialist

Carrie Guerin





SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

**Tabitha DeMey, Education/Media Services
Facilitator**

Hope Brown - Department Chair

School Improvement Facilitators (SIF)

Kerrie Baish

Lori Beltran

Gina Blomberg

Hope Brown

Rachel Brown

Casey Brueggeman

Tricia Christopher

Tiffany Hoogestraat

Lisa Kies

Donna Sump-McClain

Sara Nachazel

Jill Siefken

Jill Sundblad

Amanda Woodall

SECRETARIAL STAFF

Administrative Assistants

Michealeen Friesner

Brenda Prentice

Communication Specialist

Deb Gade

Information Management

System Operator

Tonia Hoch

Secretaries

Shawna Badenhorst

Nikole Bennett

Sue Berberich

Shannon Hagen

Ashlie Jergens

Keri Ryherd

Tera Shatto

Monique Utley

SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES

Kate Besch

Sara Koenecke



**Prairie
Lakes**
Area Education Agency



SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (SEBH)

Social Emotional Behavior Health Coordinator

Courtney Cook

School Psychologist

Melissa Wurth

Social Emotional Behavior Health Consultants

Kim Bodholdt

Marni Moody



SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTING

Rachel Montag - Department Chair **Academic Strategists**

Erica Boettcher

Pam Borkowski

Emily Davenport

Erika Higgins

Jennifer Lyman

Amy Numedahl

Jeannie Shimon

Jennifer Stattelman

Katie Stundahl

Karen Thilges

Special Education Consultants

Gloria Bartelt

Annette Benedict

Kate Besch

Stacy Bezoni

Kathy Broek

Amy Champagne

David Cole

Tracie Engelby

Cathy Frohardt

Sara Koenecke

Tiffany Lammers

Tammy McKimmey

Randi Miller

Kim Peterson

Jennifer Prentice

Kristine Randell

Hillary Waldstein

Jennifer Wilson

SPECIALTY SERVICES

Your School Improvement Facilitator can help guide you to these resources:

Instructional Coaching

Computer Science

Data and Assessment

Dyslexia

English Learners (Title 3)

Future Ready (Postsecondary Readiness)

Gifted & Talented

Induction & Mentoring

Literacy

Math

Science

Social, Emotional, Behavioral Health

Social Studies

Technology Integration & Innovation





SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Margo Kitzrow - Department Chair **Speech-Language Pathologists**

Morgan Aden
Yvette Bardole
Laurel Bezoni
Diane Capesius
Tracey Carlson
Heather Carr
Chad Cook
Kendall Deitering
Jacquelyn Frayne
Emily Frostestad
Elsa Hall
Maddi Heun
Tina Hoben
Kim Johnson
Claire King
Sheila King
Nicole Kofmehl
Sally Legleiter
Addy Leistikow
Ally Leners
Angie Lockey
Laura Lucchesi
Katie McClurg

Jackie Ohl
Katy Peart
Amy Peterson
Susan Rasmussen
Lisa Richter
Missy Smith
Amy Thompson
Julie Tolliver
Jodi Ward
Joy Weier
Emily Wicker
Jessica Wright
Tim Youngdahl

Communication Paraprofessionals

Tracy Baak
Andrea Bollenbaugh
Carrie Buddenhage
Lori Caron
Chris Conell
Heidi Freeburg
Kelly Laughman
Pat Stauter
Missy Thilges





TALENTED & GIFTED

Hope Brown

TRANSITION

Tammy McKimmey
Laura Reinders



**Prairie
Lakes**
Area Education Agency

TECHNOLOGY

School Technology

Scott Fossean, Systems Engineer

Jason Kehoe, Network Engineer

Matthew Foley, School Technology Technician

Internal Technology

Mike Schmidt, Network Administrator

Scott Boughney, Computer/Network Technician

Sarah Kearney, Computer/Network Technician



Theory of Action

If AEAs enrich instructional resources and system efficiencies in Iowa schools AND if AEAs work as a system to provide equity in Iowa schools AND if AEAs work in partnership with Iowa school staffs to implement authentic learning systems and learning environments that lift every child AND if AEAs provide professional learning supports that contribute to all Iowa children learning with highly skilled educators and leaders THEN all Iowa children and youth will thrive and be prepared for a life well-lived.

Mission

To ensure equitable, efficient, and effective educational services that prepare all Iowa children for a life well-lived.

Key Partners

Children, Families, and Educators

Core Values

AEA staff are committed to being Caring Partners that deliver Accountable Services

Caring Partners:

- Establish collaborative relationships with clients through frequent interactions, careful listening, and friendly, trustworthy behavior
- Are highly-skilled professionals who are cognizant of service outcomes and consistently use available information and data to make improvements
- Are creative in providing customized services that are responsive to client needs
- Clarify expectations and respond to concerns, comments, or complaints in a timely manner
- Treat all individuals respectfully

Accountable Services:

- Anticipate and respond to the needs, requirements, and expectations of clients
- Surpass the client's expectations
- Provide comprehensive, high-quality solutions (products, consultation, therapy, service, and/or support)
- Result in increased learning, professional capacity, and/or system effectiveness

Essential Functions

Accelerate Inspire Innovate

Strategic Directions

Increase well-being of students and staff
Develop future ready students, families, and educators
Synergize for equitable services without redundancies
Clarify and unify PLAEA identity, value proposition, and communications
Increase staff knowledge, capacities, and skills

Superintendents and Administrators

As your PLAEA partner, we commit to:

- Develop strong relationships across your educational community through interactive conversations, innovative ideas, and collaborative solutions
- Provide timely, responsive, evidence-based, and quality direct support that matches your needs, the needs of your system, and families

Teachers, Leadership Teams, and Staff

As your PLAEA partner, we commit to:

- Prepare children for school by supporting and coaching families on skill building and gap-closing for children from birth to age 3 with developmental delays
- Partner, consult, and coach with you in providing services to families and who have students ages 3 -21 to meet their individual special needs so they will be future ready
- Support you to build capacities and skills through timely training, development, and physical resources
- Collaborate skillfully within your problem-solving framework and processes so that students and families are best served

Parents and Students

As your PLAEA partner, we commit to:

- Work alongside you in an individualized and personalized manner by listening, and aligning people and services to meet your child's academic, social/emotional/behavioral, and physical needs to overcome current challenges
- Build positive and valuable relationships with you to meet the needs of your unique child through timely access to quality resources, use of best practices, and professional guidance on state and federal regulations

Impact and Influence

- Accountable, efficient, equitable and effective services throughout the system
- Clarity of roles and maximization of services through communication, partnerships, and action
- Support and caring of our school and community partners
- Orientation of new and current team members to the PLAEA Way as well as recruitment of future colleagues

School Vacation Calendars

District	Start Date	Thanksgiving	Winter Break	Spring Break	Last Day
Albert City-Truesdale	8/23/22	11/24-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	4/6-11/23	5/19/23
Algona	8/23/22	11/24-25/22	12/22-1/3/23	4/7/23	5/24/23
Alta-Aurelia	8/25/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/2/23	4/6-10/23	5/24/23
Bishop Garrigan	8/23/22	11/24-24/22	12/23-1/3/23	3/6-7/23	5/17/23
Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/2/23	3/14-3/17/23	5/24/23
Clay Central/Everly	8/24/22	11/23-25/22	12/19-1/2/23	4/3-7/23	5/26/23
Community Christian	8/24/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	3/13-17/23	5/26/23
Eagle Grove	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/22-1/2/23	4/7-10/23	5/24/23
East Sac County	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/2/23	4/7-10/23	5/23/23
Emmetsburg	8/23/22	11/24-25/22	12/26-1/3/23	3/13-17/23	5/19/23
Emmetsburg Catholic	8/23/22	11/24-25/22	12/22-1/3/23	4/13-17/23	5/19/23
Estherville Lincoln Central	8/24/22	11/23-25/22	12/19-1/3/23	4/7-10/23	5/22/23
Fort Dodge	8/24/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/4/23	3/15-17/23	5/26/23
Gilmore City-Bradgate	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-13/23	4/6-10/23	5/23/23
Graettinger-Terril/Ruthvan Ayrshire	8/23/22	11/24-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	4/6-10/23	5/19/23
Greene County	8/23/22	11/21-25/22	12/21-1/3/23	3/13-17/23	5/26/23
Harris Lake Park	8/23/22	11/24-25/22	12/23-1/2/23	4/7-10/23	5/18/23
Humboldt	8/25/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	4/7-10/23	5/24/23
Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran	8/24/22	11/23-25/22	12/19-1/2/23	4/3-7/23	5/25/23
Laurens-Marathon	8/23/22	11/25-26/22	12/23-1/2/23	4/7-10/23	5/24/23
LuVerne	8/24/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	4/7-4/10/23	5/24/23
Manson Northwest Webster	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	3/13-17/23	5/25/23
Newell-Fonda	8/23/22	11/24-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	4/7-11/23	5/18/23
North Kossuth	8/23/22	11/24-25/22	12/22-1/2/23	3/17-20-23	5/19/23
North Union	8/23/22	11/24-25/22	12/22-1/2/23	3/17-20/23	5/19/23
Okoboji	8/24/22	11/23-25/22	12/21-1/2/23	3/13-17/23	5/26/23
Paton-Churdan	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/21-1/3/23	3/13-17/23	5/26/23
Pocahontas	8/23/22	11/25-26/22	12/23-1/2/23	4/7-10/23	5/24/23
Pocahontas Catholic	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/2/23	4/7-10/23	5/24/23
Prairie Valley	8/24/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	4/6-10/23	5/24/23
Sacred Heart-Spencer	8/24/22	11/23-25/22	12/19-1/2/23	4/3-7/23	5/25/23
St. Edmond	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	4/7-10/23	5/26/23
St. Mary's Humboldt	8/25/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	4/7-10/23	5/24/23
St. Mary's Storm Lake	8/24/22	11/24-25/22	12/22-1/3/23	4/6-10/23	5/18/23
St. Paul Lutheran	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/22-1/3/23	3/15-17/23	5/18/23
St. Thomas Aquinas	8/25/22	11/24-25/22	12/23-1/2/23	3/10-17/23	5/26/23
Schaller-Crestland	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/2/23	3/10-13/23	5/24/23
Sioux Central	8/23/22	11/24-25/22	12/22-1/2/23	4/6-11/23	5/19/23
South Central Calhoun	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/22-1/2/23	4/5-10/23	5/25/23
Southeast Webster Grand	8/24/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	4/6-10/23	5/24/23
South Hamilton	8/23/22	11/24-25/22	12/22-1/2/23	3/13-17/23	5/25/23
Spencer	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/19-1/2/23	4/3-7/23	5/25/23
Spirit Lake	8/25/22	11/23-25/22	12/22-1/2/23	4/7-10/23	5/19/23
Storm Lake	8/25/22	11/23-25/22	12/22-1/3/23	4/6-10/23	5/25/23
Stratford	8/25/22	11/24-25/22	12/23-1/2/23	3/13-18/23	5/26/23
Twin Rivers	8/25/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	4/7-10/23	5/24/23
Webster City	8/29/22	11/24-25/22	12/23-1/2/23	3/10-17/23	5/26/23
West Bend Mallard	8/23/22	11/23-25/22	12/23-1/3/23	4/6-10/23	5/23/23

Van Route Calendar

16

August 2022							September 2022							October 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					

November 2022							December 2022							January 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

February 2023							March 2023							April 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4			1	2	3	4								1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30						

May 2023							June 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	



No Delivery Van Routes begin

If weather conditions prevent the PLAEA van from delivering on the scheduled delivery day, attempts will be made to deliver materials on the following day.

Rt. 1 Regular Monday deliveries
 Rt. 3 Regular Wednesday deliveries
 Rt. 2 Regular Tuesday deliveries
 Rt. 4 Regular Thursday deliveries
 Rt. 5 Regular Friday deliveries

Notes

Routes begin..... Week of August 15-19

No van delivery on..... September 5
 November 21-25
 December 21-30
 January 2-3
 April 7-10
 May 29

Tentative last deliveries..... Week of May 30-June 2

Changes to regular route schedules:

Route 1 September 5 to September 6
 Route 5 April 7 to April 6
 Route 1 April 10 to April 11
 Route 1 May 29 to May 30

Van schedule subject to change.



Dr. Susie Meade
Chief Administrator
 smeade@plaea.org
 515-570-2601
 712-335-6040



Pocahontas
Molly Elston
Regional Administrator
 melston@plaea.org
 712-458-7017



Michelle Dowd
*Chief Financial Officer/
 Board Secretary*
 mdowd@plaea.org
 515-705-7138



Fort Dodge
Valerie Jergens
Regional Administrator
 vjergens@plaea.org
 515-705-7196



Kris Ahrens
*Director of Special
 Education*
 kahrens@plaea.org
 515-606-7004



Jefferson/Webster City
Jennifer Peter
Regional Administrator
 jpeter@plaea.org
 515-206-7107



Connie Johnson
*Director of Communications
 & Marketing*
 cjohnson@plaea.org
 712-335-6044



Storm Lake
Jennifer Sammons
Regional Administrator
 jsammons@plaea.org
 712-458-7033



Spencer
Marta Sandoval
Regional Administrator
 msandoval@plaea.org
 712-458-7030



Algona/Estherville
Christine Wells
Regional Administrator
 cwells@plaea.org
 712-380-7777



**Prairie
 Lakes**
 Area Education Agency

PLAEA Administrators

Board of Directors

18

A seven-member Board of Directors representing every school district that the agency serves governs Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency. The board represents the legal body that establishes educational policies and sets goals and objectives for the agency. These policies and goals are carried out by the chief administrator and staff under the board's direction.



District #1: Pat Brown, Vice President

Districts represented: Estherville Lincoln Central, Graettinger-Terril, North Kossuth, North Union (partial), Okobojo and Spirit Lake.



District #2: Sue Brown, President

Districts represented: Algona, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows, Emmetsburg, Humboldt, Luverne, North Union (partial).



District #3: Marti Bomgaars

Districts represented: Albert City-Truesdale, Clay Central-Everly, Harris-Lake Park, Laurens-Marathon, Ruthven-Ayrshire, Sioux Central, Spencer, Twin Rivers and West Bend-Mallard.



District #4: Lori Baade

Districts represented: Alta-Aurelia, Gilmore City-Bradgate, Newell-Fonda, Pocahontas Area, Schaller-Crestland and Storm Lake.



District #5: Janice Harbaugh

Districts represented: East Sac County, Greene County, Manson Northwest Webster, Paton-Churdan, Prairie Valley, and South Central Calhoun.



District #6: Gary Astor

District represented: Fort Dodge.



District #7: Todd Lundgren

Districts represented: Eagle Grove, Fort Dodge (partial), South Hamilton, Southeast Webster-Grand, Stratford, Webster City.



Leadership you can count on. Consultants you can turn to.

Regional Administrator (RA)

Your primary source for information about Prairie Lakes services is your district's Regional Administrator. Regional Administrators provide leadership and supervision to staff members assigned to a specific geographic region. In addition, they provide guidance and best practice to meet the needs of districts, families, and students. Your district's assigned Regional Administrator is the front line of communication between the agency and your district.

School Improvement Facilitator (SIF)

The School Improvement Facilitator (SIF) provides a range of services to assigned school districts focused on a cycle of continuous improvement. A SIF will assist with identifying and implementing best practices, help school teams use qualitative and quantitative data to identify areas of strength and challenges, and use of continuous improvement tools to improve short and long-term outcomes.

Special Education Team Representatives

Team representatives have expertise in assisting schools with behavioral and academic interventions, the development and implementation of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), as well as consultation and assessment for students who have school related learning, emotional, social, and behavioral concerns. Each school has assigned dyad partners with one having a focus on academics, and the other on behavior.

Academics

Special Education Consultants and/or Academic Strategists are essential team members in the Child Find process and play an important role during evaluations in determining eligibility for special education services. They collaborate with team members to complete evaluations such as diagnostic academic assessments. In addition, they analyze data to assist teams in the development of Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and appropriate goals.

Behavior

School Psychologists and/or School Social Workers are essential team members in the Child Find process and play an important role during evaluations in determining eligibility for special education services. They collaborate with team members to complete evaluations such as functional behavior assessments. In addition, they analyze data to assist teams in the development of intervention plans and individualized education plans with fidelity to improve social skills and appropriate behaviors.

Agency Communication Channels

The Directory of Services section that follows showcases many of the services offered along with the contact for that service.

The agency has one toll-free number (866-540-3858) and all staff members can be dialed directly by using their extension number. Additionally, each staff member has an email address. The protocol is the first initial of the first name, the entire last name, followed by @plaea.org.

A monthly newsletter, Educator Connection, provides information on classes, workshops, agency services, news, and resources.

The agency also uses Facebook and Twitter to connect and share information



Alternate Assessment

All students are expected to participate in district-wide assessments. Students with disabilities may participate without accommodations, with accommodations or through the state of Iowa Alternate Assessment. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team considers the characteristics of the student and the nature and purpose of the assessment to determine the participation option that is most appropriate.

Sara Koenecke

*Assistive Technology Coordinator/
Special Education Consultant
skoenecke@plaea.org*

Kate Besch

*Assistive Technology Coordinator/
Special Education Consultant
kbesch@plaea.org*

Assistive Technology (AT)

Prairie Lakes AEA provides assistance to school personnel regarding assistive technology consultation, short-term AT equipment loan, and sources of funding for AT devices considered. Numerous pieces of equipment are available for preview and staff members are knowledgeable about using equipment in a variety of settings.

Sara Koenecke

*Assistive Technology Coordinator/
Special Education Consultant
skoenecke@plaea.org*

Kate Besch

*Assistive Technology Coordinator/
Special Education Consultant
kbesch@plaea.org*

Audiology

Prairie Lakes AEA audiologists identify, evaluate, and provide educational services for hearing loss and auditory disorders in children from birth to 21 years of age. Audiologists provide identification, evaluation, and educational services. Hearing booths are located in Fort Dodge, Algona, Storm Lake, and Spencer.

Maureen Salinas

*Audiologist/Department Chair
msalinas@plaea.org*

Challenging Behavior

Prairie Lakes AEA assists and supports local school-based teams in providing services to students whose behaviors significantly impact their own learning and the learning of other students when lower level interventions have not been effective. District staff should first work through their AEA building team and then if necessary send all referral information to the CBT members in their region. The referral form is available through your building/district's assigned behavior strategist. Your Regional Administrator can help guide you to the right resources for your district or school needs.



**Prairie
Lakes**
Area Education Agency

Child Find

Child Find refers to the area education agencies' (AEAs) responsibility to ensure that students who are eligible for special education services are identified, evaluated, and provided with needed services. Prairie Lakes AEA staff members follow statewide procedures for Child Find. These procedures are documented in the statewide special education procedures manual which is updated annually.

Kris Ahrens

Director of Special Education
kahrens@plaea.org

Assessment and Data Evaluation Services

Agency staff provide consultation on the analysis, construction, development, use, strengths, weaknesses and interpretation of multiple forms of assessment data. PLAEA staff are available to help districts set up leadership teams and learning teams for the purpose of promoting assessment literacy. Teams study strategies for developing a comprehensive, balanced and aligned assessment system. The four major areas include: formative assessment/instructional process, common classroom assessments, interim assessments and summative assessments. Teams studying assessment literacy will develop the tools they need to face current district, school and classroom assessment challenges. Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.

Communications

The Prairie Lakes AEA Director of Marketing & Communications is available to provide internal and external communication planning and support for the agency, as well as local school districts served by the agency. Services include:

- Crisis Communication
- Consultation and Tools for Community Engagement
- Publications
- Bond/PPEL Campaigns
- News Media Relations
- Community Needs Assessments
- Communication Auditing (evaluation)
- Social Media Strategy

Connie Johnson

Director of Marketing & Communications
cjohnson@plaea.org

Competent Private Instruction (CPI)

Families may choose to educate their children at home instead of sending them to a traditional public or nonpublic school. The Iowa Department of Education and the AEA cannot issue diplomas, and the district of residence may not be compelled to issue a diploma. The AEA does provide options for students being homeschooled to take annual standardized tests.

Brenda Prentice

*Administrative Assistant to the
Director of Special Education*
bprentice@plaea.org





CREATIVE SERVICES

Jenifer Krischel, Chief Printer
jkrischel@plaea.org

Our Creative Services Team is ready to help you, your classroom, and your school SHINE! We create a wide variety of educational, promotional, office/business, and just about anything that helps schools run smoothly! Our team focuses on working with educators to design and produce items for educators that meet and exceed needs and expectations. The possibilities are endless!

Printing

We offer both high-quality color and black and white printing. This includes your hard-copy materials, electronic documents, and materials generated by our graphics department.

- Brochures
- Letterhead
- Business Cards
- Envelopes
- NCR Forms
- Handbooks
- Note Pads
- Labels
- Dividers
- Bookmarks
- Note Cards
- Postcards
- Planners
- Yearbooks
- Banners
- Posters



Lamination

Lamination is an inexpensive option to protect your classroom projects.

Lamination Weights

- 1.5 gloss up to 26"
- 5 mil gloss up to 12"
- 3 mil gloss up to 25"

We offer 1.7 mil for special projects over the 26" width, both gloss and satin finishes. We can laminate projects up to 48" wide. Please call for quotes and information on your large special projects. If you send a lamination project through our PLAEA van system, we'll likely deliver your completed project back to you on your next van delivery. Please include the Creative Services lamination form by logging on to <https://aeacreativeservices.org>.



Square fold with a saddle staple is a new option for finishing books. Square bindings lay flat, making them easier to stack and handle. This form of binding gives your project a professional look.

SENSORY PATHS DECALS & MATS

Sensory & Wellness Floor & Wall Decals

Our decals are printed on versatile and durable anti-slip vinyl with a high tack adhesive. Decals can be used for Sensory Floor Paths, lockers, windows, doors, walls and many other indoor applications.

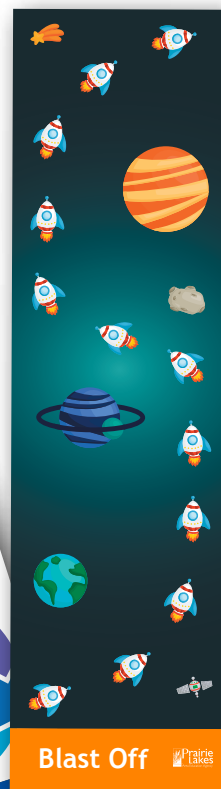
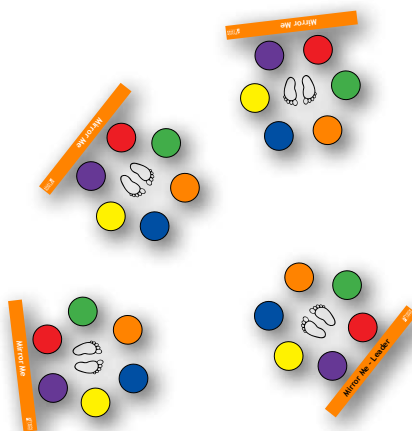
Sensory & Wellness Mats

Portable, heavy-duty vinyl floor mats are perfect for sensory, wellness, PE, indoor recess, and many other indoor activities.

These paths provide:

- Child-initiated movement
- Fundamental motor skills
- Dynamic & static balance
- Proprioceptive, interoceptive, vestibular activities
- Mid-line crossing work

*Paths are customizable to work for your space. Price will vary.
Create your own with the help of our graphic designer!!!*



Crisis Response

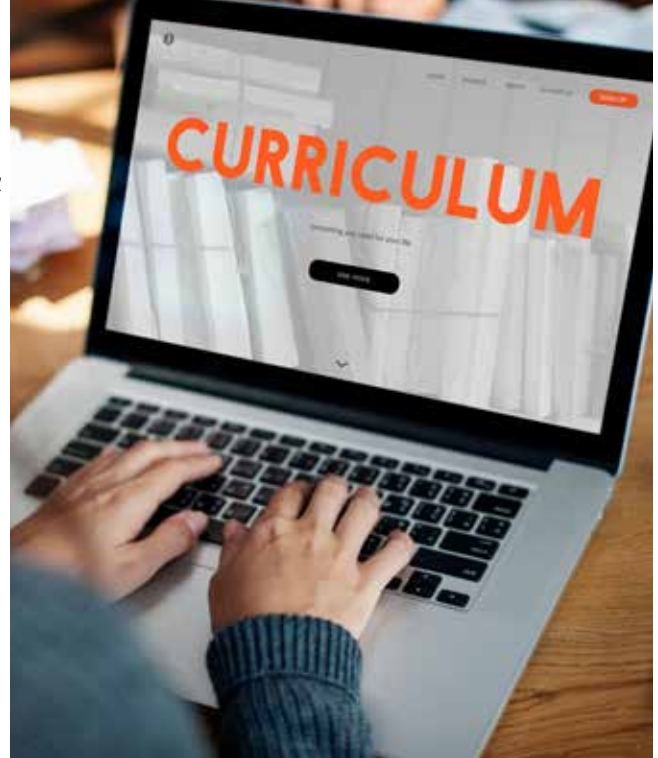
Your school social worker, school psychologist, and special education consultant are able to support your district in response to a traumatic event. The team provides immediate, but brief support in an effort to enable those involved to effectively manage the crisis situation. Assistance may be in the form of counseling, communication and/or logistical support.

Your district's team can be activated by contacting your Regional Administrator.

Curriculum Network

Monthly statewide Curriculum Network Meetings start with statewide updates coordinated by Heartland AEA, followed by PLAEA-specific agenda items and networking opportunities.

Tabitha DeMey
Educational/Media Services Facilitator
tdemey@plaea.org



Digital Resources

Iowa's AEAs provide students, educators and parents with no-cost access to high-quality, vetted digital resources including ebooks, streaming videos, encyclopedia, reference materials and more!



Accessing the Digital Resources is Easier Than Ever!

Accessing the AEA digital resources is now easier than ever! If your district has signed up to use AEA OneClick powered by ClassLink, you'll be able to use your district email login to access the resources. That's all — no more special usernames and passwords to remember!



Secondary students will want to use AEA Scout to search most of the digital content at the same time. One login. One search. One interface. <https://scout.iowaaea.org>



AEA Digital Library (K-12th grade)
Streaming video for PK-3 literature, 4th-8th science and 7th-12th health & guidance



American History in Video (K-12th grade)
Videos of historical newsreels, documentaries, reenactments and speeches



BookFlix (K-3rd grade)
Pairs fictional video storybooks with related non-fiction ebooks.



Britannica ImageQuest (K-12th grade)
Images



Britannica School (K-12th grade)
Encyclopedia for beginning research, including primary sources, atlas, articles, videos, etc.



Core Concepts Science (7th-12th grade)
Videos, digital interactive activities and experiments



Culture Grams (K-12th grade)
Learn about people, places & cultures around the world



FreedomFLIX (4th-12th grade)

Videos paired with ebooks telling about the Ancient World and American History topics



Gale in Context: High School (9th-12th grade)
Biographies, primary resources, multimedia, critical essays, etc.



GALE (K-12th grade)
Educational research offerings of journals, newspapers and reference materials, designed for age-appropriate access



Learn 360 (K-12th grade)
Video clips, images, audio files, newsreels and speeches



MackinVIA (K-12th grade)
Collection of ebooks and digital audiobooks



PebbleGo (K-5th grade)
Articles that support literacy, critical thinking and digital citizenship



PebbleGo Next (3rd-5th grade)
Articles about biographies, science & social studies



Power Knowledge Science (3rd-6th grade)
Science fair projects & experiments, interactive games, etc.



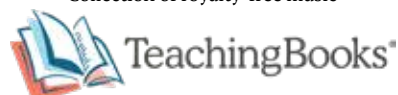
ScienceFLIX (4th-12th grade)
Books, experiments and video clips related to science



SIRS Issues Researcher (9th-12th grade)
Opposing viewpoints on current social issues



Soundzabound (K-12th grade)
Collection of royalty-free music



TeachingBooks (K-12th grade)
Collection of multimedia resources that accompanies & supports educational reading

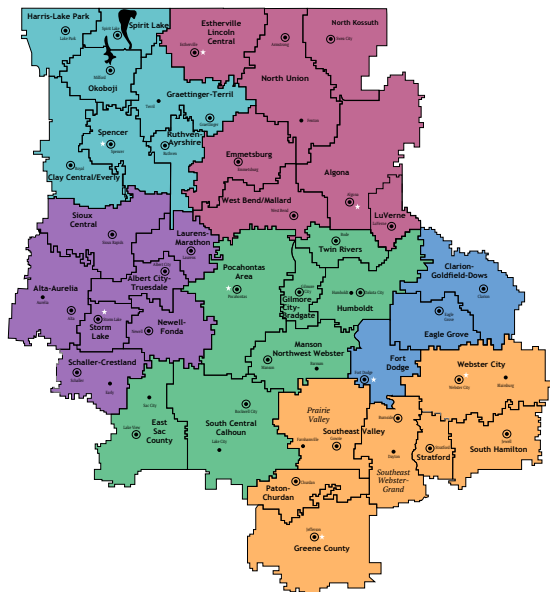


Teen Health & Wellness (7th-12th grade)
Information for teens on topics such as drugs, nutrition, relationships & mental health



TrueFLIX (3rd-6th grade)
Pairs fictional video with related non-fiction ebooks about history & science-related topics

Tabitha DeMey,
Educational/Media Services Facilitator
tdemey@plaea.org



District Consolidation/ Reorganization

Iowa Code gives Iowa's Area Education Agencies a large amount of authority and responsibility for local school district reorganization. Although in most instances the final authority is up to the electorate, the AEAs have authority for specific decisions during the reorganization process and the responsibility for developing reorganization plans.

Dr. Susie Meade
Chief Administrator
smeade@plaea.org

District Boundary Changes

Persons interested in information about school district boundaries or boundary changes should contact:

Dr. Susie Meade
Chief Administrator
smeade@plaea.org

Dyslexia

Dyslexia is defined as "a specific and significant impairment in the development of reading, including but not limited to phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension that is not solely accounted for by intellectual disability, sensory disability or impairment or lack of appropriate instruction." Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs

Early ACCESS (Birth-age 3)

Prairie Lakes AEA staff work collaboratively to determine the needs of children and families, and to develop plans to address those needs in the home and other settings.

Jessica Hawkins
Department Chair
jhawkins@plaea.org



Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) (Ages 3-5)

Iowa's AEAs have the responsibility for identifying children with special needs. The AEA works closely with school districts to provide the services which children need once they turn 3 and are able to access education within the school setting.

Kelly Olson
Department Chair
kolson@plaea.org



English Learners

Prairie Lakes AEA provides technical assistance to school districts, administrators, and teachers to aid in serving students with diverse learning needs. Supports include assisting districts in meeting state and federal guidelines, professional development and networking opportunities for educators, and connections to resources. Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.

Equity Education

Federal and state laws require that there be no discrimination in educational programs or in school hiring practices on the basis of race, national origin, color, religion, creed, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and marital status. Persons inquiring about the agency's equity plan and/or policies should contact:

Valerie Jergens
Regional Administrator
vjergens@plaea.org



Family & Educator Partnership

The Family & Educator Partnership (FEP) is part of a statewide network of parents and educators working together to support educators and parents of children and young adults with special needs. The Family & Educator Partnership (FEP) works to develop and sustain partnerships between families, educators and community providers to promote success for all children and youth with disabilities.

Family & Educator Coordinators provide support, information and resources to families and educators in a variety of ways. Coordinators are also parents of children or young adults with special needs, so they share a unique perspective with families.

Services are provided at no cost and are based on eligibility and need.

Deb Maguire

Family & Educator Partner
dmaguire@plaea.org

McKaylee Heuton

Family & Educator Partner
mheuton@plaea.org

Deb Shelton

Educator Partner
dshelton@plaea.org

Independent Evaluations

Persons interested in more information about independent evaluations of children following a Prairie Lakes AEA full and individual evaluation should contact your district's Regional Administrator. Educators needing information about interpreters and translation services for special needs students should contact your district's Regional Administrator.

Iowa Principal Leadership Academy

Iowa Principal Leadership Academy

The Iowa Principal Leadership Academy (IPLA) provides a comprehensive framework for PK-12 principal certification in the state of Iowa and is licensed in other states on an individual basis. Requirement to enter the program is a master's degree and a minimum of four years of successful teaching experience. The program is a dynamic design based on six problem-centered learning themes, predominantly field-based, related to the Iowa Standards for School Leaders. Each theme includes seminars, action research studies, action plans, portfolios, log of activities, toolbox activities, study of theory and research, and mentoring. Students engage in cohort groups over a two-year period. Faculty of the program are selected primarily from practitioners with expertise in the selected areas. Participants show evidence to meet the standards and criteria of the Iowa Standards for School Leaders and acquire necessary skills to become instructional leaders. Prairie Lakes AEA and Keystone AEA are the partners of the IPLA.

Dr. Susie Meade
Chief Administrator
smeade@plaea.org

Iowa Principals' Network

Iowa's Area Education Agencies host monthly Zooms for all Iowa principals. This is an opportunity for district principals to connect and collaborate with peers, AEA team members, and other education leaders.

Tabitha DeMey
Educational/Media Services Facilitator
tdemey@plaea.org

Iowa Special Education Network

Monthly webinars are hosted by Iowa's Area Education Agencies and the Department of Education. This is an opportunity for district Special Education Directors to connect and collaborate with AEA and other district Special Education Directors from across Iowa.

Kris Ahrens
Director of Special Education
kahrens@plaea.org





MEDIA LIBRARY

Lending Library/Media

The Lending Library at Prairie Lakes AEA boasts an extensive collection of instructional materials to support you in the classroom. The collection includes K-12 books, technology items, professional books, educational DVDs, Classic and Digital StarLabs, RealCare Babies® and much more. Access the Lending Library's catalog as well as digital resources like BookFlix and PearDeck easily by going to launchpad.classlink.com/plaea and signing in with your school Google account.

Tabitha DeMey

*Educational/Media Services Facilitator
tdemey@plaea.org*

Legal Issues in Special Education

Persons needing guidance and interpretation of legal matters in special education may contact:

Kris Ahrens

*Director of Special Education
kahrens@plaea.org*

Legislation

Information on pending legislation and the legislative process is available during the legislative session. Updates and information will flow to district superintendents from the chief administrator.

*Dr. Susie Meade
Chief Administrator
smeade@plaea.org*



**Prairie
Lakes**
Area Education Agency





Mediation

AEA mediation is a statewide mediation and conflict resolution process available through each of Iowa's nine Area Education Agencies. Each AEA has a designated person (or persons) known as the AEA Mediation Coordinator. The major goal of the AEA mediation is to have an option available to help resolve differences at the earliest possible time. Another goal is to have individuals receive mediation training so that individuals will enhance their skills to address differences and meaningfully resolve conflicts in a collaborative manner.

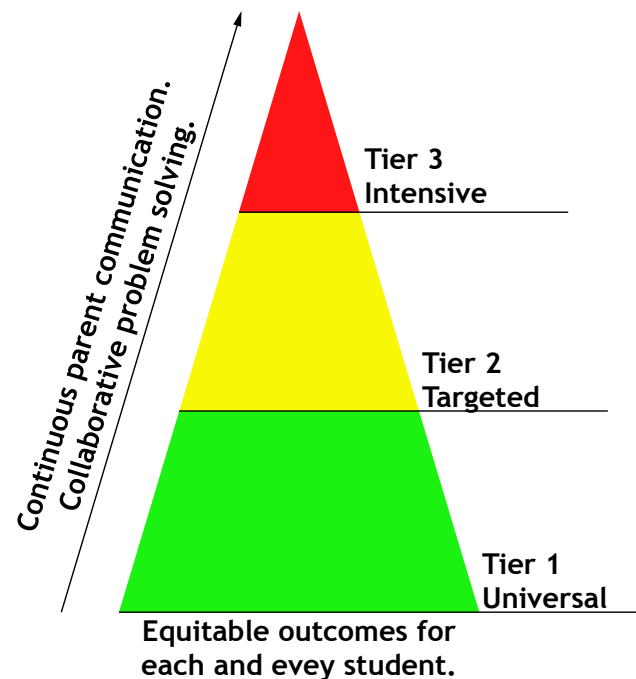
*Kris Ahrens
Director of Special Education
kahrens@plaea.org*

Multicultural, Gender Fair Practices

Prairie Lakes AEA provides technical assistance to Local Education Agencies regarding Multicultural, Gender Fair practices in educational programs. Prairie Lakes AEA acts as a liaison between the Iowa Department of Education and organizations with an educational Multicultural, Gender Fair focus; assists local educators in implementing curriculum, instruction, and assessment for diverse learners; and supports student activities that enhance and extend Multicultural, Gender Fair classroom practices and learning. Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

MTSS is a framework the state of Iowa uses to provide targeted support to struggling students. It's designed to help schools identify struggling students early and intervene quickly. Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.





Nonviolent Crisis Prevention Intervention Training (CPI)

Prairie Lakes AEA offers Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training from the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI). This is commonly referred to as CPI training. CPI has multiple trainers in various areas of the AEA. These trainers can provide direct training to district staff members.

*Courtney Cook
Social, Emotional, Behavioral
Health Coordinator
ccook@plaea.org*

Occupational Therapy (OT)

Occupational Therapy is a support service specializing in evaluation and treatment for students from birth to 21 years of age in educational and/or home settings. Therapists work with school personnel, parents, and team members to develop goals and accommodations to meet the needs of students through an integrated service model. Therapists will assist teachers and parents in adapting materials, methods and the environment to maximize students' success.

*Cari Hepperle
Occupational Therapist/Department Chair
chepperle@plaea.org*

Paraeducator Certification

Prairie Lakes AEA is an approved provider of the Paraeducator Generalist Certification. Participants must complete all three courses (minimum of 90 clock hours) plus submit documentation of 10 hours of experience (observation) to apply for the Iowa Paraeducator Generalist Certificate.

*Linda Ankeny
License Renewal Coordinator
lankeney@plaea.org*

Physical Therapy (PT)

Physical therapists work with children in their homes from birth to 3 years of age who have mobility concerns, positioning needs, or delays in gross motor achievement. After age 3, services are provided in a school setting where the therapist continues to address mobility, positioning, and access in the school environment. The physical therapist works closely with the family and school personnel to maximize the functional abilities of the child. Service delivery options range from consultation and training with the student's educational team to direct service provision with the student. In addition, physical therapists work with students and schools to obtain the necessary mobility and positioning equipment to allow for maximized independence and learning.

*Jennifer Woodruff
Physical Therapist/Department Chair
jwoodruff@plaea.org*

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

School-wide PBIS is a set of systematic and individualized strategies for achieving social and learning outcomes, while preventing problem behaviors. School-wide PBIS is defined as a philosophy and practice of recognizing the importance of positive relationships among all members of a school community for the purpose of enhancing learning. PBIS emphasizes prevention, active instruction, and research-validated practices. The goals of PBIS are to define, teach and support appropriate behaviors in a way that establishes a “culture of competence” within schools. Schools are taught the process for establishing effective systems, practices and strategies.

Melissa Wurth
School Psychologist
mwurth@plaea.org

Postsecondary Readiness/ Future Ready

Prairie Lakes AEA supports the college, career, and future readiness initiatives of its school districts through the employment of a Post-secondary Readiness Lead, a position shared with Northwest AEA. This effort is part of a statewide AEA initiative called AEA PREP (Postsecondary Readiness and Equity Partnership). Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.

Professional Development

Prairie Lakes AEA offers opportunities for professional learning for educators to enhance their skills and practices to improve student learning. These opportunities include:

- A variety of courses for credit
- Workshops that offer the latest evidence-based professional learning for educators
- Paraeducator and substitute authorization training programs

Haley Offerman, Facilitator
Internal/External Professional Development
hofferman@plaea.org

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

Prairie Lakes AEA is committed to helping schools at all stages of the Professional Learning Community journey. As schools move along the PLC continuum, Prairie Lakes AEA consultants are available to provide coaching, technical assistance and other supports. Professional learning opportunities and online resources are available.

Haley Offerman, Facilitator
Internal/External Professional Development
hofferman@plaea.org

Quality Preschool Program

Iowa utilizes Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS) in accredited programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. Prairie Lakes AEA provides support through professional development training and technical expertise via highly skilled early childhood consultants.

Marcie Lentsch
School Improvement Facilitator
mlentsch@plaea.org



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School Improvement

The School Improvement Facilitator (SIF) provides a range of services to assigned school districts focused on a cycle of continuous improvement. A SIF will assist with identifying and implementing best practices, help school teams use qualitative and quantitative data to identify areas of strength and challenges, and use continuous improvement tools to improve short and long-term outcomes.

Tabitha DeMey

Educational/Media Services Facilitator
tdemey@plaea.org

School Psychology

Prairie Lakes AEA school psychologists provide services that assist parents and educators in meeting the needs of children and youth to succeed academically, socially and emotionally. They collaborate with educators, parents and other professionals to create safe, healthy and supportive learning environments for all students that strengthen connections between home and school.

Coletta Jaeger

School Psychologist/Behavior Department Chair
cjaeger@plaea.org

School Social Work

School social workers collaborate with students, schools and families to assess a student's social-emotional and adaptive behavior needs. School social workers help determine appropriate supports then help create behavior intervention plans.

Coletta Jaeger

School Psychologist/Behavior Department Chair
cjaeger@plaea.org

Section 504

Section 504 is a federal civil rights law that protects the rights of students with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. The Prairie Lakes AEA Section 504 consultant assists districts/schools to interpret and comply with this federal law. Districts must make programs, activities and facilities accessible for all students. If you are a parent and would like more information about Section 504 support, contact your district's 504 Coordinator. If you are a district staff member and would like more information about Section 504, contact:

Kris Ahrens

Special Education Director
kahrens@plaea.org



Secondary Transition Services

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates that schools to provide services to students with disabilities to assist in their transition from school to post-school activities. Prairie Lakes AEA offers secondary transition services to assist schools, students and families in preparing for post-secondary living, learning and working in the community. Each of the community colleges within PLAEA, in conjunction with the student's high school, will continue to provide special education services to fulfill unmet transition needs as identified in the student's IEP.

Tammy McKimmey
Special Education Consultant
Transition Coordinator
tmckimmey@plaea.org

Laura Reinders
School Social Worker/Transition Coordinator
lreinders@plaea.org

Significant Disabilities

Students with significant disabilities have multiple complex learning needs requiring extensive, repeated, individualized instruction and support. High academic expectations have been established through the Every Student Succeeds Act. Districts may access specialized support to best meet the needs of their students with significant disabilities by requesting support through their special education teacher.

Sara Koencke
Assistive Technology Coordinator/
Special Education Consultant
skoenecke@plaea.org

Kate Besch
Assistive Technology Coordinator/
Special Education Consultant
kbesch@plaea.org

Social-Emotional-Behavioral Health

These services support educators and schools in learning about and implementing practices to create an environment where ALL students feel safe and learn. Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.

Special Education Consulting

The Special Education Consultant Department members provide support and coaching for special education teachers, advocate for students with disabilities, and partner in the determination of eligibility for special education services and the development of individualized education plans.

Rachel Montag
Special Education Consultant/Department Chair
rmontag@plaea.org

Specialized Programs

Special education and other instructional services are available to eligible youth in specialized settings. Eligible students are less than 21 or turn 21 during the school year; have not earned a high school diploma or GED; and have educational needs that make them eligible for the services. PLAEA programs:

- Lakes Partnership School (Spencer)
- Fort Dodge Youth Shelter Care (Fort Dodge)
- Correctional facilities in Fort Dodge and Rockwell City

Kris Ahrens
Director of Special Education
kahrens@plaea.org





Speech-Language Pathology

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) work with children who have a variety of communication needs. These needs are generally related to articulation, language, voice, fluency and early literacy. SLPs also serve students who have complex communication needs associated with disabilities such as autism, physical impairment and head injury. Several options, from consulting to one-to-one intervention with the student, are available for service delivery so that the student's individual needs are addressed. SLPs work closely with teachers to support and enrich communication development in the classroom and work with the local school district to provide in-service training on communication-related topics.

Margo Kitzrow
Speech-Language Pathologist
Department Chair
mkitzrow@plaea.org

Talented and Gifted

Each school district must incorporate gifted and talented programming into its comprehensive school improvement plan as required by Iowa Code section 257.42. The Iowa Code also defines gifted and talented students as "those identified as possessing outstanding abilities who are capable of high performance. Gifted and talented children are children who require appropriate instruction and educational services commensurate with their abilities and needs beyond those provided by the regular school program." Prairie Lakes AEA provides services specifically tied to improving Gifted Education (TAG, G/T) programming.

Hope Brown
School Improvement Facilitator
hbrown@plaea.org

Teacher Leadership and Coaching

The PLAEA Coaching Coordinator supports TLC leadership teams by leveraging teacher leaders in support of school improvement, evaluating the TLC program and teacher leader roles, and refining the TLC program and teacher leader roles for increased effectiveness and impact. Priority leadership support includes instructional coaching programs, mentoring and induction, and instructional frameworks. Technical support includes TLC plan changes and end-of-year reports.) Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.

Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing are trained professionals who work with children and students who are deaf or hard of hearing. They assess the child's needs, work with the child to communicate (whether it be sign language or verbally), monitor the child's progress and consult with the child's family and teachers on best strategies for working with the child. Itinerant hearing teachers work with young children in the home and often continue to work with the child throughout their school career. When a child goes to school, the AEA takes a more active role in helping the school establish educational strategies and modifications to help the child succeed.

Maureen Salinas
Audiologist/Hearing Department Chair
msalinas@plaea.org



Technology Services

Experts are available to provide technical support for hardware, software, computer network related needs, ICN use and support, USF funding, equipment repair, and technology planning.

Scott Fosseen
Systems Engineer
sfosseen@plaea.org
Jason Kehoe
Network Engineer
jkehoe@plaea.org

Transcripts

Official transcripts for AEA courses are available by through your professional learning account. Unofficial transcripts are available online through the Prairie Lakes AEA professional learning website and can be downloaded through your professional learning account.

Carrie Guerin
Registrar
cguerin@plaea.org

Transportation Route Approval

School districts in Iowa are required by Iowa Code 285.9 to have each AEA Board of Directors review and approve all transportation agreements between districts and to approve all bus routes outside the boundary of the school operating buses. Districts are able to enter their agreements, permissions, and routes through the AEA Inter-District Transportation website. The following tutorials will walk you through each step of the process:

1. Review Allowable Conditions with Neighboring Districts (March)
2. Enter Your Permissions (April-May)
3. Certify Your Agreements (May-June)
4. Enter Your Routes (August-September)

First-time users must register for a new account and if you have forgotten your password, use the password retrieval on the main login screen. All agreements go before the AEA Board of Directors for Approval in June or July. Routes are approved in the fall. Changes to district agreements can be made by contacting:

Michelle Dowd
Board Secretary
mdowd@plaea.org





Van Delivery Services

Each school building has weekly van delivery during the school year. Summer services are also available to school district offices and our AEA office locations on request.

Tabitha DeMey

Educational/Media Services Facilitator
tdemey@plaea.org



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Vision

Visually Impaired services are a special education service or a related service, as defined by federal regulations of IDEA of 2004. Visually Impaired services may be provided to a student who qualifies with an identified visual impairment and whose progress in the general education curriculum is impacted by their visual impairment.

Services are provided through the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired with professionals providing instruction and consultation for students with visual impairments.

Kris Ahrens

Director of Special Education
kahrens@plaea.org





Prairie Lakes

Area Education Agency

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