



2023-2024

# DIRECTORY OF SERVICES



**Prairie Lakes**  
Area Education Agency

# PLAEA Calendar

 Holidays

 Office Closed

## July 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					

## August 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		

## September 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

## October 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				

## November 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		

## December 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						

## January 2024

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 2024

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		

## March 2024

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 2024

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 2024

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 2024

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						



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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

36 public school districts

4,600 students & families  
with IEP/IFSP



# Prairie Lakes

## Area Education Agency



- 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
- Manson Northwest Webster
- Newell-Fonda
- North Kossuth
- North Union
- Okoboji
- Paton-Churdan
- Pocahontas Area
- Pocahontas Catholic
- 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 Valley
- Spencer
- Spirit Lake
- Storm Lake
- Stratford
- Twin Rivers
- Webster City
- West Bend-Mallard

**Algona Office**  
116 S. Thorington  
Algona 50511  
Route 3 Bldg 189  
866-540-3858  
Fax: 515-295-3548

1403 N. Elm St.  
Jefferson 50129  
Route 2 Bldg 127  
866-540-3858  
Fax: 515-386-3109

23 E. 7th St.  
Spencer 51301  
Route 4 Bldg 220  
866-540-3858  
Fax: 712-262-5114

14. S. 6th St.  
Estherville 51334  
Route 3 Bldg 171  
866-540-3858  
Fax: 712-362-5395

500 NE 6th St.  
Pocahontas 50574  
Route 7 Bldg 97  
866-540-3858  
Fax: 712-335-5871  
**Media Services**  
Fax: 712-335-5870

824 Flindt Drive Suite 105  
Storm Lake 50588  
Route 1 Bldg 117  
866-540-3858  
Fax: 712-732-7654

1235 5th Ave. S.  
Fort Dodge 50501  
Route 2 Bldg 101  
866-540-3858  
Fax: 515-574-5508

506 Second St.  
Webster City 50595  
Route 5 Bldg 126  
866-540-3858  
Fax: 515-832-5365



## ADMINISTRATION

### **Chief Administrator**

Dr. Dan Mart

### **Chief Financial Officer/ Board Secretary**

Michelle Dowd

### **Director of Special Education**

Kris Ahrens

### **Director of Educational/Media Services**

Tabitha DeMey

### **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**

Paula Goodknight

Stephanie Haman

Robin Maas

### **Challenging Behavior/Autism**

Katie Fairchild

Jennifer Zollicoffer

### **School Psychologists**

Deb Hamm

Kristy Hughett

Coletta Jaeger

Lauren Leonard

Lisa Lundy

Jean Mohr

Cassidy Remsburg

Travis Schlenger

Denise Schwery

Jen Traub

### **School Psychologist Intern**

Annette Benedict

### **School Social Workers**

Beth Borchardt

Christie Cuttell

Ruth Eley

Susan Fairweather

Molly Giddings

Joan Hansen

Kris Manteufel

Laura Reinders

Anna Speers

Jessica Ulrich

### **Behavior Technician**

Kelsey Baker

Kayla Dixon

Abby Hanus

Lindsay Lane

Ashley Wohlford

## BUSINESS OFFICE

### **Chief Financial Officer**

Michelle Dowd

### **Business Manager**

Brenda Hebert

### **Payroll/Benefit Specialist**

Jessica Moore

## CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR/AUTISM

Katie Fairchild

Jennifer Zollicoffer

## COACHING COORDINATOR

Jaymie Randel

## CREATIVE SERVICES

### **Chief Printer**

Jenifer Krischel

Cory Sroufe

### **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  
Gretchen Brown  
Erin Christensen  
Lynn Eby  
Jessica Hawkins  
Nicole Hinrichs  
Katie Kauffman  
Melissa Lamaak  
Amber Murray  
Rachel Nieland  
Kelly Olson  
Alicia Pauley  
Gale Randall  
Katie Stundahl  
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  
Ally Leners  
Laura Lucchesi  
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

### **Teachers of the Visually Impaired**

Laura Albers  
Mary Berkenpas  
Carrie Spellmeyer

**Early**  
**ACCESS**

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER/CONSULTANTS (ECSE)

### ***Kelly Olson - Department Chair***

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

Rachel Nieland  
Alicia Pauley  
Gale Randall  
Katie Stundahl  
Jane Thilges  
Stacey Wardell  
Lynn Weringa

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER CONSULTANT

Jackie Christensen



## FAMILY & EDUCATOR PARTNERSHIP (FEP)

### **Family and Education Partners**

McKaylee Heuton  
Deb Maguire  
Katie Stundahl

## HEARING

### ***Maureen Salinas - Department Chair***

#### **Audiologists**

Michelle Conrad  
Shannon DeMoss  
Angela Harvey  
Maureen Salinas

#### **Audiometrists**

Nichole Gustafson  
Jill Heinen  
Teresa Laufersweiler  
Sarah Matthews  
Patti Meyer  
Julie Pannhoff

#### **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

Felicia Rasmussen

Shelby Sanderson

### **Educational Paraprofessionals**

Lindsey Brown

Melissa Leer

Molly Swygman

Sheryl Watkins

Steve Watkins



## MAINTENANCE

Jim Hebert - Maintenance Supervisor

## MEDIA/LENDING LIBRARY

### **Director of Educational/Media Services**

Tabitha DeMey

### **Technology Innovation Consultant**

Torrey Proctor

### **Media Specialist II**

Laura DeWall

### **Teacher Librarian Consultant**

Jeanette White

### **Van Drivers**

Dennis Ellwanger

Brent Emerick





## 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)

### ***Pearl Wuebker - 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* - Director of Educational/ Media Services**

### ***Hope Brown* - Department Chair**

### **School Improvement Facilitators (SIF)**

Hope Brown

Rachel Brown

Casey Brueggeman

Tricia Christopher

Kelli Doorenbos

Jessica Harstad

Tiffany Hoogestraat

Lisa Kies

Laura Resnick

Jill Siefken

Heather Spetman

Sarah Voyles

Darcie Wirth

Amanda Woodall

## SECRETARIAL STAFF

### **Administrative Assistants**

Michealeen Friesner

Brenda Prentice

### **Communication Specialist**

Deb Gade

### **Information Management**

### **System Coordinator**

Tonia Hoch

### **Secretaries**

Shawna Badenhorst

Sue Berberich

Shannon Hagen

Ashlie Jergens

Keri Ryherd

Deb Severson

Tera Shatto

## SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES

Kate Besch

Sara Koenecke



## SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (SEBH)

### **Social Emotional Behavior Health Consultants**

Kim Bodholdt

Marni Moody

### **School Psychologist**

Melissa Wurth



## SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTING

### ***Rachel Montag - Department Chair*** **Academic Strategists**

Erica Boettcher

Robyn Cromwell

Emily Davenport

Heather French

Erika Higgins

Mary Klein

Amy Numedahl

Molly Pointer

### **Special Education Consultants**

Gloria Bartelt

Kate Besch

Stacy Bezoni

Holly Blazek

Kathy Broek

Amy Champagne

David Cole

Tracie Engelby

Sara Koenecke

Tiffany Lammers

Jennifer Lyman

Tammy McKimmey

Randi Miller

Kim Peterson

Jennifer Prentice

Kristine Randell

Jeannie Shimon

Jennifer Stattelmann

Karen Thilges

Jennifer Traub

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 PATHOLOGIST COLLABORATOR

Addy Leistikow

Angie Lockey

Katy Peart

Amy Peterson

## SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

### ***Margo Kitzrow - Department Chair***

#### **Speech-Language Pathologists**

Morgan Aden  
Kelsey Baker  
Bailey Baratta  
Yvette Bardole  
Laurel Bezoni  
Diane Capesius  
Tracey Carlson  
Heather Carr  
Chad Cook  
Emily Frostestad  
Jessica Hansen  
Maddi Heun  
Tina Hoben  
Alicia Hoefing  
Leah Hughett  
Kim Johnson  
Claire King  
Sheila King  
Margo Kitzrow  
Sally Legleiter  
Ally Leners  
Laura Lucchesi  
Kendall Merrill

Jackie Ohl  
Susan Rasmussen  
Lisa Richter  
Missy Smith  
Hannah Sorensen  
Amy Thompson  
Paige Todd  
Julie Tolliver  
Jodi Ward  
Joy Weier  
Emily Wicker  
Jessica Wright  
Tim Youngdahl  
Jacey Zangerle

#### **Communication Paraprofessionals**

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





## TALENTED & GIFTED

Amanda Woodall

## TRANSITION

Tammy McKimmey  
Laura Reinders



## TECHNOLOGY

### **School Technology**

Scott Fosseen, Systems Engineer  
Jason Kehoe, Network Engineer  
Matthew Foley, School Technology Technician

### **Internal Technology**

Mike Schmidt, Network Administrator  
Scott Boughey, 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	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/28-4/2/24	5/17/24
Algona	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	11/22-1/1/24	3/1/24	5/22/24
Alta-Aurelia	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/21/24
Bishop Garrigan	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/23-1/2/24	3/29-4/1/24	5/15/24
Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/25-1/2/24	3/11-15/24	5/24/24
Clay Central/Everly	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/21-1/3/24	3/25-29/24	5/23/24
Community Christian	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/11-15/24	5/24/24
Eagle Grove	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/25-1/2/24	3/7-12/24	5/24/24
East Sac County	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/23-1/2/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/22/24
Emmetsburg	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/22-1/3/24	3/11-15/24	5/22/24
Emmetsburg Catholic	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/22-1/3/24	3/11-15/24	5/22/24
Estherville Lincoln Central	8/24/23	11/23-24/23	12/21-1/3/24	3/29-4/1/24	5/20/24
Fort Dodge	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/23-1/3/24	3/28-4/2/24	5/24/24
Gilmore City-Bradgate	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/25-1/2/24	3/28-4/2/24	5/22/24
GTRA	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/21/24
Greene County	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/25-1/3/24	3/11-15/24	5/24/24
Harris-Lake Park	8/24/23	11/23-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/21/24
Humboldt	8/25/23	11/22-24/23	12/25-1/3/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/23/24
Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran	8/22/23	11/22-24/23	12/21-1/3/24	3/25-29/24	5/23/24
Laurens-Marathon	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/25-1/2/24	3/29-4/1/24	5/23/24
Manson Northwest Webster	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/25-1/2/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/22/24
Newell-Fonda	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/23-1/2/24	3/29-4/1/24	5/14/24
North Kossuth	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/17/24
North Union	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/17/24
Okoboji	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/21-1/2/24	3/11-15/24	5/23/24
Paton-Churdan	8/23/23	11/20-24/23	12/23-1/3/24	3/11-15/24	5/24/24
Pocahontas	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/25-1/2/24	3/29-4/1/24	5/23/24
Sacred Heart-Spencer	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/21-1/3/24	3/25-29/24	5/23/24
St. Edmond	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/22-1/3/24	3/11-15/24	5/24/24
St. Mary's-Humboldt	8/25/23	11/22-24/23	12/26-1/4/24	3/29-4/1/24	5/23/24
St. Mary's-Storm Lake	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/21-1/2/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/17/24
St. Paul Lutheran	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/27-4/2/24	5/16/24
St. Thomas Aquinas	8/24/23	11/23-24/23	12/25-1/1/24	3/11-15/24	5/24/24
Schaller-Crestland	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/25-1/3/24	3/29-4/1/24	5/23/24
Sioux Central	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/28-4/2/24	5/17/24
South Central Calhoun	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/21-1/2/24	4/1-3/24	5/23/24
South Hamilton	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/11-15/24	5/24/24
Southeast Valley	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/22/24
Spencer	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/21-1/3/24	3/25-29/24	5/23/24
Spirit Lake	8/23/23	11/23-24/23	12/22-1/2/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/17/24
Storm Lake	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/21-1/2/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/22/24
Stratford	8/24/23	11/23-24/23	12/25-1/1/24	3/11-15/24	5/29/24
Twin Rivers	8/25/23	11/22-24/23	12/25-1/3/24	3/28-4/1/24	5/23/24
Webster City	8/24/23	11/23-24/23	12/25-1/1/24	3/11-15/24	5/29/24
West Bend-Mallard	8/23/23	11/22-24/23	12/25-1/2/24	3/28-4/2/24	5/22/24

# PLAEA Administrators

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**Dr. Dan Mart**  
Chief Administrator  
dmart@plaea.org  
712-335-6040



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



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



**Tabitha DeMey**  
Director of Educational/  
Media Services  
tdemey@plaea.org  
712-458-7016



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



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



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



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



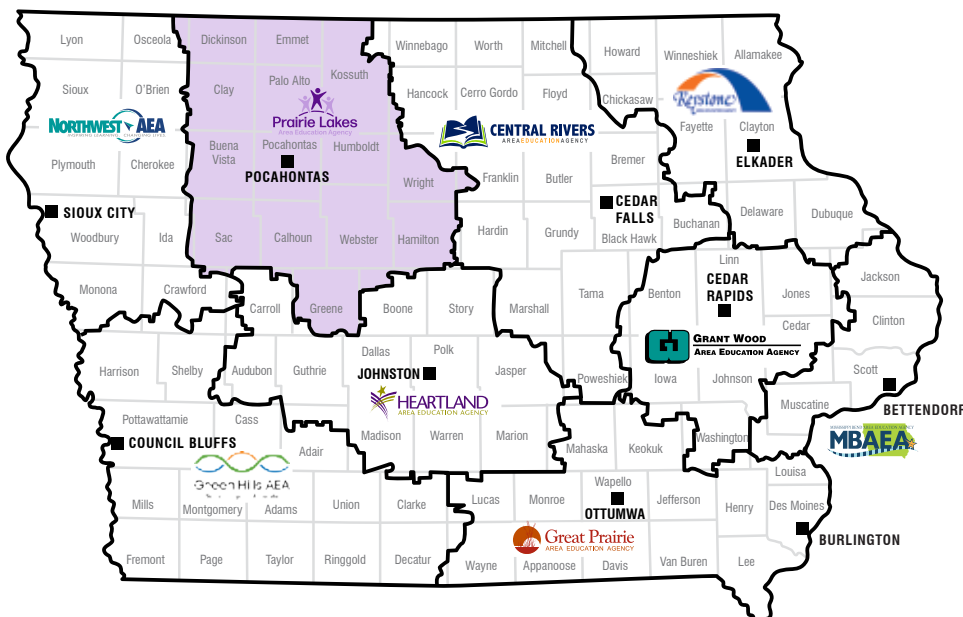
**Spencer**  
**Marta Sandoval**  
Regional Administrator  
msandoval@plaea.org  
712-458-7030



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



# Districts & Regions Map





# Board of Directors

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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.



**Pat Brown, Vice President**

**District #1:**

Districts represented: Estherville Lincoln Central, Graettinger-Terril, Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji and Spirit Lake.



**Lori Baade**

**District #2:**

Districts represented: Gilmore City-Bradgate, Humboldt, Newell-Fonda, Pocahontas Area, Storm Lake, and Twin Rivers.



**Sue Brown, President**

**District #3:**

Districts represented: Algona, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows, Emmetsburg, North Kossuth, North Union and West Bend-Mallard.



**Marti Bomgaars**

**District #4:**

Districts represented: Albert City-Truesdale, Alta-Aurelia, Clay Central-Everly, Laurens-Marathon, Ruthven-Ayrshire, Sioux Central and Spencer.



**Janice Harbaugh**

**District #5:**

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



**Gary Astor**

**District #6:**

District represented: Fort Dodge.



**Todd Lundgren**

**District #7:**

Districts represented: Eagle Grove, Southeast Valley, South Hamilton, Stratford and 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 provide evaluation and identification of hearing levels for learners birth to 21 years of age. Audiologists gather hearing information and data about a child's/learner's access to verbal instruction. They help determine accommodations, modifications, and hearing assistive technology that may be needed in order to make the home or school accessible and coach the adults working with the students on how to implement these supports.

Hearing booths are located in Algona, Fort Dodge, Spencer, and Storm Lake.

*Dr. Maureen Salinas, CCC-A*

*Audiologist/Hearing 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.







## 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 can be found on the Iowa IDEA Information (i3)website.

*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 communications team 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

*Deb Gade  
Communications Specialist  
dgade@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 decision to issue a diploma is up to the resident district. 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

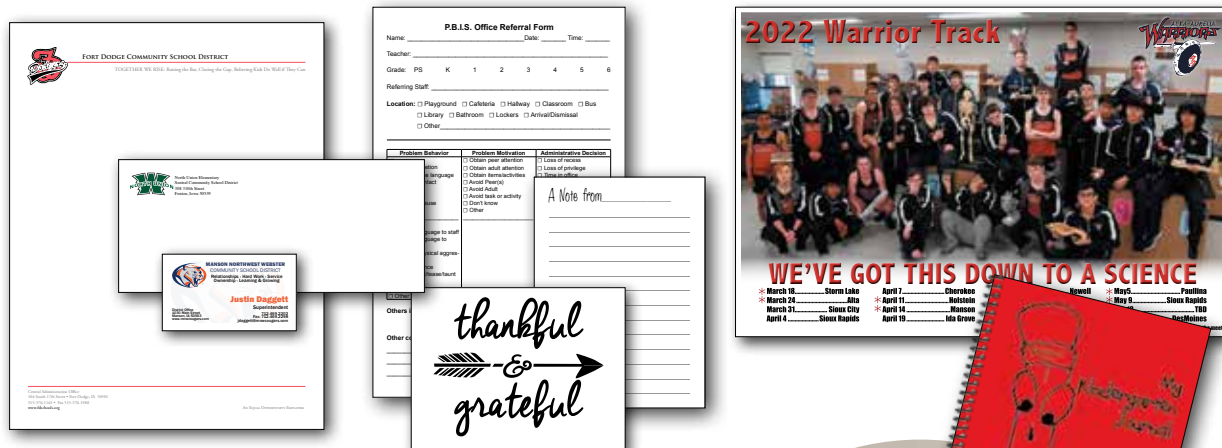
*Jenifer Krischel, Chief Printer*  
jkrischel@plaea.org

Our Creative Services Team is available to help you with educational, promotional, and office/business materials. Team members can partner with you to help create items that will help your school run efficiently!

## 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"
- 3 mil gloss up to 25"
- 5 mil gloss up to 12"

We offer 1.7 mil for special projects over the 26" width, both gloss and satin finishes. 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 your account at <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.

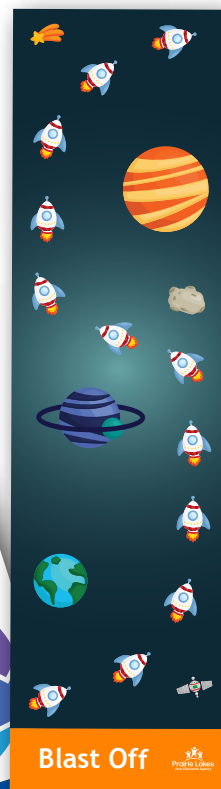
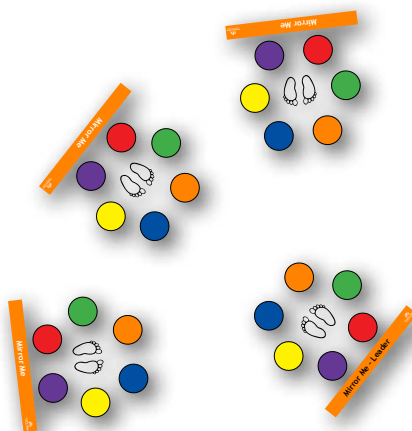
### Sensory & Wellness Mats

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 AEA district regional administrator is 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.

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

*Director of Educational/Media Services  
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!

Just use your district email to login to [oneclick.plaea.org](http://oneclick.plaea.org) where you can access ALL of the digital resources. That's all -- no more special usernames and passwords to remember!



**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



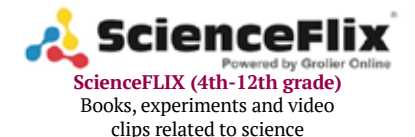
**PebbleGo (K-5th grade)**  
Articles that support literacy, critical thinking and digital citizenship



**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



## 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



## 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. Dan Mart  
Chief Administrator  
dmart@plaea.org

## District Boundary Changes

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

Dr. Dan Mart  
Chief Administrator  
dmart@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 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](mailto: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](mailto:dmaguire@plaea.org)

*McKaylee Heuton*  
Family & Educator Partner  
[mheuton@plaea.org](mailto:mheuton@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.

# 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. Requirement to enter the program is a master's degree and a minimum of four years of successful teaching experience. The program is 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, meeting in person 1 time per month. New cohorts begin in the spring of each odd year. (i.e. 2023, 2025, etc.)

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 partner to deliver IPLA.

Dr. Dan Mart  
Chief Administrator  
dmart@plaea.org

## Statewide Principals' Alliance

Iowa's Area Education Agencies host monthly zooms for all Iowa principals in a "Lasting Leadership Series". This is an opportunity for district principals to join thematic whole group and small group discussions centered on current problems of practice.

Tabitha DeMey  
Director of Educational/Media Services  
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



## 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. Dan Mart  
Chief Administrator  
dmart@plaea.org





# MEDIA LIBRARY

## Lending Library/ Digital Resources/ 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 all of the Digital Resources (like BookFlix, PebbleGo, GALE, etc...) easily by going to [oneclick.plaea.org](http://oneclick.plaea.org) and signing in with your school Google account.

*Tabitha DeMey*

*Director of Educational/Media Services  
tdemey@plaea.org*

## LETRS

LETRS is an intensive Professional Development course aligned to the Science of Reading that provides opportunities of learning for K-5 teachers of Literacy developed by Louisa Moats and Carol Tolman. Participants purchase online modules and PLAEA provides the End of the Unit training (40 hours over a 2-year period). LETRS instructs teachers in what literacy skills need to be taught, why, and how to plan to teach them.

LETRS is not a curriculum or a set of activities. The goal of the training is to "give people a knowledge base for doing the job," according to Moats.

For more information contact your school improvement facilitator.



## Mediation

AEA mediation is a 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 Mediators. The major goal of AEA mediation is to have an option available to help teams resolve differences at the earliest possible time. Another goal is to train AEA staff so they have the skills needed to meaningfully resolve conflicts in a collaborative manner.

*Kris Ahrens*

*Director of Special Education  
kahrens@plaea.org*

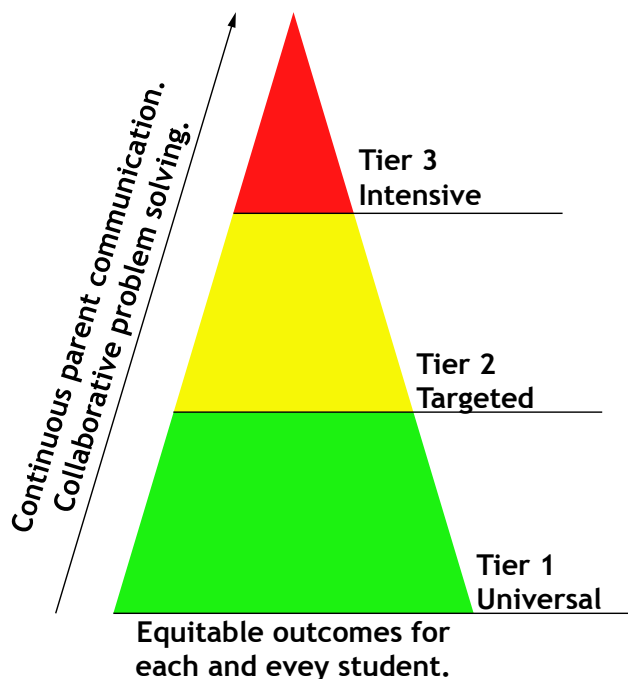


## Multicultural, Gender Fair Practices

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)

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.

Haley Offerman

Internal/External Professional Development  
Facilitator  
hofferman@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 provide early intervention services for birth to 3 years of age by supporting child development with use of a coaching model during family routines. School based services support student access and participation through the least restrictive service delivery. Therapists assist school personnel, team members, and parents in adapting materials, methods, and the environment and in determination and use of appropriate assistive technology and/or equipment.

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.

Dr. Linda Ankeny

License Renewal Coordinator  
lankeny@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. The therapist works directly with the family and caregivers, along with the child, to integrate activities into the child's and family's established daily routines so skill practice is easily integrated into their day. After age 3, services are provided in a school setting where the therapist continues to address mobility, positioning, access, and participation in the school environment. 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.

Pearl Wuebker

Physical Therapist/Department Chair  
pwuebker@plaea.org



## Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health. When implemented with fidelity, PBIS improves social emotional competence, academic success, and school climate. It also improves teacher health and wellbeing. It is a way to create positive, predictable, equitable and safe learning environments where everyone thrives.

Melissa Wurth  
School Psychologist/  
PBIS Coordinator & Trainer  
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 Postsecondary 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

Dr. Linda Ankeny  
License Renewal Coordinator  
lankeny@plaea.org  
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.

For more information contact your school improvement facilitator.

## 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





## 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

*Director of Educational/Media Services  
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 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 Koenecke

*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 (SLP's) work with children in need on a variety of communication skills in the educational setting. These targeted skills are generally related to articulation, language, voice, fluency and early literacy. Students who have complex communication needs associated with significant disabilities are also served by the SLP. SLP's are able to offer several options for service delivery so that the student's individual needs are addressed, including consultation with students/teachers, collaboration with teachers and direct intervention with students. SLP's work closely with teachers to support and enrich communication skill development in the classroom and provide support in all communication-related areas for the local school district, as needed.

*Margo Kitzrow*

*Speech-Language Pathologist  
Department Chair  
mkitzrow@plaea.org*





## Talented and Gifted

Each school district must include gifted and talented programming in its comprehensive school improvement plan as required by Iowa Code sections 257.42 and 257.43 pursuant to section 256.7 subsection 21, paragraph “a.” Iowa Code 257.44 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.

Amanda Woodall  
School Improvement Facilitator  
awoodall@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. Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.

## Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TDHH)

Prairie Lakes AEA's TDHH provide direct instruction and support for students who are deaf or hard of hearing between the ages of birth to 21 years old in their chosen mode of communication. TDHH provide in-service, training and/or consultation to teams and families. They assist in determining appropriate modifications and accommodations in order to make the home or school accessible to the student. TDHH also provide insights into assessments and interventions based on their knowledge of how hearing loss impacts development and learning. TDHH assess the full range of communication and language levels, in addition to assessing the needs within the Expanded Core Curriculum for Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Dr. Maureen Salinas, CCC-A  
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*  
*License Renewal Specialist*  
[cguerin@plaea.org](mailto: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](mailto: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*

*Director of Educational/Media Services  
tdemey@plaea.org*



## VAN ROUTE MAP






## **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.

*Chris Wells*  
*Regional Administrator*  
*[cwells@plaea.org](mailto:cwells@plaea.org)*



Everything that **works**  
at Prairie Lakes Area  
Education Agency  
is because of  
RELATIONSHIPS...

Everything that  
**doesn't work**  
at Prairie Lakes Area  
Education Agency  
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# Prairie Lakes

Area Education Agency

**plaea.org | 866-540-3858**

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