

Other Services

BEACON - Prairie Lakes AEA provides listserv and governance support of those schools voluntarily participating in the BEACON project, a public and school collaborative library automation project. Along with 60 area public libraries, the school districts participating in the project include: Algona, Fort Dodge, Gilmore City-Bradgate, Manson Northwest Webster, Newell-Fonda, South Central Calhoun, and Storm Lake. Consideration to join the project requires a minimum of five additional school and/or public libraries expressing interest, willingness to participate in joint training sessions, and meeting enrollment requirements. Contact Harriet Adams with any questions.

Computer Repair - Prairie Lakes AEA facilitates computer repairs by transporting damaged equipment to Rick's Computers in Danbury. Each piece of equipment **MUST** have forms attached with needed information (contact, district, problem, etc.). Van drivers have extra forms that can be used.

AEA Purchasing - The Iowa Educators Consortium (IEC) and the Iowa Association for Educational Purchasing (IAEP) cooperative food purchasing program have united to become **AEA Purchasing!** Iowa's Area Education Agencies launched a statewide cooperative purchasing program in 1999, and to date, these services have saved Iowa schools and non-profit educational organizations over \$100 million! In an effort to streamline statewide AEA programs, all cooperative purchasing responsibilities will now operate under AEA Purchasing. The names have changed, but the goals remain the same:

- Save Iowa schools time and money
- Research products and form vendor partnerships through a competitive process
- Offer a wide range of value-added services
- Remain a self-supporting organization and give back to participating organizations through food rebates and funding of statewide projects
- Collaborate with AEA's and school districts to develop synergy that can't be attained through individual efforts
- Help both large and small school districts acquire quality products and training at an equitable price

All vendor partners, contracts and pricing will remain the same.

Visit the **AEA Purchasing website** - <http://www.aeapurchasing.org> - for product categories, vendor partners, contacts, how to order and pricing! Subscribe to their monthly newsletters to stay informed.

And don't forget the school **employee and student savings** in the categories of cellular phone plans, digital cameras and camcorders, health and wellness, office supplies, software, and technology. Vendors participating in these discounts include: 2nd Wind Fitness equipment, anytime fitness, AT&T, B & H Photo-Video, JourneyEd, MNJ Technologies, Office

Max, Snap Fitness, Sprint-Nextel, US Cellular, Verizon, YMCA Burlington, YMCA Mason city and YMCA of Greater Des Moines. Check out these savings today!

For additional information, go to the AEA Purchasing website or contact Harriet Adams - hadams@plaea.org.

Technology Conference - Prairie Lakes AEA invites you to join us each summer for our yearly technology conference. This annual event is typically held the third week of June at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa. The official name for the conference is: Technology Integration and Instruction for the 21st Century Learner. You may know it by its acronym: **TICL**.

The conference is jointly sponsored with Northwest AEA. It focuses on trends and resources that an educator would want to consider when developing policy, managing technical resources, or designing lessons and units that engage students and furthers learning through the integration of technology in the individual classroom. Teams are expected to collaborate and design an action plan which defines needed policy decisions, allocation of resources, and infusion of instructional technology into the individual classrooms.

Each year features an internationally known keynote speaker. Previous speakers have been: Doug Johnson, Alan November, Annette Lamb, David Warlick, Michael Gorman, and many more.