



An Introduction to Grant Wood AEA

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

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



GRANT WOOD
AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

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

Special Education Support

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

Instructional Media

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

School Technology

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

Instructional Services

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

Professional Development

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

Leadership

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

School-Community Planning

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

Multicultural, Gender-Fair

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



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

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

- School districts benefit from shared resources such as videos and DVDs, supplemental materials, educationally designed databases and search engines for school libraries, and science kits for classroom experiments.
- The AEAs engage in economical group purchasing of food, paper, office and janitorial supplies, and many other items, saving millions of dollars statewide.
- Schools also benefit from high quality, Internet-based licensed databases and multimedia resources provided by the agency. These products provide 24/7 access to information that teachers and students can use at school and at home.

Services in Area 10

Grant Wood AEA provides support to more than 70,000 students and approximately 5,800 teachers, administrators, media specialists, nurses, and paraeducators in 32 K-12 public school districts and 22 approved nonpublic schools, preschools and daycare centers. The Grant Wood AEA service area, includes Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington counties in East Central Iowa.

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

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

The agency operates three centers, two in Cedar Rapids and one in Coralville. However, nearly 60 percent of agency staff is assigned to specific schools as part of a regional team. They work directly with children and educators as an integral part of the local school staff. Others serve schools in a consultant or itinerant basis, offer courses or workshops, or link schools with other persons, agencies or materials that meet their needs.



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

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

Board of Directors

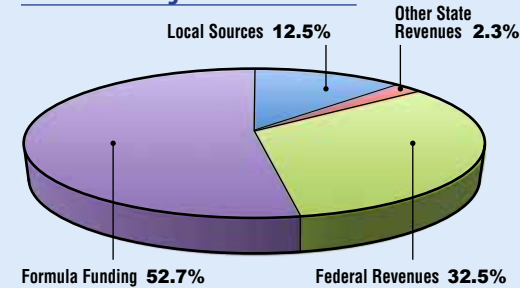
A nine-member board of directors elected by area school boards governs Grant Wood AEA. Board members represent designated segments of the agency's service area called director districts. They are elected for four-year rotating terms by the school district board members in their director districts.

The Grant Wood AEA Board of Director meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Grant Wood Room of the Sixth St. Facility in Cedar Rapids.

Funding

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

2011-2012 Budgeted Revenues



Formula Funding	\$25,140,991
Federal Revenues	\$15,523,821
Local Sources	\$5,980,275
Other State Revenues	\$1,080,008
Total	\$47,725,095



School Districts and Counties in the Grant Wood AEA service area



The Grant Wood AEA service area includes...

- ▶ 32 public school districts
- ▶ 22 approved nonpublic schools
- ▶ 12 nonapproved private schools
- ▶ approximately 250 school administrators
- ▶ approximately 5,800 teachers, counselors, teacher librarians, nurses, and paraeducators
- ▶ 70,533 students*
- ▶ 9,079 children ages 3 to 21 who receive special education services**
- ▶ 242 board members
- ▶ 7 counties (Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Washington)
- ▶ 4,900 square miles
- ▶ 438,845 population***

Sources:
*Certified Enrollment October 2010
**Grant Wood AEA Certified Count Report, December 1, 2010
***US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Iowa – County GCT-T1. Population Estimates, Data Set: 2008 Population Estimates. Online: <http://factfinder.census.gov>



Our Mission

As an educational partner, Grant Wood AEA staff work to further our agency's mission,

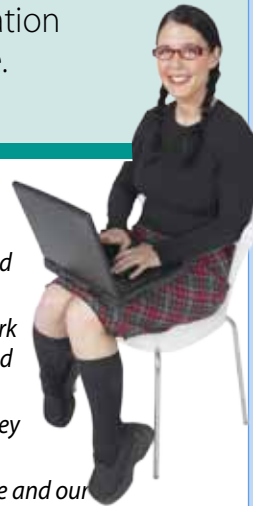
"To ensure success for all learners."

Our Goals

Increase the academic performance of all students.

Increase the percentage of students who perform at the proficient level.

Increase student acquisition and application of 21st century skills and knowledge.



● Grant Wood AEA Sixth St. Facility

4401 Sixth Street SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-4499
319-399-6700
800-332-8488
TDD 319-399-6766
Fax 319) 399-6457

● Grant Wood AEA Coralville Facility

200 Holiday Road
Coralville, Iowa 52241-1178
319-351-2510
800-854-0446
TDD 319-358-6299
Fax 319-358-6201

● Grant Wood AEA 33rd Avenue Facility

1120 33rd Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
319-399-6700
TDD 319-399-6766
Fax 319-399-6474

● Grant Wood AEA Administration

Chief Administrator Joe Crozier
Associate Administrator Maria Cashman
Program/Services Kris Donnelly
Administrators Lisa Fry
Terri McGraw
Communications George Held
Supervisor
Treasurer Barbara Harms
Board Secretary Kim Martin

Our Vision

Grant Wood Area Education Agency is committed to unlocking the potential of each and every learner. We exhibit flexibility, openness, and an unyielding pursuit of innovation. We strive to seamlessly integrate a multitude of services and resources made available to children, families, and educational professionals.

The agency is built on a foundation of strong, supportive relationships and the provision of comprehensive, high-impact solutions that meet the unique needs of its clients. We are an organization that actively aspires to influence the larger system in which we work.

Toward this end, we will:

- ✓ *Maintain strong client relationships, characterized by openness, shared learning, and trust.*
- ✓ *Provide integrated solutions to sets of client problems.*
- ✓ *Assist our schools/clients in defining their unique sets of problems in holistic ways.*
- ✓ *Operate through judicious and efficient use of educational resources in the service areas.*

✓ *Support the Iowa Department of Education in deployment of critical initiatives.*

✓ *Actively recognize the value of its employees and assure that they have the materials, equipment, and support to contribute their gifts and expertise to do their work well.*

✓ *Provide a positive impact on all students across multiple areas of need.*



Our Beliefs

- ✓ *Individuals are unique and learn differently.*
- ✓ *Individuals deserve to work and learn in respectful and nurturing environments.*
- ✓ *Individuals value what they help to create.*
- ✓ *The diversity of our people and our ideas lends strength to our organization and our services.*
- ✓ *Partnerships and teamwork result in best services.*
- ✓ *The individual child benefits when the family is a partner in his/her education.*
- ✓ *Continuous learning is critical to the quality of all we do.*
- ✓ *Visionary leadership is essential to the realization of human and organizational potential.*
- ✓ *All individuals deserve the opportunity and support necessary to achieve their highest potential.*
- ✓ *Our way of life depends on our investment of time and attention to every child in our midst.*

Our Strategic Priorities

- ✓ *Develop and use data systems that will measure the impact of decisions and actions.*
- ✓ *Utilize resources efficiently and effectively.*
- ✓ *Advance learning, innovation, and creativity.*
- ✓ *Develop integrated, customized solutions.*
- ✓ *Implement effective service delivery.*



**GRANT WOOD
AREA EDUCATION AGENCY**

Produced by the Communications Office, Grant Wood AEA, 4401 Sixth St. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404. 319-399-6700, 800-332-8488.

For tours of the agency, more information, or to arrange for a presentation about Grant Wood AEA for your organization, contact the Grant Wood AEA Communications Office at 319-399-6714, 800-332-8488, ext. 6714, or visit our website at www.aea10.k12.ia.us

Grant Wood Area Education Agency extends equal opportunities in its employment practices, educational programs and services, and does not discriminate on the basis of color, gender, race, national origin, religion, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability, veteran status or as otherwise prohibited by law. If you believe you or your child has been discriminated against or treated unjustly, please contact the Agency's Equity Coordinator, Maria Cashman, at 319-399-6847 or 800-332-8488 or TDD 319-399-6766, Grant Wood AEA, 4401 Sixth St SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. August 2011