



Profiles of Services

Ames Community School District for 2004-2005

This Profiles of Services is a brief report of some of the key services provided by Heartland Area Education Agency for the Ames Community School District.

Improving student achievement

Heartland Area Education Agency has been helping children reach their potential since 1975. The agency works in partnership with public and accredited nonpublic schools to provide educational services, programs and resources for improving student achievement.

The more than 870* Heartland AEA staff members serve preschool children, K-12 students, families, educators and sometimes entire communities.

**This figure includes about 170 Des Moines Public Schools special education positions funded by Heartland AEA.*

Heartland AEA area

Schools: 54 public school districts and 32 accredited nonpublic schools

Students: 126,000

Educators: 12,000

School buildings: 330

Counties: 11—Audubon, Boone, Carroll, Dallas, Guthrie, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story and Warren

About the agency

Chief administrator: Wayne Rand

Associate administrators: Tom Hoffman and Jim Stumme

Founded: 1975

Area: 6,518 square miles

Main office: Johnston

Branch offices: Adel, Ames, Audubon, Carroll, Des Moines, Guthrie Center, Indianola, Johnston, Knoxville, Newton and Woodside (Ankeny)

Shelter Care Educational Program sites: Ames, Des Moines (3), Indianola, Manning and Newton

Youth At Risk Consortium: Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, and school sites



Ames and Heartland AEA

Partners in Education

Full AEA Accreditation. Heartland AEA was fully accredited in 2005 by the State Board of Education. Accreditation is the result of AEA 11's continuous improvement process to better serve Ames CSD and other districts. Accreditation helps AEAs improve the quality and focus of their services in order to assist schools and districts to improve student learning.

Support for Diverse Learners. Heartland AEA provides many services to six diverse learner populations:

- Early Access (birth to age 3)
- Special Education
- Gifted and Talented
- Section 504
- English Language Learners
- Youth At-Risk

Heartland staff support and assist Ames to identify diverse learners through screening and assessments, create an equitable learning environment for these youth and evaluate their outcomes.

Internet Savings. Ames participates in aggregate Internet service through Heartland to the Internet service provider, the ICN. This service saved the district about \$3,420 last year. Heartland also provides a free district Internet filter.

Focus on High Schools. Heartland is assisting Area 11 educators to enhance the quality and effectiveness of high school education. The agency is sponsoring learning and sharing opportunities for high school leadership teams to support Iowa's initiative to strengthen its high schools.

Big Books. Big Books are oversized books for children. The enlarged print and graphics capture students' interest and help build a foundation for reading. Ames CSD purchased 958 Big Books from Heartland, which subsidized their cost and offered them for only \$5 each.

Technology to Improve Learning Heartland AEA provides several technology programs including staff development, E2T2 middle school math initiative, student technology fair, listservs and consultations. Heartland helps Ames staff identify and implement technologies to improve teaching and learning.

School Improvement. School improvement focuses on programs for school and community planning to increase student achievement. School improvement consultants work closely with school staff to plan and provide professional development activities to improve skills leading to better teaching and learning.

Better Hearing Heartland staff members annually screen the hearing of every Ames elementary student and do follow-up evaluations when needed.

Assessment Services. AEA 11's Assessment Services staff provide Ames educators support for collecting, analyzing and using classroom, school and district data. Assessment Services provides test and survey development, a scanning center for custom-made bubble sheet tests, the HEART program to generate data graphs and much more.

Curriculum and Instruction. AEA curriculum consultants provide resources and capacity building for school and district staff in reading, math and science. Consultants also support teacher and administrator leadership.

Student, Teacher Resources 24/7. Iowa AEA Online (www.iowaaeaonline.org) features educational resources funded and provided by Iowa's AEA's. Resources such as World Book Online and ClipArt.com are accessible from school or home 24 hours a day. Iowa AEA Online supports the content standards for school curriculum and student learning by bringing a wealth of information to teachers and students. Contact Heartland for a password.

Connecting Parents, Educators. Heartland's Parent-Educator Connection links Ames educators and parents of children with significant special needs. PEC staff, themselves parents of individuals with special needs, provide services that link teachers and parents for the benefit of the student.

Intro to AEA. Ames staff participated in Heartland's new teacher open house in 2004 to learn about the services, materials and technology available at the AEA to help them become better educators.

CRISS Strategies. AEA staff have been training and supporting some Ames educators to implement CRISS learning strategies. CRISS (creating independence through student-owned strategies) encourages independent thinking to help students learn what is meaningful.



Heartland staff assigned to Ames schools

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| Adapted Physical Education | Robin Olberding |
| Assistive Technology | Nancy Dunn |
| Audiology | Bill Helms |
| Audiometrist | Brenda Pierce |
| Autism Resource | Marilyn Finn |
| Challenging Behavior | Wendi Kaiser |
| Early Childhood | Martea Engelson |
| Hearing | Carol Miller |
| Occupational Therapy | Janet Heintz |
| Orientation & Mobility | Ann Hegstrom |
| Physical Therapy | Kathy David Amy Twetten |
| Interim Regional Coordinator | JoAnn Klocke |
| School Improvement | Anita Westerhaus |
| School Psychology | Ann Manahl Sean Taylor Shane Hudson Larry Nikl |
| School Social Work | Jessica Hanson Chris Rial Margie Cahill Beth Dedic Kelly Gauck |
| Special Education Consultants | Vicki Kooker Jane Reschly-Murdoch Rhonda Weiss Kathy Scebold |
| Speech-Language Pathology | Jo Hansen Karen Tuttle Patty Schliesman Marty Helland Becky Lamkey Bonnie Praska Diane Niederhauser |
| Trainers | Elizabeth Jankowski Kathy Scebold |
| Transition Consultant | Susan Teas |
| Vision | Gwen Woodward |

In addition to the above professionals, Heartland AEA has many other staff members who serve the district in assessment, curriculum and instruction, instructional materials, media, professional development, technology and other priority areas.

Nine-member board of directors

Heartland AEA is governed by nine board members who are elected by the local school boards they represent. George Jackson of Ames represents the Ames CSD.



George Jackson
515/292-1120

Heartland Area Education Agency 11 does not discriminate based on gender, race, national/ethnic origin, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. Direct inquiries to the Affirmative Action Coordinator, 6500 Corporate Dr., Johnston, IA 50131-1603, or Director, Office for Civil Rights, Chicago, IL 60606-7204.

Ames CSD By the Numbers in 2004-05

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 530 | Students staffed into special education. |
| 33 | Students in Youth At Risk program administered by AEA 11. |
| 40 | Students in Heartland's Shelter Care Educational Program. |
| 513 | Staff who participated in Heartland professional development activities. |
| 176 | Heartland professional development activities in which staff participated. |
| 384 | Credit hours earned by staff through Heartland professional development activities. |
| 48 | Staff who took part in Heartland's new teacher programs as either first- or second-year teachers, mentors, or facilitators. |
| 13,564 | Online searches by students and staff in EBSCO, World Book, AP Multimedia and other resources, with free access provided by Iowa's AEA's. |



Below is a summary of the media production items obtained from Heartland AEA in 2004-05.

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| 103 | Audio Books |
| 1967 | Bulletin Board Symbols |
| 166 | Running Feet of Lamination |
| 682 | Learning Activity Posters |
| 158 | Videotape Programs Duplicated |
| 41 | Videotapes Circulated |
| 25 | Boxed Book Sets |
| 4788 | Children's Books |
| 1 | Information Search |
| 13 | Magazine Collections |
| 458 | Professional Books |
| 184 | Inservice Materials |
| 2 | English Language Learner Materials |
| 6 | Preview Collections |
| 72 | DVDs for Loan |
| 13 | Standardized Tests |
| 106 | Book Props |