



Profiles of Services

Van Meter 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 Van Meter 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



Van Meter 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 Van Meter 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 Van Meter to identify diverse learners through screening and assessments, create an equitable learning environment for these youth and evaluate their outcomes.

Internet Savings. Van Meter participates in aggregate Internet service through Heartland to the Internet service provider, the ICN. This service saved the district \$1,710 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. Van Meter CSD purchased 60 Big Books from Heartland, which subsidized their cost and offered them for \$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 Van Meter staff identify and implement technologies to improve teaching and learning.

Cooperative Services. Van Meter CSD purchased school supplies and materials totaling \$10,617 through Heartland's Cooperative Services program. Cooperative purchasing saves money for school districts on a variety of classroom, office and maintenance products.

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 AEA 11 elementary student and do follow-up evaluations when needed.

Assessment Services. AEA 11's Assessment Services staff provide Van Meter 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.iowaonline.org) features educational resources funded and provided by Iowa's AEAs. 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 Van Meter 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. Van Meter staff participated in Heartland's new teacher open house in 2004 and 2005 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 Van Meter 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 Van Meter schools

Adapted Physical Education	Robin Olberding
Assistive Technology	Sue Young
Audiology	Beth Sunds
Audiometrist	Susan York
Autism Resource	John Drinnin
Challenging Behavior	Barb Rankin
Early Childhood	Brenda Parker
Hearing	Mary Ann Flanagan
Occupational Therapy	Gloria Frolek Clark
Orientation & Mobility	Ann Hegstrom
Physical Therapy	Dirk Swanson
Regional Coordinator	Kathy Pitzen
School Improvement	David Johnson
School Psychology	Monica McKevitt
School Social Work	Lisa Graalfs
Special Education Consultant	Theresa Hansen
Speech-Language Pathology	Gail Nelson Cheryl Rigler
Trainer	Karen Hummel
Transition Consultant	Greg York
Vision	Chris Short

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. Ann Wilson of Carroll represents the Van Meter CSD.



Ann Wilson
712/792-2735

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.

Van Meter CSD By the Numbers in 2004-05

- 43 Students staffed into special education.
- 1 Students in Youth At Risk program administered by AEA 11.
- 2 Students in Heartland's Shelter Care Educational Program.
- 103 Staff who participated in Heartland professional development activities.
- 38 Heartland professional development activities in which staff participated.
- 70 Credit hours earned by staff through Heartland professional development activities.
- 12 Staff who took part in Heartland's new teacher programs as either first- or second-year teachers, mentors, or facilitators.
- 116 Online searches by students and staff in EBSCO, World Book, AP Multimedia and other resources, with free access provided by Iowa's AEAs.



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

- 1,695 Bulletin Board Symbols
- 1,095 Running Feet of Lamination
- 417 Learning Activity Posters
- 86 Videotape Programs Duplicated
- 210 Videotapes Circulated
- 806 Children's Book Sets
- 13 Professional Books
- 24 Inservice Materials
- 3 English Language Learner Materials
- 3 DVDs for Loan
- 8 Standardized Tests