



Profiles of Services

West Central Valley 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 West Central Valley 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



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

Internet Savings. West Central Valley participates in aggregate Internet service through Heartland to the Internet service provider, the ICN. This service saved the district about \$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. West Central Valley CSD purchased 25 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 West Central Valley staff identify and implement technologies to improve teaching and learning.

Cooperative Purchasing. West Central Valley CSD purchased paper and school supplies totaling \$32,817 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 West Central Valley elementary student and do follow-up evaluations when needed.

Assessment Services. AEA 11’s Assessment Services staff provide West Central Valley 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 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.

Project SEMI. West Central Valley CSD is among the districts with at least one teacher trained to use Heartland’s Project SEMI with students. SEMI (Science Education Mobile Instruction) is Iowa’s only mobile life sciences lab, a 53-foot semitrailer that brings cutting-edge biotechnology equipment, materials and curriculum to schools.

Connecting Parents, Educators. Heartland’s Parent-Educator Connection links West Central Valley 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.

CRISS Strategies. AEA staff have been training and supporting West Central Valley 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 West Central Valley schools

Adapted Physical Education	Robin Olberding
Assistive Technology	Sue Young
Audiology	Doug Olson
Audiometrist	Sue York
Autism Resource/Challenging Behavior	Margaret Clark
Early Childhood	Carol Peterson
Hearing	Mary Ann Flanagan
Occupational Therapy	Brenda Wicks
Orientation & Mobility	Ann Hegstrom
Physical Therapy	Mindy Elliott
Regional Coordinator	Terry Vitzthum
School Improvement	Carla Grasty
School Psychology	Suzanne Holmes-Bunde
School Social Work	Wendy Acri
Special Education Consultant	Julia Thompson
Speech-Language Pathology	Dawnyale Jones Gail Nelson
Training Services	Sharon Kurns
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 West Central Valley 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.

West Central Valley CSD By the Numbers in 2004-05

128	Students staffed into special education.
1	Students in Youth At Risk program administered by AEA 11.
14	Students in Heartland's Shelter Care Educational Program.
185	Staff who participated in Heartland professional development activities.
57	Heartland professional development activities in which staff participated.
207	Credit hours earned by staff through Heartland professional development activities.
17	Staff who took part in Heartland's new teacher programs as either first- or second-year teachers, mentors, or facilitators.
2,028	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	Audio Book
871	Bulletin Board Symbols
136	Running Feet of Lamination
40	Slides Duplicated
1,334	Learning Activity Posters
382	Videotape Programs Duplicated
670	Videotapes Circulated
5	Boxed Book Sets
1,107	Children's Books
1	Information Search
3	Leveled Books
113	Professional Books
21	Inservice Materials
10	English Language Learner Materials
3	Preview Collections
7	DVDs for Loan
73	Book Props