



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RYAN M. WISE, DIRECTOR

Via Electronic Mail

DATE: December 4, 2015

TO: LEA Superintendents
LEA Principals

FROM: Ryan M. Wise, Director

SUBJECT: Follow-up on Universal Screening of Reading or Reading Readiness for Students Who are Dual Enrolled or Participate in HSAP Programing

On September 22, 2015, I provided clarification on the requirements under Iowa Code § 279.68 to parents of students who are dual enrolled or participating in HSAP. The intent of this clarification was to provide interim guidance while the Department further examined this issue.

The Department has now thoroughly reviewed implementation of § 279.68 as it relates to students who are dual enrolled or participating in a HSAP program. While we believe our interpretation of Iowa Code § 279.68 is correct, we also recognize the scope of adjustments this may require in certain situations. Because of the complexity of these issues, we will defer monitoring of this statute as it relates to students who are dual enrolled or participating in HSAP programing to local school districts. While districts must still offer universal screening to students who are dual enrolled or enrolled in a HSAP, students who are dual enrolled or participating in a HSAP should not be compelled to be screened. The district must also continue to offer services to students who are screened and have deficiencies that require additional reading instruction. However, districts should not compel students to accept those services. If families have withdrawn from HSAP or dual enrollment to avoid screening or have been dismissed for refusal to screen, please offer to reenroll the student as soon as practical. It is important to continue to provide school services that families want to homeschool students.

For HSAP or dual enrolled students who are identified via screening as substantially deficient in reading, the Iowa Department of Education does not require any district to compel parents or students to use any particular curriculum, use any progress

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monitoring assessment, engage in a parent contract with the district, receive intensive reading instruction, participate in a minimum number of minutes of instruction per day, or be subject to the retention requirement. These are all areas where private instruction differs from the public school environment – in some ways considerably. We respect these differences and want to provide parents and students with opportunities to enrich their education. As for concerns raised that data on screening would be shared nationally and that FERPA violations could occur, the Department complies with FERPA and other data privacy laws.

Thank you in advance for your support of this work in Iowa and your patience with this process. Department of Education staff members will be following up with stakeholders as needed. If you have questions, please contact Nicole Proesch, Legal Counsel, at Nicole.proesch@iowa.gov or (515) 281-8661 or Amy Williamson, Bureau Chief of School Improvement, at Amy.Williamson@iowa.gov or (515) 725-2888.