

Superintendent's Corner

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District's Strategic Plan Moving Forward

During late winter of 2005 the Indianola school board and administration met to develop a new strategic plan. The first step was to develop a shared vision that would focus and guide district efforts. The new vision became *Indianola Community Schools, Proud Traditions... Unlimited Possibilities*. The second step was to develop a strategic plan that included identifying a set of belief statements, the strengths of the district and areas for improvement. Once these areas were identified, three long range goals were developed: 1) focus on student achievement; 2) emphasis on early childhood and 3) improvement of the overall learning environment for students. Several strategies were then written to accomplish each goal.

In late spring of 2005, the superintendent and school board members shared the strategic plan with school employees, advisory groups, civic organizations, P.T.O, booster clubs and city officials. Nearly 30 presentations were given throughout the community. The purpose was to share the work and ask for feedback on the district's vision, goals and strategies. The community response was very favorable and supportive. Several common themes emerged throughout this process: 1) excitement for the vision; 2) strong interest in all-day kindergarten; 3) anticipated growth and impact on elementary facilities; 4) meeting the needs of at-risk students; 5) better communication and marketing of the district; 6) interest in year-round education; and 7) continued support for parental involvement. Our school district is now in its fifth and final year of the plan. It has provided focus and helped guide the district towards many student-driven accomplishments: *(continued on page 2)*

School Registration Information

School registration was held on August 10 and 11. For parents and students who have not yet registered for the upcoming school year, please contact Julie Ormsby at the district's Central Office located at 1304 East Second Avenue.

Phone: 515.961.9500 ext. 1506

E-mail: julie.ormsby@indianola.k12.ia.us

Registration requirements can be found on the district's website at: www.indianola.k12.ia.us.



Indianola Athletic Field Preview Night

The Indianola School District's new athletic facility at the middle school will soon be completed. Everyone is invited to preview the new outdoor complex and attend "Meet the Indians Night" on **Thursday, August 20**. The 2009 fall athletic teams will be introduced with the volleyball and football teams holding their pre-season intra-squad scrimmages at **5:30 p.m.** The new middle school athletic complex is located directly southwest of the middle school. Everyone is encouraged to park in the Little League parking lot. An evening meal will be available from the Indianola Booster Club and the Warren County Pork Producers. **If the new field is not finished by August 20th, then the football scrimmages and evening meal will be held at Buxton Stadium.**

Planning for Iowa Department of Education Site Visit

The Indianola School District's Iowa Department of Education five-year accreditation site visit will take place in January of 2010. A team of eleven educators from the Iowa Department of Education, Heartland AEA and local school districts will spend three days in our school district examining records, important documents and visiting with students, staff, parents, board members and community members.

The purpose of the site visit will be to:

- ⇒ assess progress with our district's comprehensive school improvement plan;
- ⇒ make recommendations to improve our district's educational practices;
- ⇒ determine if our district is in compliance with accreditation standards; and
- ⇒ provide a general assessment of our district's educational practices.

A final written report of the findings and recommendations will be sent to our school district. A significant amount of planning is now underway to help prepare for the site visit.

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District's Strategic Plan *(continued from page 1)*

- ✓ Increasing the graduation rate from 89.01% in 2004 to 97.90% in 2008
- ✓ Opening a new elementary school, Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary, to accommodate projected student growth and all-day/every day kindergarten
- ✓ Beginning an all-day, every day kindergarten program for all students in every elementary school building
- ✓ Beginning and expanding a four-year-old pre-school program at Whittier, Emerson and Wilder Elementary Schools.
- ✓ Occupying Irving Elementary exclusively with the expanding elementary year-round program
- ✓ Developing strategies to help students and families transition to elementary, middle school and high school
- ✓ Activating Infinite Campus, a student data information management system that allows district-wide parent access to their child's classroom attendance and assessments
- ✓ Training all staff in the Iowa Core Curriculum for grades K-12
- ✓ Training all staff how to use the Instructional Decision Making Model
- ✓ Revising the comprehensive K-12 student at-risk plan
- ✓ Implementing a modified block schedule requested by Middle School teachers
- ✓ Requiring 9th grade students to complete three years of math and three years of science to graduate
- ✓ Requiring high school students to pass all courses to participate in extra-curricular activities (no pass, no play)
- ✓ Replacing the exterior walls at Whittier and Emerson Elementary Schools with energy efficient walls
- ✓ Increasing the reading score proficiency of 8th graders from 80.6% in 2005 to 88.6% in 2009
- ✓ Installing an all-weather surface eight-lane track, synthetic football field, bleachers and new lighting behind the middle school
- ✓ Meeting the 2008-09 Annual Yearly Progress student achievement goals in all four elementary buildings
- ✓ Completing the high school and middle school parking lot renovations and expansions
- ✓ Completing the major high school music facility renovation and expansion
- ✓ Ranking 29th out of the top 50 high schools in Iowa on the Iowa AP (Advanced Placement) index
- ✓ Reconfiguring and improving the high school athletic fields and outdoor practice areas for physical education, athletic programs and marching band
- ✓ Renovating the high school locker rooms in the north and east gyms
- ✓ Upgrading the high school auditorium and lobby with new lighting, electrical and sound systems

Four Year Old Pre-School Program

The 2007 State Legislators approved a statewide Voluntary 4 Year Old Preschool Grant opportunity for all 364 school districts in the State of Iowa. During the past two years, community meetings have been held in Indianola to share information with other community pre-school providers. A steering committee of school district employees, representatives from Heartland AEA, Warren County Empowerment, ISU Extension and community preschools have been meeting to determine preschool needs in the community. The Indianola School District submitted an application for the upcoming 2009-10 school year and in mid-May the district was notified that it was awarded the grant. For the 2009-10 school year, the grant will allow the district to serve sixty pre-school children at Whittier, Emerson and Wilder Elementary Schools.



A summary of the city school bus routes for 2009-2010 is provided below. Students in the country will be contacted on an individual basis with their route information. By law, transportation is provided for elementary and middle school students living more than two miles from their designated school attendance center and high school students living more than three miles from their designated school attendance center. In addition, the Indianola School District provides transportation for any students who would be required to cross Highway 65/69 or Highway 92 to reach their appropriate attendance center.

You must be signed up to ride. The middle school is a transfer point for elementary and high school students. High school and elementary students are not to be dropped off or picked up at the middle school. The transportation department is looking forward to the 2009-2010 school year. If you have any questions about the city routes or other transportation issues, please contact Transportation Director Danny Thede at 961-9592.

Bus 3 Middle School Students
North of 92, East of Highway 65/69
7:42 am 902 East 1st Avenue

Bus 13 Middle School Students
North of 92, East of 65-69
7:34 am 2002 North 9th Street
7:35 am 804 Summit Place 7:35 2202 N 9th St.
7:40 am 1202 East Girard Avenue
7:41 am 1413 East Girard Avenue

Bus 11 Middle School Students
North of Highway 92, East of Highway 65/69
7:34 am 704 North 8th Street
7:36 am 603 East Kentucky Avenue
7:37 am 1214 North 7th Street
7:39 am 1004 East Lincoln Avenue
7:40 am 1106 North 9th Street

Bus 23 Middle School & High School Students
West of Highway 65/69 and North of Highway 92
7:36 am 2017 Country Club Road
7:37 am 1811 Country Club Road
7:38 am 1409 Country Club Road
7:39 am 1301 Country Club Road
7:40 am 1103 Country Club Road

Bus 28 Middle School & High School Students
West of Highway 65/69 and North of Highway 92
7:04 am 104 West Clinton Avenue
7:05 am Southwest Side of Irving on Clinton
7:07 am 806 West Clinton Avenue
7:09 am 1006 West Clinton Avenue
7:11 am 1208 West Clinton Avenue
7:13 am 1512 West Clinton Avenue
7:15 am 505 North Kenwood Blvd.

7:19 am 1407 West Euclid Avenue
7:23 am West Euclid (Near North I Street)
7:25 am 905 North C Street
7:26 am 807 North Buxton Street
7:28 am 106 West Franklin Avenue

Bus 10 All Grades
South of Highway 92 and West of Highway 65/69
7:29 am 110th Ave & West 10th Ave
7:35 am 1003 West 12th Ave
7:35 am 1008 West 12th Ave
7:36 am 1202 South G Street
7:37 am 1105 South G Street
7:38 am 508 South G Street

Bus 5 Middle School Students
North of Highway 92, East of Highway 65/69
7:41 am 305 North 15th Street 7:42 am N. 15th Street (Bike Trail)

Bus 24 Middle School Students
North of Highway 92, East of Highway 65/69
7:40 am 1209 East Euclid Ave. 7:41 am 1316 East Euclid Ave.

Bus 22 Middle School & High School Students
West of Highway 65/69 and North of Highway 92
7:18 am 804 North U Street 7:20 am 803 North V Street
7:23 am 2012 West Euclid Ave 7:24 am 1900 West Euclid Ave
7:25 am 610 Brookwood Drive 7:27 am 1510 West Iowa Ave
7:29 am 1406 West Iowa Ave 7:30 am 1112 Ann Parkway
7:31 am 1011 Carolyn Terrace 7:34 am 1205 Stephen Court

Bus 26 Middle School & High School Students
West of Highway 65/69 and North of Highway 92
7:27 am West Hillcrest & N Apple 7:29 am 1805 N Apple Dr
7:30 am 1606 North Apple Drive 7:31 am 210 W Orchard Ave
7:33 am 1501 North C Street 7:34 am N "C" St. between
Madison & West Lincoln
7:35 am 206 West Kentucky Ave 7:37 am 1306 N. Apple Dr
7:38 am 1406 N Apple Dr. 7:39 am 1506 N. Apple Dr.

Bus 4 Middle School & High School Students
West of Highway 65/69 and North of Highway 92
7:11 am 305 West Salem Avenue 7:13 am 506 West Salem Avenue
7:15 am 708 West Salem Avenue 7:16 am 806 West Salem Avenue
7:18 am West Salem between H & J Streets
7:20 am North J Street (Dennis Park Apartments)
7:23 am 302 South P Street 7:25 am 1612 West Salem Avenue
7:27 am 302 South Kenwood Blvd

Bus 25 Middle School & High School Students
South of Highway 92 & West of Highway 65/69
7:34 am South R Street between West 4th & West 5th
7:35 am 1801 West 5th Ave. 7:36 am 1609 West 5th Ave.
7:37 am 609 South N Street
7:39 am West 3rd Avenue (Foxwood Apartments)

Bus 16 Middle School & High School Students
West of 65/60 and South of Highway 92
7:36 am 706 West 4th Ave. 7:37 am 506 West 4th Ave.
7:39 am South Park @ W 4th Ave
7:40 am 107 West 4th Ave. 7:42 Barker Park/E 4th

Bus 28 Whittier Students
East of Highway 65/69 & South of Highway 92
7:48 am 104 East 4th Street

Bus 14 All Grades**South of Highway 92 and West of Highway 65/69**

7:35 am South Apartments on South "R" Street
 7:36 am Cart Path on South R Street
 7:37 am West 13th Ave. East of S. "R" St. (Gravel Drive)
 7:38 am 1312 South "O" Street

Bus 7 All Grades**South of Highway 92 & West of Highway 65/69**

7:30 am 409 West 18th
 7:31 am 507 West 17th
 7:32 am 501 West 17th
 7:33 am 307 West 17th
 7:34 am North American Trailer Park Entrance

Bus 6 All Grades**South of Highway 92 & East of Highway 65/69**

7:34 am 1205 South 3rd
 7:35 am 1210 South 4th

Bus 21 All Grades**South of Highway 92 and East of Highway 65/69**

7:30 am 1514 South 3rd
 7:30 am 1504 South 3rd

Bus 6 HS Students**South of Highway 92 and East of Highway 65/69**

7:40 am 409 East 4th Avenue 7:41 am 304 South 4th

Bus 28 Whittier Students**West of Highway 65/69 & South of Highway 92**

7:51 am Foxwood Apartments West 3rd Avenue

Bus 22 Wilder Students**West of Highway 65/69 North of Iowa**

7:29 am 1406 West Iowa Avenue

Bus 28 Irving Students**East Highway 65/69 North of Highway 92**

7:45 am Emerson (SE Corner of Building)

Bus 28 Irving Students**West of Highway 65/69 and South of Highway 92**

7:48 am 104 East 4th Avenue 7:49 am 406 West 4th Avenue
 7:50 am 706 West 4th Avenue 7:54 am 1609 West 5th Avenue
 7:55 am 1908 West 5th Avenue

Bus 28 Irving Students**West of Highway 65/69 & North of Highway 92**

8:00 am Whittier Main Doors

Bus 4 Wilder Students**South of Highway 92 & West Highway 65/69**

7:45 am 406 South 4th Street 7:47 am Barker Park (South Side)
 7:49 am 107 West 4th Avenue 7:50 am W 4th Ave. at South Park
 7:51 am 510 West 4th Avenue 7:52 am 706 West 4th Avenue
 7:56 am S "R" St. between W 4th & West 5th Ave.
 7:58 am 1609 West 5th Avenue 8:00 am 1801 West 5th Avenue

SHUTTLES FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL TO/FROM ELEMENTARY CENTERS:

Emerson	Bus 5	Regular Route Students and riders from buses 13 & 17
	Bus 24	Regular Route Students and riders from buses 11, 26 & 31
Irving	Bus 10	Regular Route Students and grades K, 1 & 2 (adult rider 22)
	Bus 21	Regular Route Students and grades 3, 4 & 5 (adult rider 16)
Whittier	Bus 9	Regular Route Students and riders from buses 21 & 23
	Bus 31	Regular Route Students and riders from buses 26 & 27
Wilder	Bus 3	Regular Route Students and riders from bus 13 (adult rider 13)
	Bus 7	Regular Route Students and riders from buses 17 & 21 (adult rider 17)
	Bus 6	Regular Route Students and riders from buses 16, 22, 23 & 25 (adult rider 25)
	Bus 19	Regular Route Students and riders from bus 14 (adult rider 14)

AFTERNOON BUSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Bus 23 Regular Route Riders and 11th & 12th graders (Shuttles to Middle School)
 11 Regular Route Riders and 9th & 10th graders (Shuttles to Middle School)
 22 Regular Route Riders (Bus will arrive 3:30pm)
 28 Regular Route Riders (Bus will arrive 3:20pm)
 4 Regular Route Riders (Bus will arrive 3:20pm)

High School Students will be **denied** transportation if they cross Highway 92 to meet a bus at the Middle School. The east side of the Middle School is a transfer point only for Elementary & High School students. Elementary students can only be picked up or dropped off at their attendance center.

AFTERNOON BUSES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Buses facing North: 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 22, 23, 25, 26
 Buses facing South: 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 19, 21, 24, 31
 Late Buses: 4 & 28

All routes and stops are subject to change.



Back to School

YRE Calendar First Semester

July 15	First Day of School
August 24/25	No School/Prof. Dev.
September 7	No School/Labor Day
September 16	11:30 Dismissal/Prof. Dev.
September 18	End of First Quarter
Sept 21—Oct 9	No School/Intercession
October 12	No School/Prof. Dev.
October 13	Classes Resume
October 28	11:30 Dismissal/Prof. Dev.
November 9	1:30 Dismissal/Conferences
November 12	No School/Conferences/ Prof. Dev.
November 13	No School
November 25	1 Hour Early Dismissal
November 26/27	No School/Thanksgiving
December 9	11:30 Dismissal/Prof. Dev.
December 15	End of Semester
Dec 16-Jan 1	No School/Winter Break
January 4	Classes Resume

Important Dates...

First Day of School

Year-Round Education.....	July 15
Traditional Calendar.....	August 26

Open Houses

Preschool

Emerson	6:00-7:00 PM	September 3
Whittier	6:00-7:00 PM	September 3
Wilder	6:00-7:00 PM	September 3

Elementary

<i>Year-Round (Irving)</i>	6:00-7:00 PM	July 14
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Traditional

Emerson	6:00-7:00 PM	August 25
Whittier	6:00-7:00 PM	August 25
Wilder	6:00-7:00 PM	August 25

Middle School

6th Grade Orientation

Discovery Team	6:00-7:00 PM	
Legacy Team	7:00-8:00 PM	August 24

7th & 8th Grades	6:00-7:00 PM	September 3
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High School

9th Grade Orientation (Auditorium)	7:00-8:00 PM	August 18
9th-12th Grades	6:00-7:00PM	August 25

Traditional Calendar First Semester

August 26	First Day of School
September 7	No School/Labor Day
September 16	11:30 Dismissal/Prof. Dev.
October 12	No School/Prof. Dev.
October 28	11:30 Dismissal/Prof. Dev.
October 30	End of First Quarter
November 12	1:30 Dismissal/Conferences
November 13	No School/Conf./Prof. Dev.
November 25	1 Hour Early Dismissal
November 26/27	No School/Thanksgiving
December 9	11:30 Dismissal/Prof. Dev.
Dec 21-Jan1	No School/Winter Break
January 4	Classes Resume



Proud Traditions...
Unlimited Possibilities

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Enrollment Information for the Indianola School District

In March of 2006, DLR Group presented a Long Range Facility Plan for the district, which included looking at several different enrollment projections. The potential for enrollment growth was evaluated from several different perspectives including:

- State of Iowa Department of Education Enrollment Projections
- Housing starts in the City of Indianola (3 year trend)
- Potential housing starts – City of Indianola platted lots
- Potential housing starts – City of Indianola long-range plan
- School enrollment as a percentage of city population

The list below shows the district's enrollment trends over the past five years. Although the district is planning for steady increased enrollment over the next 15 to 20 years, the district may occasionally experience a slight decline similar to the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years (3,322 to 3,312 students). A smaller than normal kindergarten class is anticipated for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year which will impact the total enrollment for K-12. More accurate enrollment information will be available later in the fall.

2003-04	3,175 students
2004-05	3,215 students
2005-06	3,268 students
2006-07	3,322 students
2007-08	3,312 students
2008-09	3,413 students
2009-10	???? students



A-H1N1 Flu Virus Update

The upcoming 2009-10 school year will soon begin and the A-H1N1 Influenza will once again receive considerable attention across the country and in the State of Iowa. At this point, it is unknown if the virus will become a problem or not. It seemed important and timely that we give you the following information before school begins.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF THEY EXHIBIT THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:

The symptoms of Influenza A-H1N1 are similar to those of other seasonal flu's and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting. In the past, pneumonia, respiratory failure and even death have been reported with various strains of influenza. Like seasonal flu, A-H1N1 flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.

HOW IT IS SPREAD:

Influenza A-H1N1 is spread from person to person through coughing, sneezing, or touching something infected with the virus and then touching the mouth or nose. Infected people may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to 7 days after. *(continued on page 7)*



Gifted and Talented

The Indianola Community School District's gifted and talented program was reviewed last year with the assistance of Mary Schmidt, a consultant from Heartland AEA. The following information will explain the updated services provided our gifted students.

What does it look like?

The Indianola Community Schools offers a comprehensive program for gifted learners that:

- Provides appropriately differentiated instruction responsive to students' abilities and learning needs
- Helps students reach maximum potential to achieve personal success
- Provides a continuum of program service options
- Addresses the social and emotional needs of diverse gifted students
- Supports an educational environment that challenges gifted learners and enables students to perform at levels of excellence
- Aids the development of self-directed learners

(continued on page 7)

Gifted and Talented (continued from page 6)

How do teachers of the gifted work together with peers?

Teachers work collaboratively to coordinate programs, field experiences, presentations and interdisciplinary planning for students. The gifted resource teacher's responsibilities include resource and leadership duties, as well as services to students. The gifted resource teacher may work face-to-face with students or work with classroom teachers, other school personnel, or organizations to facilitate direct services. Demonstration teaching, collegial sharing, collaborative planning, peer coaching, and providing staff development opportunities create the essential link of the gifted resource teacher to the classroom teachers. Communicating the needs of gifted learners, as well as the choices available to these students, is an integral function of the gifted resource teacher.

How are gifted services structured?

At the elementary level students are cluster grouped throughout the grade level. Some students may be grade level accelerated and some students may be subject accelerated in reading and/or math. There is also opportunity for pull out instruction with the Gifted and Talented teacher in grade 3-5 to work on presentations, novel units, enrichment activities, community service projects, and field trips.

At the middle school level, students may be grade level accelerated, subject accelerated in math, or cluster grouped throughout language arts classes.

At the high school level, students may be subject accelerated or provided additional opportunities for learning through post-secondary schools.



How do parents stay involved?

The Indianola Community Schools has a Gifted and Talented Advisory Group that is made up of parents, teachers, and administrators that meet once or twice a year. The purpose of the advisory is to share information about all the aspects of programs and services provided to Gifted and Talented students, to keep updated on current issues and research regarding Gifted and Talented students and programming, and to allow parents and community members the opportunity to share input and make recommendations about program operations. If you are interested in being a part of the advisory group please contact Amy Jo Naughton, Irving Elementary Principal, at amyjo.naughton@indianola.k12.ia.us.

Flu Virus Update (continued from page 6)

PREVENTION:

1. **WASH YOUR HANDS, WASH YOUR HANDS, WASH YOUR HANDS!!!**
2. Avoid contact with ill persons.
3. Try to stay in good general health.
4. Get plenty of sleep.
5. Drink plenty of fluids and eat healthy food (fruits, vegetables etc.).
6. Try not to touch surfaces that may be contaminated.
7. When you have been in public, wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, using soap and warm water and massaging your hands for at least 15-20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers and massage your hands until dry.



WHEN ILL:

1. **STAY HOME! DO NOT GO TO SCHOOL, WORK OR TRAVEL UNTIL SYMPTOMS ARE GONE.**
2. Avoid contact with other people as much as possible to keep from spreading your illness to others.
3. Phone your doctor if you suspect you may have the flu. **Do not go to the doctor's office** and risk exposing others. Your doctor will determine whether influenza testing or treatment is needed.

Indianola Community Schools
1304 East Second Avenue
Indianola, IA 50125

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID INDIANOLA, IA 50125
PERMIT NO. 155

ECR WSS
Postal Customer
Indianola, Iowa 50125

COMMUNITY

Indianola School District Needs Assessment

The Indianola School District will be conducting a district needs assessment later this fall. District residents will be asked to complete a survey. The results of the survey will help guide district efforts and facilitate improvement for the years to come.

School Improvement Advisory Council

The Indianola school district is looking for parents, students, teachers, local business, industry and labor representatives to serve on the district's School Improvement Advisory Council. This council will be looking at major educational needs in the district, student learning goals and long-range state indicators that address reading, math and science achievement. The recommendations from this committee are then directed to our board of education. The meetings for this year will be on the 3rd Monday of the month. The first meeting on the year will be on Monday, September 21 at 7:00 pm in the district board room. If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact Cindy Slauson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, at our district office: 961-9500. To continue our proud traditions here in Indianola we need your help. Please consider being part of this dedicated team.



Non-Discrimination Policy

Students, parents, employees and others doing business with or performing services for the Indianola Community School District are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of age (except students), race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, creed or marital status in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities.

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of age (except students), race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, creed or marital status in admission or access to, or treatment in, its hiring and employment practices. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), § 504 or Iowa Code § 280.3 is directed to contact: 504 Coordinator Indianola Community School District 1304 East 2nd Avenue Indianola, IA 50125 515 961-9500 who has been designated by the school district to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the ADA, § 504 and Iowa Code 280.3 (2007).