



2021-2022

# DIRECTORY OF SERVICES



Prairie  
Lakes  
Area Education Agency

# PLAEA Calendar

■ Holidays

■ Office Closed

■ Licensed Staff Holidays

## July 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## August 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## September 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## October 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## November 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## December 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## January 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## February 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

## March 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## April 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## May 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## June 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



**Prairie  
Lakes**  
Area Education Agency

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## Welcome to Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency

Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency (PLAEA) serves educators, families and the communities as we work toward one ultimate goal - to improve student learning. Prairie Lakes AEA provides support in the areas of special education, educational services, media and technology.

## What is an AEA?

Prairie Lakes AEA is one of nine Area Education Agencies in Iowa. Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs) were created in 1974 by the Iowa legislature to ensure that all Iowa children have equal opportunity for an exceptional education. AEAs remain responsible in ensuring that all children with disabilities receive the assistance they need to be successful. Support to local schools is provided through three service areas: Educational Services, Media Services and Special Education Services. Area Education Agencies are funded from federal and state aid payments; legislatively controlled property tax; federal, state and private grants; and tuition from classes.

At Prairie Lakes AEA, a seven-member board of directors is elected by local school boards to govern budget decisions. The chief administrator handles the daily operations of the agency's service areas in partnership with agency and regional administrators.

## Who does Prairie Lakes AEA serve?

30,000 students

11 accredited, non-public  
school districts

3,000 administrators & educators

14 counties covering over  
8,000 square miles

39 public school districts

4,600 students & families  
with IEP/IFSP



## Who We Serve

- Albert City-Truesdale
- Algona
- Alta-Aurelia
- Bishop Garrigan
- Clay Central/Everly
- Community Christian
- Eagle Grove
- East Sac County
- Emmetsburg
- Emmetsburg Catholic
- Estherville Lincoln Central
- Fort Dodge
- Gilmore City-Bradgate
- Graettinger-Terril
- Greene County
- Harris-Lake Park
- Humboldt
- Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran
- Laurens-Marathon
- LuVerne
- Manson Northwest Webster
- Newell-Fonda
- North Kossuth
- North Union
- Okoboji
- Paton-Churdan
- Pocahontas
- Prairie Valley
- Ruthven-Ayrshire
- Sacred Heart-Spencer
- Sioux Central
- South Central Calhoun
- South Hamilton
- Southeast Webster-Grand
- Spencer
- Spirit Lake
- Storm Lake
- St. Edmond
- St. Mary's-Humboldt
- St. Mary's-Storm Lake
- St Paul Lutheran
- St. Thomas Aquinas
- Stratford
- Twin Rivers
- Webster City
- West Bend-Mallard

## PLAEA Offices

All offices can be reached by calling 866-540-3858.

### Algona Office

116 South Thorington  
Algona 50511  
Route 3 Bldg 189  
Fax: 515-295-3548

### Jefferson Office

118 E State Street  
Jefferson 50129  
Route 2 Bldg 127  
Fax: 515-386-3109

### Spencer Office

23 East 7th Street  
Spencer 51301  
Route 4 Bldg 220  
Fax: 712-262-5114

### Estherville Office

14 South 6th Street  
Estherville 51334  
Route 3 Bldg 171  
Fax: 712-362-5395

### Pocahontas Office

500 Northeast 6th Street  
Pocahontas 50574  
Route 7 Bldg 97  
Fax: 712-335-5871

### Media Services

Fax: 712-335-5870  
Lending Library:  
712-335-6005  
800-594-9494  
Creative Services:  
712-335-6017  
Graphics:  
712-335-6015

### Storm Lake Office

824 Flindt Drive Suite 105  
Storm Lake 50588  
Route 1 Bldg 117  
Fax: 712-732-7654

### Fort Dodge Office

1235 5th Avenue South  
Fort Dodge 50501  
Route 2 Bldg 101  
Fax: 515-574-5508

### Webster City Office

825 Beach Street  
Webster City 50595  
Route 5 Bldg 126  
Fax: 515-832-5365



## Staff Listed by Category

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Chief Administrator

Dr. Susie Meade

#### Chief Financial Officer (CFO)/

#### Board Secretary

Michelle Dowd

#### Director of Special Education

Kris Ahrens

#### Director of Education & Media Services

Dr. Lisa Hartman

#### Director of Marketing & Communications

Connie Johnson

#### Regional Administrators (RA)

Molly Elston

Valerie Jergens

Jennifer Peter

Jennifer Sammons

Marta Sandoval

Chris Wells

### BEHAVIOR

#### *Coletta Jaeger, Department Chair*

#### Behavior Strategist

Lyndsey Johnson

#### Challenging Behavior/Autism

Rose Terrell-Cartee

Jennifer Zolicoffer

#### School Psychologists

Deb Hamm

Lauren Leonard

Jalissa Long

Jean Mohr

Cassidy Remsburg

Sharon Richardson

Travis Schlenger

Denise Schwery

Joni Trammell

Jennifer Traub

#### School Social Workers

Beth Borchardt

Christie Cuttell

Mary Dunlay

Susan Fairweather

Joan Hansen

Kris Manteufel

Julie Nadrchal

Kayti Pohlman

Laura Reinders

Anna Saunders

Mary Kay Sharkey

Lindsay Smith

Anna Speers

Jessica Ulrich



### BUSINESS OFFICE

#### Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Michelle Dowd

#### Associate Financial Officer

Josh Bader

#### Payroll/Benefit Specialist

Brenda Hebert

### CREATIVE SERVICES

#### Chief Printer

Jenifer Krischel

#### Graphic Artist

Kimberly Geisler

#### Media Specialist I

Jackie Boysen





## EARLY ACCESS

**Jessica Hawkins, Department Chair**

### **Audiologists**

Michelle Conrad  
Shannon DeMoss  
Angela Harvey  
Maureen Salinas

### **Early ACCESS Service Coordinators**

Patricia Burma  
Cassady Peterson

### **Early ACCESS Regional Liaison**

Jessica Hawkins

### **Service Coordinators & Teachers**

Debra Bennett  
Summer Boes  
Gretchen Brown  
Erin Christensen  
Amanda DeLancey  
Lynn Eby  
Jessica Hawkins  
Nicole Hinrichs  
Melissa Lamaak  
Denise Lundell  
Alicia Pauley  
Gale Randall  
Jane Thilges  
Stacey Wardell  
Lynn Weringa  
**Occupational Therapists (OT)**  
Erin Handeland  
Cari Hepperle  
Joanna Lange  
Nicole Peter  
Martha Poland  
Briana Swanson  
Teresa Teague  
Angela Vogel

### **Physical Therapists (PT)**

Dawn Higgins  
Kelly Mills  
Katie Nelson  
Jennifer Woodruff  
Pearl Wuebker

### **Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)**

Amy Profit

### **Speech Language Pathologists (SLP)**

Laurel Bezoni  
Tracey Carlson  
Jaquelyn Frayne  
Kimberly Johnson  
Claire King  
Sheila King  
Sally Legleiter  
Andrea Leistikow  
Allyson Leners  
Laura Lucchesi  
Amy Peterson  
Susan Rasmussen  
Lisa Richter  
Melissa Smith  
Amy Thompson  
Jodi Ward

**Early**  
**ACCESS**  
for infants, toddlers and families

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTANTS (ECSE)

Summer Boes  
Gretchen Brown  
Erin Christensen  
Lynn Eby  
Melissa Lamaak

Nicole Hinrichs  
Katie Kauffman  
Denise Lundell  
Kelly Olson  
Gale Randall

Deb Shelton  
Jane Thilges  
Stacy Wardell  
Lynn Weringa



## FAMILY & EDUCATOR PARTNERSHIP (FEP)

### **Family and Education Partner**

Deborah Betz  
McKaylee Heuton

### **Family Educator Program Coordinator**

Deb Shelton

## HEARING

### ***Maureen Salinas, Department Chair***

#### **Audiologists**

Michelle Conrad  
Shannon DeMoss  
Angela Harvey  
Maureen Salinas

#### **Audiometrists**

Nichole Gustafson  
Jill Heinen  
Teresa Laufersweiler  
Patricia Meyer  
Julie Steinhoff  
Tori Woiwood

#### **Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Nancy Schofield  
Becky Singer

## HOME SCHOOLING/PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

Brenda Prentice

## HOMELESS LIAISON

Chris Wells







## JUVENILE SHELTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### **Forest Ridge Youth Shelter (Gruver)**

Brenda Kulow, Teacher  
TBD, Teacher  
Steve Watkins, Paraprofessional

### **Prison & Youth Shelter Care (Fort Dodge)**

Derek Guddall, Teacher  
**Youth Shelter Care (Fort Dodge)**  
Maria Weydert, Teacher  
Patty Harp, Paraprofessional

## LAKES PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

### **Lead Teacher**

Brianne Goings

### **Behavior Interventionists**

Amy Baker  
Erin Pullen  
Kristy Riley

### **Behavior Programming Specialist**

Danielle Korthals

### **Special Education Teachers**

Victoria Bern  
Shelby Krause  
Felicia Rasmussen

### **Educational Paraprofessionals**

Jacquelyn Cosby  
Melissa Leer  
Sarah Mathews  
Lindsey Otis  
Serena Rustad  
Molly Swygman



## MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Jim Hebert



## MEDIA/LENDING LIBRARY

### **Supervisor Lending Library/Delivery**

Dr. Christine Sturgeon  
**Technology Innovation**  
Torrey Proctor  
**Media Specialist II**  
Laura DeWall

### **Media Specialist I**

Deb Severson  
**Van Drivers**  
Jeffrey Tuttle  
Dennis Ellwanger





## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT)**

### ***Cari Hepperle, Department Chair*** **Occupational Therapists**

Erin Handeland  
Cari Hepperle  
Joanna Lange  
Nicole Peter  
Martha Poland  
Briana Swanson  
Teresa Teague  
Angela Vogel

### **Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTAs)**

Kathy Behrens  
Roni Engeldinger  
Kathy Jo Kruse

## **PHYSICAL THERAPY (PT)**

### ***Jennifer Woodruff, Department Chair*** **Physical Therapists**

Dawn Higgins  
Kelly Mills  
Katie Nelson  
Jennifer Woodruff  
Pearl Wuebker

### **Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)** Amy Profit

## **PRESCHOOL**

Katie Kauffman  
Marcie Lentsch

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **License Renewal Coordinator**

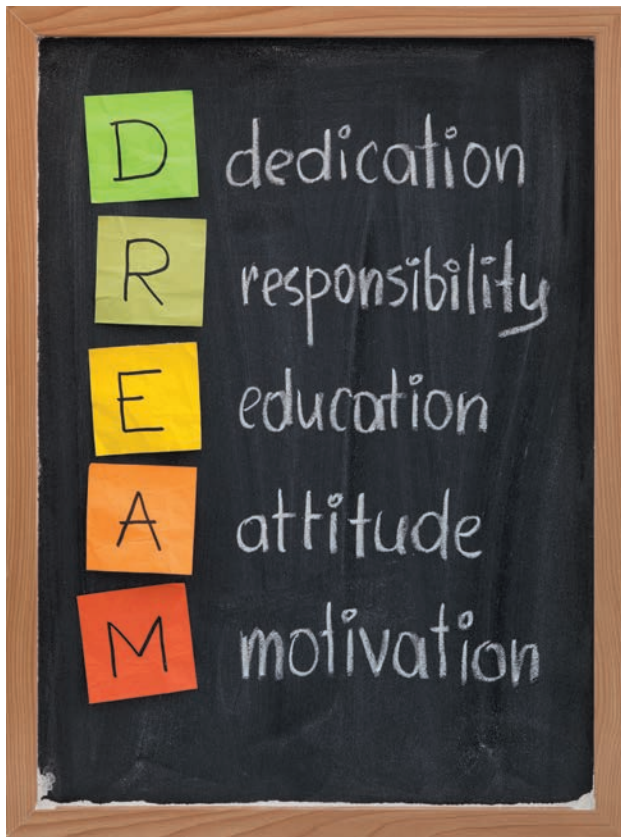
Linda Ankeny

### **License Renewal Specialist**

Carrie Guerin







## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FACILITATORS (SIF)

Maurita Aubrey  
 Kerrie Baish  
 Lori Beltran  
 Gina Blomberg  
 Hope Brown  
 Tricia Christopher  
 Tabitha DeMey  
 Brandi Glanzer  
 Julie Graber  
 Tiffany Hoogestraat  
 Annette Louk  
 Donna McClain  
 Sarah Nachazel  
 Glenda Paulson  
 Jill Siefken  
 Jill Sundblad



## SECRETARIAL STAFF

### **Administrative Assistants**

Michealeen Friesner  
 Brenda Prentice

### **Communication Specialist**

Deb Gade

### **Information Management**

### **System Operator**

Tonia Hoch

### **Secretaries**

Shawna Badenhurst  
 Nikole Bennett  
 Sue Berberich  
 Shannon Hagen  
 Ashlie Jergens  
 Monique Jones  
 Keri Ryherd  
 Tera Shatto





## SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (SEBH)

### **Social Emotional Behavior Health Coordinator**

Courtney Cook

### **School Psychologist**

Melissa Wurth

### **Social Emotional Behavior Health Consultants**

Kim Bodholdt

Marni Moody



## SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTING

### ***Haley Offerman - Department Chair*** **Special Education Consultants**

Gloria Bartelt

Stacy Bezoni

Kathy Broek

Amy Champagne

Dave Cole

Cathy Frohardt

Valerie Harmon

Sara Koenecke

Tiffany Lammers

Tammy McKimmey

Julie Meyer

Miranda Miller

Rachel Montag

Haley Offerman

Kim Peterson

Jennifer Prentice

Kristine Randell

LuAnn Slayton

Karen Thilges

Karen Waid

Jennifer Wilson

### **Academic Strategists**

Annette Benedict

Erica Boettcher

Pamela Borkowski

Tracie Engelby

Jennifer Lyman

Erika Higgins

Jeannie Shimon

Jennifer Stattelmann

## SPECIALITY SERVICES

### **Your School Improvement Facilitator can help guide you to these resources:**

Coaching

Computer Science

Data & Assessment

English Learners (Title 3)

Literacy

Math

Postsecondary Readiness/Future Ready

Professional Learning

Science

Social Studies

Technology Integration





## **SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY**

### ***Margo Kitzrow, Department Chair*** **Speech-Language Pathologists**

Morgan Aden  
Kori Assman  
Yvette Bardole  
Laurel Benzoni  
Diane Capesius  
Tracey Carlson  
Heather Carr  
Chad Cook  
Kendall Deitering  
Jacque Frayne  
Emily Frostestad  
Elsa Hall  
Maddi Heun  
Tina Hoben  
Kim Johnson  
Claire King  
Sheila King  
Kathline Kitterman  
Margo Kitzrow  
Nicole Kohfmehl  
Sally Legleiter  
Addy Leistikow  
Ally Leners  
Angie Lockey

Laura Lucchesi  
Katie McClurg  
Jackie Ohl  
Katy Peart  
Amy Peterson  
Susan Rasmussen  
Lisa Richter  
Julie Schubert  
Missy Smith  
Amy Thompson  
Julie Tolliver  
Jodi Ward  
Joy Weier  
Jessica Wright  
Tim Youngdahl  
Emily Wicker  
Jacey Zangerle

### **Communication Paraprofessionals**

Tracy Baak  
Andrea Bollenbaugh  
Carrie Buddenhagen  
Lori Caron  
Chris Connell  
Patricia Stauter  
Melissa Thilges







### TALENTED & GIFTED

Dr. Christine Sturgeon

### TRANSITION

Tammy McKimmey  
Laura Reinders

### TECHNOLOGY

#### **Assistive Technology Coordinator**

Tiffanie Zaugg

#### **External Technology**

Scott Fosseen, Systems Engineer

Jason Kehoe, Network Engineer

Matthew Foley, School Technology Technician

#### **Internal Technology**

Mike Schmidt, Network Administrator

Scott Boughey, Computer/Network Technician

Nic Schelle, Computer/Network Technician





## Theory of Action

If AEAs enrich instructional resources and system efficiencies in Iowa schools AND if AEAs work as a system to provide equity in Iowa schools AND if AEAs work in partnership with Iowa school staffs to implement authentic learning systems and learning environments that lift every child AND if AEAs provide professional learning supports that contribute to all Iowa children learning with highly skilled educators and leaders THEN all Iowa children and youth will thrive and be prepared for a life well-lived.

### Mission

To ensure equitable, efficient, and effective educational services that prepare all Iowa children for a life well-lived.

### Key Partners

Children, Families, and Educators

### Core Values

AEA staff are committed to being Caring Partners that deliver Accountable Services

#### **Caring Partners:**

- Establish collaborative relationships with clients through frequent interactions, careful listening, and friendly, trustworthy behavior
- Are highly-skilled professionals who are cognizant of service outcomes and consistently use available information and data to make improvements
- Are creative in providing customized services that are responsive to client needs
- Clarify expectations and respond to concerns, comments, or complaints in a timely manner
- Treat all individuals respectfully

#### **Accountable Services:**

- Anticipate and respond to the needs, requirements, and expectations of clients
- Surpass the client's expectations
- Provide comprehensive, high-quality solutions (products, consultation, therapy, service, and/or support)
- Result in increased learning, professional capacity, and/or system effectiveness

### Essential Functions

Accelerate      Inspire      Innovate

### Strategic Directions

Increase well-being of students and staff  
Develop future ready students, families, and educators  
Synergize for equitable services without redundancies  
Clarify and unify PLAEA identity, value proposition, and communications  
Increase staff knowledge, capacities, and skills

## PLAEA Value Proposition Statements

### Superintendents and Administrators

As your PLAEA partner, we commit to:

- Develop strong relationships across your educational community through interactive conversations, innovative ideas, and collaborative solutions
- Provide timely, responsive, evidence-based, and quality direct support that matches your needs, the needs of your system, and families

### Teachers, Leadership Teams, and Staff

As your PLAEA partner, we commit to:

- Prepare children for school by supporting and coaching families on skill building and gap-closing for children from birth to age 3 with developmental delays
- Partner, consult, and coach with you in providing services to families and who have students ages 3 -21 to meet their individual special needs so they will be future ready
- Support you to build capacities and skills through timely training, development, and physical resources
- Collaborate skillfully within your problem-solving framework and processes so that students and families are best served

### Parents and Students

As your PLAEA partner, we commit to:

- Work alongside you in an individualized and personalized manner by listening, and aligning people and services to meet your child's academic, social/emotional/behavioral, and physical needs to overcome current challenges
- Build positive and valuable relationships with you to meet the needs of your unique child through timely access to quality resources, use of best practices, and professional guidance on state and federal regulations

### Impact and Influence

- Accountable, efficient, equitable and effective services throughout the system
- Clarity of roles and maximization of services through communication, partnerships, and action
- Support and caring of our school and community partners
- Orientation of new and current team members to the PLAEA Way as well as recruitment of future colleagues

## 2021-2022 School District Vacation Calendar

District	Start Date	Thanksgiving	Winter Break	Spring Break	Last Day
Albert City-Truesdale	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/15-4/18/22	5/19/22
Algona	8/23/21	11/24-11/25/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/15/22	5/24/22
Alta-Aurelia	8/23/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/22-1/2/22	4/14-4/18/22	5/25/22
Bishop Garrigan	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/15-4/18/22	5/18/22
Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	8/23/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/23-12/31/21	3/15-3/18/22	5/24/22
Clay Central/Everly	8/23/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/20-1/3/22	4/4-4/8/22	5/25/22
Community Christian	8/25/21	11/25-11/27/21	12/23-1/1/22	3/17-3/19/22	5/20/22
Eagle Grove	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-12/31/21	4/15-4/18/22	5/20/22
East Sac County	8/25/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/23-12/31/21	4/15-4/19/22	5/25/22
Emmetsburg	8/23/21	11/24-11/25/21	12/24-1/3/22	3/14-3/18/22	5/25/22
Emmetsburg Catholic	8/23/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	3/14-3/18/22	5/25/22
Estherville Lincoln Central	8/24/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/21-1/3/22	4/15-4/18/22	5/19/22
Fort Dodge	8/24/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/22-12/31/21	3/16-3/18/22	5/27/22
Gilmore City-Bradgate	8/23/21	11/24-11/25/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/14-4/18/22	5/20/22
Graettinger-Terril	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/15-4/18/22	5/19/22
Greene County	8/23/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/20-1/2/22	3/14-3/18/22	5/20/22
Harris-Lake Park	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/15-4/18/22	5/19/22
Humboldt	8/26/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/24-1/4/22	4/5/22	5/25/22
Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran	8/24/21	11/24-11/25/21	12/20-1/3/22	4/4-4/8/22	5/25/22
Laurens-Marathon	8/23/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/22-1/2/22	4/15-4/18/22	5/27/22
LuVerne	8/24/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	3/30-4/1/22	5/24/22
Manson Northwest Webster	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	3/16-3/18/22	5/25/22
Newell-Fonda	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/15-4/18/22	5/18/22
North Kossuth	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	3/18-3/21/22	5/19/22
North Union	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	3/18-3/21/22	5/19/22
Okoboji	8/24/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/22-12/31/21	3/14-3/15/22	5/20/22
Paton-Churdan	8/23/21	11/22-11/26/21	12/20-1/2/22	3/14-3/18/22	5/27/22
Pocahontas	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/22-1/2/22	4/15-4/19/22	5/27/22
Sacred Heart-Spencer	8/23/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/20-1/3/22	4/4-4/8/22	5/25/22
St. Edmond	8/23/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/22-1/3/22	3/14-3/18/22	5/27/22
St. Mary's-Humboldt	8/25/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/15-4/18/22	5/25/22
St. Mary's-Storm Lake	8/24/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/14-4/18/22	5/18/22
St. Paul Lutheran	8/24/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/20-1/2/22	4/13-4/18/22	4/26/22
St. Thomas Aquinas	8/24/21	11/26-11/27/21	12/24-1/3/22	3/12-3/19/22	6/2/22
Schaller-Crestland	8/24/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	3/11-3/14/22	5/25/22
Sioux Central	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/15-4/18/22	5/19/22
South Central Calhoun	8/23/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/14-4/18/22	5/24/22
South Hamilton	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	3/14-3/18/22	5/25/22
Southeast Valley	8/25/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/14-4/18/22	5/26/22
Spencer	8/23/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/20-1/3/22	4/4-4/8/22	5/25/22
Spirit Lake	8/23/21	11/24-11/26/21	12/22-1/2/22	4/15-4/18/22	5/20/22
Storm Lake	8/25/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-12/31/21	4/14-4/18/22	5/19/22
Stratford	8/25/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	3/14-3/18/22	6/1/22
Twin Rivers	8/26/21	2/25-2/26/21	12/24-1/4/22	4/5/22	5/25/22
Webster City	8/25/21	11/25-11/26/21	12/23-1/3/22	3/14-3/18/22	6/1/22
West Bend-Mallard	8/23/21	11/24-11/25/21	12/23-1/3/22	4/14-4/18/22	5/20/22

# School Vacation Calendar



# Van Route Calendar

16

## 2021-2022 Van Route Calendar

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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26	27	28	29	30		



No Delivery Van Routes begin

If weather conditions prevent the PLAEA van from delivering on the scheduled delivery day, attempts will be made to deliver materials on the following day.

Rt. 1 ..... Regular Monday deliveries  
 Rt. 3 ..... Regular Wednesday deliveries  
 Rt. 2 ..... Regular Tuesday deliveries  
 Rt. 4 ..... Regular Thursday deliveries  
 Rt. 5 ..... Regular Friday deliveries

### Notes

Routes begin..... Week of August 16-20

No van delivery on..... September 6  
 ..... November 22-26  
 ..... December 22-31  
 ..... January 3-4  
 ..... April 15-18  
 ..... May 30

Tentative last deliveries..... Week of May 31-June 3

### Changes to regular route schedules:

Route 1 ..... September 6 to September 7  
 Route 5 ..... April 15 to April 14  
 Route 1 ..... April 18 to April 19  
 Route 1 ..... May 30 to May 31

*Van schedule subject to change.*

## Administrators



**Dr. Susie Meade**  
*Chief Administrator*  
smeade@plaea.org  
515-570-2601  
712-335-6040



**Michelle Dowd**  
*Chief Financial Officer/  
Board Secretary*  
mdowd@plaea.org  
515-705-7138



**Kris Ahrens**  
*Director of Special  
Education*  
kahrens@plaea.org  
515-606-7004



**Dr. Lisa Hartman**  
*Director of Education &  
Media Services*  
lhartman@plaea.org  
515-705-7188



**Connie Johnson**  
*Director of Communications  
& Marketing*  
cjohnson@plaea.org  
712-335-6044



**Prairie  
Lakes**  
Area Education Agency

## Regional Administrators

Serve as a resource to AEA staff, school administrators and school district staff on the collaborative problem solving process and AEA service delivery initiative. In addition, they provide guidance and best practice to meet the needs of districts, families, and students. Regional Administrators are your primary source for information about Prairie Lakes AEA services.



### Pocahontas

**Molly Elston**  
*Regional Administrator*  
melston@plaea.org  
712-458-7017



### Fort Dodge

**Valerie Jergens**  
*Regional Administrator*  
vjergens@plaea.org  
515-705-7196



### Jefferson/Webster City

**Jennifer Peter**  
*Regional Administrator*  
jpeter@plaea.org  
515-206-7107



### Storm Lake

**Jennifer Sammons**  
*Regional Administrator*  
jsammons@plaea.org  
712-458-7033



### Spencer

**Marta Sandoval**  
*Regional Administrator*  
msandoval@plaea.org  
712-458-7030



### Algona/Estherville

**Christine Wells**  
*Regional Administrator*  
cwells@plaea.org  
712-380-7777

# Board of Directors

A seven-member Board of Directors representing every school district that the agency serves governs Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency. The board represents the legal body that establishes educational policies and sets goals and objectives for the agency. These policies and goals are carried out by the chief administrator and staff under the board's direction.



## **District #1: Pat Brown, Vice President**

Districts represented: Estherville Lincoln Central, Graettinger-Terril, North Kossuth, North Union (partial), Okoboji and Spirit Lake.



## **District #2: Sue Brown, President**

Districts represented: Algona, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows, Emmetsburg, Humboldt, Luverne, North Union (partial).



## **District #3: Marti Bomgaars**

Districts represented: Albert City-Truesdale, Clay Central-Everly, Harris-Lake Park, Laurens-Marathon, Ruthven-Ayrshire, Sioux Central, Spencer, Twin Rivers and West Bend-Mallard.



## **District #4: Lori Baade**

Districts represented: Alta-Aurelia, Gilmore City-Bradgate, Newell-Fonda, Pocahontas Area, Schaller-Crestland and Storm Lake.



## **District #5: Janice Harbaugh**

Districts represented: East Sac County, Greene County, Manson Northwest Webster, Paton-Churdan, Prairie Valley, and South Central Calhoun.



## **District #6: Gary Astor**

District represented: Fort Dodge.



## **District #7: Todd Lundgren**

Districts represented: Eagle Grove, Fort Dodge (partial), South Hamilton, Southeast Webster-Grand, Stratford, Webster City.





## Key Contacts

*Leadership you can count on. Consultants you can turn to.*

### **Regional Administrator (RA)**

Your primary source for information about Prairie Lakes services is your district's Regional Administrator. Regional Administrators provide leadership and supervision to staff members assigned to a specific geographic region. In addition, they provide guidance and best practice to meet the needs of districts, families, and students. Your district's assigned Regional Administrator is the front line of communication between the agency and your district.

### **School Improvement Facilitator (SIF)**

The School Improvement Facilitator (SIF) provides a range of services to assigned school districts focused on a cycle of continuous improvement. A SIF will assist with identifying and implementing best practices, help school teams use qualitative and quantitative data to identify areas of strength and challenges, and use of continuous improvement tools to improve short and long-term outcomes.

### **Special Education Team Representatives**

Team representatives have expertise in assisting schools with behavioral and academic interventions, the development and implementation of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), as well as consultation and assessment for students who have school related learning, emotional, social, and behavioral concerns. Each school has assigned dyad partners with one having a focus on academics, and the other on behavior.

#### Academics

**Special Education Consultants and/or Academic Strategists** are essential team members in the child find process and play an important role during evaluations in determining eligibility for special education services. They collaborate with team members to complete evaluations such as diagnostic academic assessments. In addition, they analyze data to assist teams in the development of Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and appropriate goals.

#### Behavior

**School Psychologists and/or School Social Workers** are essential team members in the child find process and play an important role during evaluations in determining eligibility for special education services. They collaborate with team members to complete evaluations such as functional behavior assessments. In addition, they analyze data to assist teams in the development of intervention plans and individualized education plans with fidelity to improve social skills and appropriate behaviors.

## Directory of Services

### Agency Communication Channels

The Directory of Services section that follows showcases many of the services offered along with the contact for that service.

The agency has one toll-free number (866-540-3858) and all staff members can be dialed directly by using their extension number. Additionally, each staff member has an email address. The protocol is the first initial of the first name, the entire last name, followed by @pleae.org. For more information on agency staff, consult our online staff directory.

A weekly newsletter, Educator Connection, shares information, news, and resources. Because many people use social media as a source of communication, the agency also uses Facebook and Twitter to share that same news, information, and reminder of resources.



### Alternate Assessment

All students are expected to participate in district-wide assessments. Students with disabilities may participate without accommodations, with accommodations or through the state of Iowa Alternate Assessment. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team considers the characteristics of the student and the nature and purpose of the assessment to determine the participation option that is most appropriate.

*Tiffanie Zaugg*  
Assistive Technology Coordinator  
tzaugg@plaea.org

### Assistive Technology (AT)

Prairie Lakes AEA provides assistance to school personnel regarding assistive technology consultation, short-term AT equipment loan, and sources of funding for AT devices considered. Numerous pieces of equipment are available for preview and staff members are knowledgeable about using equipment in a variety of settings.

*Tiffanie Zaugg*  
Assistive Technology Coordinator  
tzaugg@plaea.org

### Audiology

Prairie Lakes AEA audiologists identify, evaluate, and provide educational services for hearing loss and auditory disorders in children from birth to 21 years of age. Audiologists provide identification, evaluation, and educational services. Hearing booths are located in Fort Dodge, Algona, Storm Lake, and Spencer.

*Maureen Salinas*  
Audiologist/Department Chair  
msalinas@plaea.org

### Challenging Behavior

Prairie Lakes AEA assists and supports local school-based teams in providing services to students whose behaviors significantly impact their own learning and the learning of other students when lower level interventions have not been effective. District staff should first work through their AEA building team and then if necessary send all referral information to the CBT members in their region. The referral form is available through your building/district's assigned behavior strategist. Your Regional Administrator can help guide you to the right resources for your district or school needs.

### Child Find

Child Find refers to the area education agencies' (AEAs) responsibility to ensure that students who are eligible for special education services are identified, evaluated, and provided with needed services. Prairie Lakes AEA staff members follow statewide procedures for Child Find. These procedures are documented in the statewide special education procedures manual which is updated annually.

*Kris Ahrens*  
Director of Special Education  
jahrens@plaea.org





## Assessment and Data Evaluation Services

Agency staff provide consultation on the analysis, construction, development, use, strengths, weaknesses and interpretation of multiple forms of assessment data. PLAEA staff are available to help districts set up leadership teams and learning teams for the purpose of promoting assessment literacy. Teams study strategies for developing a comprehensive, balanced and aligned assessment system. The four major areas include: formative assessment/instructional process, common classroom assessments, interim assessments and summative assessments. Teams studying assessment literacy will develop the tools they need to face current district, school and classroom assessment challenges.

*Maurita Aubrey*  
*School Improvement Facilitator*  
[maubrey@plaea.org](mailto:maubrey@plaea.org)

## Communications

The Prairie Lakes AEA Director of Marketing & Communications is available to provide internal and external communication planning and support for the agency, as well as local school districts served by the agency. Services include:

- Crisis Communication
- Consultation and Tools for Community Engagement
- Publications
- Bond/PPEL Campaigns
- News Media Relations
- Community Needs Assessments
- Communication Auditing (evaluation)
- Social Media Strategy

For more information, contact  
*Connie Johnson*  
*Director of Marketing & Communications*  
[cjohnson@plaea.org](mailto:cjohnson@plaea.org)

## Competent Private Instruction (CPI)

Families may choose to educate their children at home instead of sending them to a traditional public or nonpublic school. The Iowa Department of Education and the AEA cannot issue diplomas, and the district of residence may not be compelled to issue a diploma. The AEA does provide options for students being homeschooled to take annual standardized tests.

*Brenda Prentice*  
*Administrative Assistant to the*  
*Director of Special Education*  
[bprentice@plaea.org](mailto:bprentice@plaea.org)

## Content Area Specialties

Prairie Lakes AEA provides technical assistance to school districts, administrators, and teachers in the areas of:

- Computer Science
- Fine Arts
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Studies

Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.



# CREATIVE SERVICES

## Creative Services

Provides educators with high quality print, production and graphic art services. This includes graphic design, vinyl banners, posters, sensory mats, floor and wall decals, wall, window, & floor clings, magnets, color copies, and more!

Visit [aeacreativeservices.org](http://aeacreativeservices.org) to learn more.

Jenifer Krischel  
Chief Printer  
[jkrischel@plaea.org](mailto:jkrischel@plaea.org)

## Crisis Response Team

Prairie Lakes AEA provides a resource team that is trained to respond to traumatic events. The team includes school social workers, school psychologists and special education consultants, who will, upon request from the LEA, provide grief counseling and support to students and LEA staff in the wake of a crisis situation. The team provides immediate but brief support in an effort to enable those involved to effectively manage the crisis situation. Assistance may be in the form of counseling, communication and/or logistical support. The Crisis Response Team can be activated by contacting the Regional Administrator for your district.

## Curriculum

PLAEA hosts Curriculum WINNs (What I Need Network) in conjunction with the Heartland Curriculum Networks. Meetings start with statewide updates coordinated by Heartland AEA, with PLAEA-specific agenda items and networking opportunities follow this update. All networks will be hosted in Pocahontas at Prairie Lakes AEA Office.

Dr. Lisa Hartman  
Director of Education & Media Services  
[lhartman@plaea.org](mailto:lhartman@plaea.org)



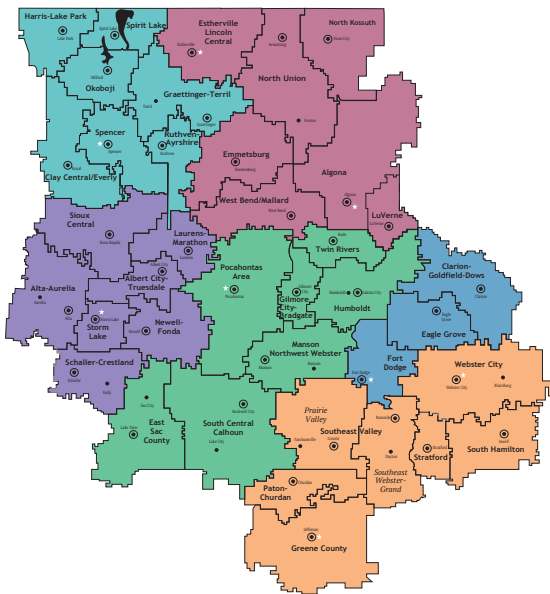
## Digital Resources

Prairie Lakes AEA provides area students and educators with no-cost access to 17 high-quality, vetted resources. You can access all of these resources easily through Classlink by going to [launchpad.classlink.com/plaea](http://launchpad.classlink.com/plaea) and signing in with your school Google account. For help using AEA digital resources, contact your district teacher librarian or

Dr. Christine Sturgeon  
Supervisor of Lending Library & Delivery  
[csturgeon@plaea.org](mailto:csturgeon@plaea.org)







## District Consolidation/ Reorganization

Iowa Code gives Iowa's Area Education Agencies a large amount of authority and responsibility for local school district reorganization. Although in most instances the final authority is up to the electorate, the AEAs have authority for specific decisions during the reorganization process and the responsibility for developing reorganization plans.

Dr. Susie Meade  
Chief Administrator  
[smeade@plaea.org](mailto:smeade@plaea.org)



## District Boundary Changes

Persons interested in information about school district boundaries or boundary changes should contact:

Dr. Susie Meade  
Chief Administrator  
[smeade@plaea.org](mailto:smeade@plaea.org)

## Dyslexia

Dyslexia is defined as "a specific and significant impairment in the development of reading, including but not limited to phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension that is not solely accounted for by intellectual disability, sensory disability or impairment or lack of appropriate instruction. Although Iowa's AEAs do not label children with a diagnosis of dyslexia, we do serve learners with dyslexia. Iowa's education system is focused on ensuring students are skilled readers and continues to provide teachers with professional development to support their repertoire and understanding of this condition.

Kerrie Baisch  
School Improvement Facilitator  
[kbaisch@plaea.org](mailto:kbaisch@plaea.org)

## Early ACCESS (Birth-age 3)

Prairie Lakes AEA staff work collaboratively to determine the needs of children and families, and to develop plans to address those needs in the home and other settings.

Jessica Hawkins  
Early ACCESS Department Chair  
[jhawkins@plaea.org](mailto:jhawkins@plaea.org)



## Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) (Ages 3-5)

Iowa's AEAs have the responsibility for identifying children with special needs. The AEA works closely with school districts to provide the services which children need once they turn 3 and are able to access education within the school setting.



### English Learners

Prairie Lakes AEA provides technical assistance to school districts, administrators, and teachers to aid in serving students with diverse learning needs. Supports include assisting districts in meeting state and federal guidelines, professional development and networking opportunities for educators, and connections to resources.

Glenda Paulson  
School Improvement Facilitator  
[gpaulson@plaea.org](mailto:gpaulson@plaea.org)

### Equity Education

Both federal and state laws require that there be no discrimination in educational programs or in school hiring practices on the basis of race, national origin, color, religion, creed, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and marital status. Persons inquiring about the agency's equity plan and/or policies should contact:

Valerie Jergens  
Regional Administrator  
[vjergens@plaea.org](mailto:vjergens@plaea.org)



### Family & Educator Partnership

The Family & Educator Partnership (FEP) is part of a statewide network of parents and educators working together to support educators and parents of children and young adults with special needs. The Family & Educator Partnership (FEP) works to develop and sustain partnerships between families, educators and community providers to promote success for all children and youth with disabilities.

Family & Educator Coordinators provide support, information and resources to families and educators in a variety of ways. Coordinators are also parents of children or young adults with special needs, so they share a unique perspective with families.

Services are provided at no cost and are based on eligibility and need.

Deb Betz  
Family & Educator Partner  
[dbetz@plaea.org](mailto:dbetz@plaea.org)

McKaylee Heuton  
Family & Educator Partner  
[mheuton@plaea.org](mailto:mheuton@plaea.org)

Deb Shelton  
Educator Partner  
[dshelton@plaea.org](mailto:dshelton@plaea.org)

### Independent Evaluations

Persons interested in more information about independent evaluations of children following a Prairie Lakes AEA full and individual evaluation should contact your district's Regional Administrator. Educators needing information about interpreters and translation services for special needs students should contact your district's Regional Administrator.



# Iowa Principal Leadership Academy

## Iowa Principal Leadership Academy

The Iowa Principal Leadership Academy (IPLA) provides a comprehensive framework for PK-12 principal certification in the state of Iowa and is licensed in other states on an individual basis. Requirement to enter the program is a master's degree and a minimum of four years of successful teaching experience. The program is a dynamic design based on six problem-centered learning themes, predominantly field-based, related to the Iowa Standards for School Leaders. Each theme includes seminars, action research studies, action plans, portfolios, log of activities, toolbox activities, study of theory and research, and mentoring. Students engage in cohort groups over a two-year period. Faculty of the program are selected primarily from practitioners with expertise in the selected areas. Participants show evidence to meet the standards and criteria of the Iowa Standards for School Leaders and acquire necessary skills to become instructional leaders. Prairie Lakes AEA and Keystone AEA are the partners of the IPLA.

*Dr. Susie Meade*  
Chief Administrator  
[smeade@plaea.org](mailto:smeade@plaea.org)



## Iowa Special Education Network

Monthly webinars are hosted by Iowa's Area Education Agencies and the Department of Education. This is an opportunity for district Special Education Directors to connect and collaborate with AEA and other District Special Education Directors from across Iowa.

*Kris Ahrens*  
Director of Special Education  
[kahrens@plaea.org](mailto:kahrens@plaea.org)

## Leadership Network

District administrators are invited to a monthly meeting where they support each other in gaining leadership experiences that are critical components of the entire improvement effort of a school district. The new Iowa Standards for School Leaders frame the content of the networks to connect the important work principals do everyday ensuring the achievement and well-being of each student. The learning incorporates resources that align with specific standards and provides principals an opportunity to share their experiences and resources in support of other principals in solving problems of practice.

*Dr. Lisa Hartman*  
Director of Education & Media Services  
[lhartman@plaea.org](mailto:lhartman@plaea.org)





## Leadership Services

Educational research indicates the most effective resource for student achievement in the teacher in the classroom, followed closely by the second most effective resource, leadership. Based on the importance of leadership and its effect on student achievement, Prairie Lakes AEA is committed to providing quality leadership services that will help all administrators improve their leadership skills and transfer to the ever-changing educational setting in which we work.

*Dr. Susie Meade*  
Chief Administrator  
[smeade@plaea.org](mailto:smeade@plaea.org)



## Legislation

Information on pending legislation and the legislative process is available during the legislative session. Updates and information will flow to district superintendents from the chief administrator.

*Dr. Susie Meade*  
Chief Administrator  
[smeade@plaea.org](mailto:smeade@plaea.org)



## Lending Library/Media

The Lending Library at Prairie Lakes AEA boasts an extensive collection of instructional materials to support you in the classroom. The collection includes K-12 books, technology items, professional books, educational DVDs, Classic and Digital StarLabs, RealCare Babies® and much more. Access the Lending Library's catalog as well as 17 digital resources like BookFlix and PearDeck easily by going to [launchpad.classlink.com/plaea](http://launchpad.classlink.com/plaea) and signing in with your school Google account.

Consultation services are also available to support teachers in improving a school or classroom library collection, teaching digital citizenship, and empowering student creation.

*Dr. Christine Sturgeon*  
Supervisor of Lending Library & Delivery  
[csturgeon@plaea.org](mailto:csturgeon@plaea.org)

## Legal Issues in Special Education

Persons needing guidance and interpretation of legal matters in special education may contact:

*Kris Ahrens*  
Director of Special Education  
[kahrens@plaea.org](mailto:kahrens@plaea.org)





## Mediation

AEA mediation is a statewide mediation and conflict resolution process available through each of Iowa's nine Area Education Agencies). Each AEA has a designated person (or persons) known as the AEA Mediation Coordinator. The major goal of the AEA mediation is to have an option available to help resolve differences at the earliest possible time. Another goal is to have individuals receive mediation training so that individuals will enhance their skills to address differences and meaningfully resolve conflicts in a collaborative manner.

Kris Ahrens

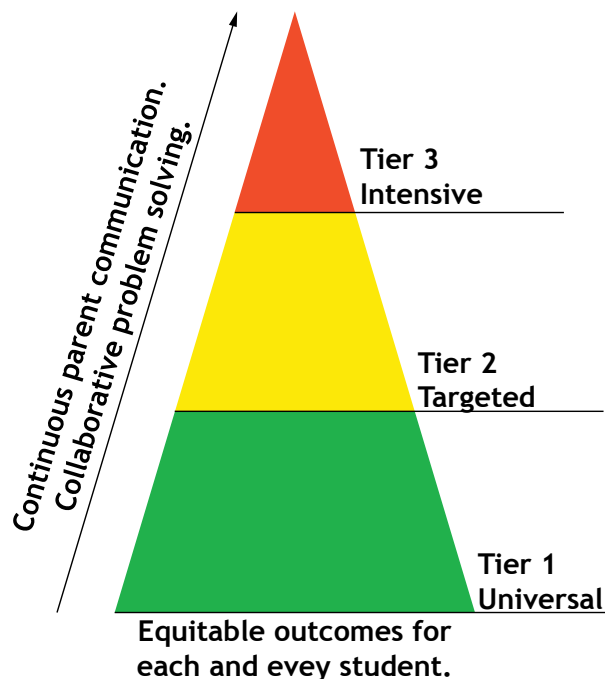
Director of Special Education  
kahrens@plaea.org

## Multicultural, Gender Fair Practices

Prairie Lakes AEA provides technical assistance to Local Education Agencies regarding Multicultural, Gender Fair practices in educational programs. Prairie Lakes AEA acts as a liaison between the Iowa Department of Education and organizations with an educational Multicultural, Gender Fair focus; assists local educators in implementing curriculum, instruction, and assessment for diverse learners; and supports student activities that enhance and extend Multicultural, Gender Fair classroom practices and learning. Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.

## Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

MTSS is a framework the state of Iowa uses to provide targeted support to struggling students. It's designed to help schools identify struggling students early and intervene quickly. Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.







### **Nonviolent Crisis Prevention Intervention Training (CPI)**

Prairie Lakes AEA offers Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training from the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI). This is commonly referred to as CPI training. CPI has multiple trainers in various areas of the AEA. These trainers can provide direct training to district staff members.

*Courtney Cook*  
Social, Emotional, Behavioral  
Health Coordinator  
[ccook@plaea.org](mailto:ccook@plaea.org)

### **Occupational Therapy (OT)**

Occupational Therapy is a support service specializing in evaluation and treatment for students from birth to 21 years of age in educational and/or home settings. Therapists work with school personnel, parents, and team members to develop goals and accommodations to meet the needs of students through an integrated service model. Therapists will assist teachers and parents in adapting materials, methods and the environment to maximize students' success.

*Cari Hepperle*  
Occupational Therapist/Department Chair  
[chepperle@plaea.org](mailto:chepperle@plaea.org)

### **Paraeducator Certification**

Prairie Lakes AEA is an approved provider of the Paraeducator Generalist Certification. Participants must complete all three courses (minimum of 90 clock hours) plus submit documentation of 10 hours of experience (observation) to apply for the Iowa Paraeducator Generalist Certificate.

*Christine Wells*  
Regional Administrator  
[cwells@plaea.org](mailto:cwells@plaea.org)

### **Physical Therapy (PT)**

Physical therapists work with children in their homes from birth to 3 years of age who have mobility concerns, positioning needs, or delays in gross motor achievement. After age 3, services are provided in a school setting where the therapist continues to address mobility, positioning, and access in the school environment. The physical therapist works closely with the family and school personnel to maximize the functional abilities of the child. Service delivery options range from consultation and training with the student's educational team to direct service provision with the student. In addition, physical therapists work with students and schools to obtain the necessary mobility and positioning equipment to allow for maximized independence and learning.

*Jennifer Woodruff*  
Physical Therapist/Department Chair  
[jwoodruff@plaea.org](mailto:jwoodruff@plaea.org)



## Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

School-wide PBIS is a set of systematic and individualized strategies for achieving social and learning outcomes, while preventing problem behaviors. School-wide PBIS is defined as a philosophy and practice of recognizing the importance of positive relationships among all members of a school community for the purpose of enhancing learning. PBIS emphasizes prevention, active instruction, and research-validated practices. The goals of PBIS are to define, teach and support appropriate behaviors in a way that establishes a “culture of competence” within schools. Schools are taught the process for establishing effective systems, practices and strategies.

Melissa Wurth  
School Psychologist  
mwurth@plaea.org

## Postsecondary Readiness/ Future Ready

Prairie Lakes AEA supports the college, career, and future readiness initiatives of its school districts through the employment of a Postsecondary Readiness Lead, a position shared with Northwest AEA. School districts with accessing, analyzing, and planning around the district’s postsecondary readiness and success data. This effort is part of a statewide AEA initiative called AEA PREP (Postsecondary Readiness and Equity Partnership).

Mark Shea  
Postsecondary Readiness Lead  
mshea@plaea.org

## Professional Learning

Prairie Lakes AEA offers opportunities for professional learning for educators to enhance their skills and practices to improve student learning. These opportunities include:

- A variety of courses for credit
- Workshops that offer the latest evidence-based professional learning for educators
- Paraeducator and substitute authorization training programs

Dr. Lisa Hartman  
Director of Education & Media Services  
lhartman@plaea.org

## Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

Prairie Lakes AEA is committed to helping schools at all stages of the Professional Learning Community journey. As schools move along the PLC continuum, Prairie Lakes AEA consultants are available to provide coaching, technical assistance and other supports. Professional learning opportunities and online resources are available.

Dr. Lisa Hartman  
Director of Education & Media Services  
lhartman@plaea.org

## Quality Preschool Program

Iowa utilizes Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS) in accredited programs for 3 and 4 year olds. Prairie Lakes AEA provides support through professional development training and technical expertise via highly skilled early childhood consultants.

Katie Kauffman  
ECSE Teacher/Consultant  
kkauffman@plaea.org  
Marcie Lentsch  
School Improvement Facilitator  
mlentsch@plaea.org





### **School Improvement**

The School Improvement Facilitator (SIF) provides a range of services to assigned school districts focused on a cycle of continuous improvement. A SIF will assist with identifying and implementing best practices, help school teams use qualitative and quantitative data to identify areas of strength and challenges, and use of continuous improvement tools to improve short and long-term outcomes.

*Dr. Lisa Hartman*

*Director of Education & Media Services*  
lhartman@plaea.org

### **School Psychology**

Prairie Lakes AEA school psychologists provide services that assist parents and educators in meeting the needs of children and youth to succeed academically, socially and emotionally. They collaborate with educators, parents and other professionals to create safe, healthy and supportive learning environments for all students that strengthen connections between home and school.

*Coletta Jaeger*

*School Psychologist/Behavior Department Chair*  
cjaeger@plaea.org

### **School Social Work**

School social workers collaborate with students, schools and families to assess a student's social-emotional and adaptive behavior needs. School social workers help determine appropriate supports then help create behavior intervention plans.

*Coletta Jaeger*

*School Psychologist/Behavior Department Chair*  
cjaeger@plaea.org

### **Section 504**

Section 504 is a federal civil rights law that protects the rights of students with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. The Prairie Lakes AEA Section 504 consultant assists districts/schools to interpret and comply with this federal law. Districts/schools must make programs, activities and facilities accessible for all students. If you are a parent and would like more information about Section 504 support, contact your district's 504 Coordinator. If you are a district/school staff member and would like more information about Section 504, contact:

*Maurita Aubrey*

*School Improvement Facilitator*  
maubrey@plaea.org





## Secondary Transition Services

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates schools to provide services to students with disabilities to assist in their transition from school to post-school activities. Prairie Lakes AEA offers secondary transition services to assist schools, students and families in preparing for post-secondary living, learning and working in the community. Each of the community colleges within PLAEA, In conjunction with the student's high school, will continue to provide special education services to fulfill unmet transition needs as identified in the student's IEP. The VESS Program is located at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge.

*Tammy McKimmey*

*Special Education Consultant*

*Transition Coordinator*

*tmckimmey@plaea.org*

*Laura Reinders*

*School Social Worker/Transition Coordinator*  
*lreinders@plaea.org*

## Significant Disabilities

Students with Significant Disabilities have multiple complex learning needs requiring extensive, repeated, individualized instruction and support. High academic expectations have been established through the Every Student Succeeds Act. Districts may access specialized support to best meet the needs of their students with significant disabilities by requesting support through their special education teacher.

*Tiffanie Zaugg*

*Assistive Technology Coordinator*  
*tzaugg@plaea.org*

## Social-Emotional-Behavioral Health

These services that support educators and schools in learning about and implementing practices to create an environment where ALL students feel safe and learn. Your School Improvement Facilitator can help connect you to the resources to meet your district/school needs.

## Special Education Consulting

The Special Education Consultant Department members provide support and coaching for special education teachers, advocate for students with disabilities, and partner in the determination of eligibility for special education services and the development of individualized education plans.

*Haley Offerman*

*Special Education Consultant*

*Department Chair*

*hofferman@plaea.org*

## Specialized Programs

Special education and other instructional services are available to eligible youth in specialized settings. Eligible students are less than 21 or turn 21 during the school year; have not earned a high school diploma or GED; and have educational needs that make them eligible for the services.

- Lakes Partnership School (Spencer)
- Forest Ridge Youth Shelter Care (Gruver)
- Fort Dodge Youth Shelter Care (Fort Dodge)
- Correctional facilities in Fort Dodge and Rockwell City

*Kris Ahrens*

*Director of Special Education*  
*kahrens@plaea.org*







## Speech-Language Pathology

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) work with children who have a variety of communication needs. These needs are generally related to articulation, language, voice, fluency and early literacy. SLPs also serve students who have complex communication needs associated with disabilities such as autism, physical impairment and head injury. Several options, from consulting to one-to-one intervention with the student, are available for service delivery so that the student's individual needs are addressed. SLPs work closely with teachers to support and enrich communication development in the classroom and work with the local school district to provide in-service training on communication-related topics.

Margo Kitzrow  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
Department Chair  
mkitzrow@plaea.org

## Talented and Gifted

Each school district must incorporate gifted and talented programming into its comprehensive school improvement plan as required by Iowa Code section 257.42. The Iowa Code also defines gifted and talented students as "those identified as possessing outstanding abilities who are capable of high performance. Gifted and talented children are children who require appropriate instruction and educational services commensurate with their abilities and needs beyond those provided by the regular school program." Prairie Lakes AEA provides services specifically tied to improving Gifted Education (TAG, G/T) programming.

Dr. Christine Sturgeon  
Supervisor of Lending Library & Delivery  
csturgeon@plaea.org

## Teacher Leadership and Coaching

The PLAEA Coaching Coordinator supports TLC leadership teams by leveraging teacher leaders in support of school improvement, evaluating the TLC program and teacher leader roles, and refining the TLC program and teacher leader roles for increased effectiveness and impact. Priority leadership support includes instructional coaching programs, mentoring and induction, and instructional frameworks. Technical support includes TLC plan changes and end-of-year reports.

Jaymie Randel  
Coaching Coordinator  
jrandel@plaea.org

## Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing are trained professionals who work with children and students who are deaf or hard of hearing. They assess the child's needs, work with the child to communicate (whether it be sign language or verbal), monitor the child's progress and consult with the child's family and teachers on best strategies for working with him/her. Itinerant hearing teachers work with young children in the home and often continue to work with the child throughout their school career. When a child goes to school, the AEA takes a more active role in helping the school establish educational strategies and modifications to help the child succeed.

Maureen Salinas  
Audiologist/Hearing Department Chair  
msalinas@plaea.org





## Technology Services

Experts are available to provide technical support for hardware, software, computer network related needs, ICN use and support, USF funding, equipment repair, and technology planning. Consultant and integration staff are available to provide services around the integration of technology to support student learning aligned to the Iowa Core and/or National Standards. This support is separated into two categories - externally for districts, and internally to support PLAEA staff. External Tech Supports

Scott Fosseen  
Systems Engineer  
sfosseen@plaea.org

Jason Kehoe  
Network Engineer  
jkehoe@plaea.org

## Transcripts

Official transcripts for AEA courses are available by through your professional learning account. Unofficial transcripts are available online through the Prairie Lakes AEA professional learning website and can be downloaded through your professional learning account.

Carrie Guerin  
Registrar  
cguerin@plaea.org

## Transportation Route Approval

School districts in Iowa are required by Iowa Code 285.9 to have each AEA Board of Directors review and approve all transportation agreements between districts and to approve all bus routes outside the boundary of the school operating buses. Districts are able to enter their agreements, permissions, and routes through the AEA Inter-District Transportation website. The following tutorials will walk you through each step of the process:

1. Review Allowable Conditions with Neighboring Districts (March)
2. Enter Your Permissions (April-May)
3. Certify Your Agreements (May-June)
4. Enter Your Routes (August-September)

First-time users must register for a new account and if you have forgotten your password, use the password retrieval on the main login screen. All agreements go before the AEA Board of Directors for Approval in June or July. Routes are approved in the fall. Changes to district agreements can be made by contacting:

Michelle Dowd  
Board Secretary  
mdowd@plaea.org

## Van Delivery Services

Each school building has weekly van delivery during the school year. Summer services are also available to school district offices and our AEA office locations. Office locations on request.

Dr. Christine Sturgeon  
Supervisor of Lending Library & Delivery  
csturgeon@plaea.org

## Vision

Visually Impaired services are a special education service or a related service, as defined by Federal Regulations of IDEA of 2004. Visually Impaired services may be provided to a student who qualifies with an identified visual impairment and whose progress in the general education curriculum is impacted by their visual impairment.

Services are provided through the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired with professionals providing instruction and consultation for students with visual impairments.

Kris Ahrens  
Director of Special Education  
kahrens@plaea.org





# Prairie Lakes

Area Education Agency

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