



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 schools

3,000 administrators & educators

14 counties covering over 8,000 square miles

39 public school districts

4,600 students & families with IEP/IFSP



Our School Partners

- Albert City-Truesdale
- Algona
- Alta-Aurelia
- Bishop Garrigan
- Clarion-Goldfield-Dows
- 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 Area
- Pocahontas Catholic
- Prairie Valley
- Ruthven-Ayrshire
- Sacred Heart-Spencer
- Schaller- Crestland
- 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 CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTANTS (ECSE)

Summer Boes
Gretchen Brown
Erin Christensen
Nicole Hinrichs
Lynn Eby

Katie Kauffman
Melissa Lamaak
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 Lauferweiler
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
Kurt Bjorklund, 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

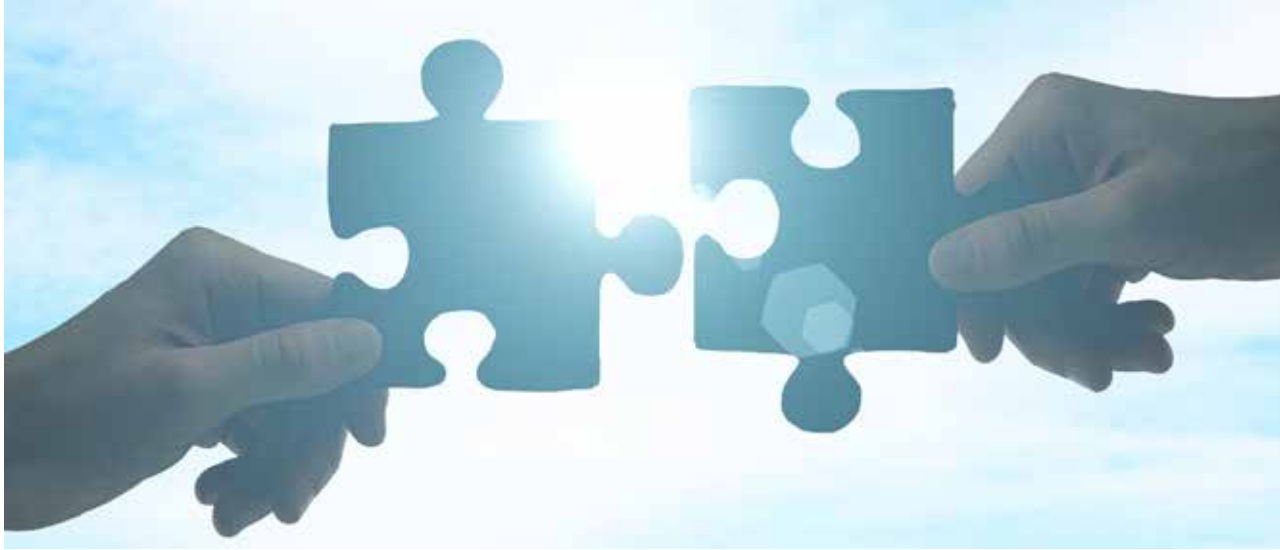
Professional Learning

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
Emily Wicker
Jessica Wright
Tim Youngdahl
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



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
GTRA	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 Area	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
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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.

Staff assignments for each school are available on our [Prairie Lakes AEA website](#).

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

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

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

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 to learn more.

Jenifer Krischel
Chief Printer
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, followed by PLAEA-specific agenda items and networking opportunities. All networks will be hosted in Pocahontas at Prairie Lakes AEA Office.

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

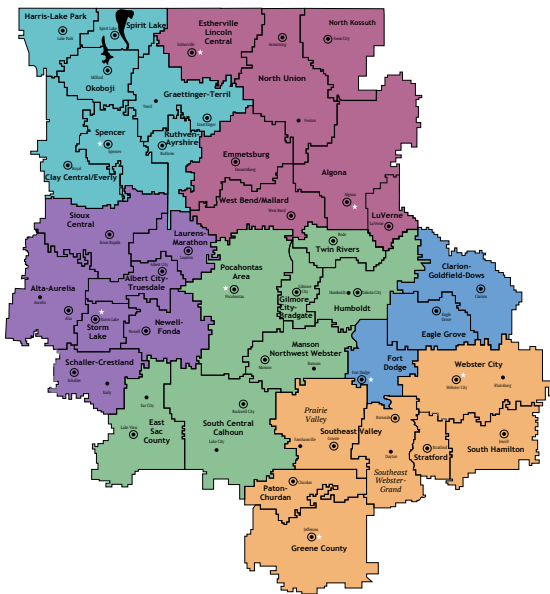


Digital Resources

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 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





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



District Boundary Changes

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

Dr. Susie Meade
Chief Administrator
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

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



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

Equity Education

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



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

McKaylee Heuton
Family & Educator Partner
mheuton@plaea.org

Deb Shelton
Educator Partner
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



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

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



Leadership Services

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



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



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 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

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





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

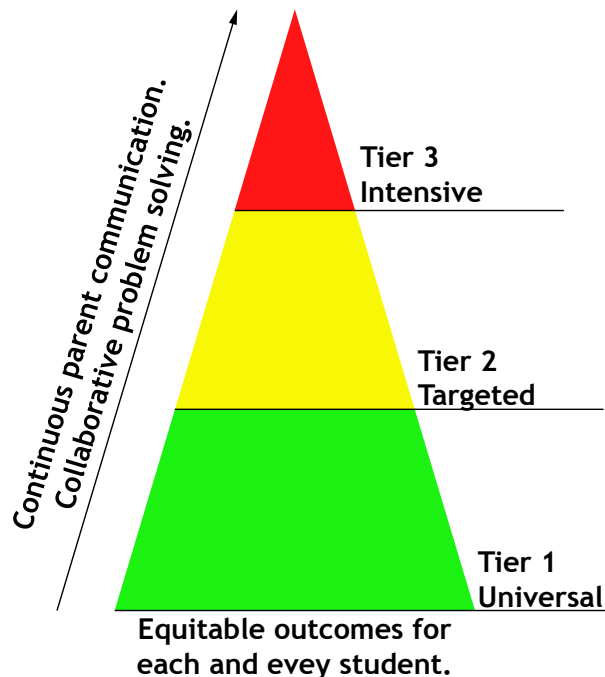
Director of Special Education
kahrens@plaea.org

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

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

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

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

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. 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



**Prairie
Lakes**
Area Education Agency



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 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 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 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 that 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.

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.

Tiffany Zaugg

*Assistive Technology Coordinator
tzaugg@plaea.org*

Social-Emotional-Behavioral Health

These services 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
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 verbally), monitor the child's progress and consult with the child's family and teachers on best strategies for working with the child. 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.

Scott Fosse
Systems Engineer
sfosseen@plaea.org

Jason Kehoe
Network Engineer
jkehoe@plaea.org

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

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)

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 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

plaea.org | 866.540.3858

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