

DATE: September 25, 2008

TO: AEA Administrators
Public School District Administrators
Accredited Nonpublic School Administrators
Iowa Core Curriculum Network

FROM: Kevin Fangman, Administrator
Division of PK-12 Education

SUBJECT: Additional Guidance on Iowa Core Curriculum Funds

This memo is intended to clarify teacher participation at the AEA leadership trainings, how Teacher Quality Committees (TQCs) make decisions to distribute Iowa Core Curriculum TQ funds designated to support the implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum, and how those funds may be used. The initial letter of guidance on TQ funding was sent out on July 23, 2008, and can be accessed at www.iowa.gov/educate/content/blogcategory/412/890/.

This school year, districts and accredited nonpublic schools will be getting ready to engage in the work of implementing the Iowa Core Curriculum. The Iowa Department of Education is encouraging school administrators and teacher leaders to attend the Iowa Core Curriculum Leadership Training being provided by each area education agency (AEA). Participants will learn about the protocols and processes that can be used to conduct content alignment and instructional audit processes. Prior to initiating in-depth alignment work and professional development, districts are encouraged to participate in the Leadership Training to learn more about how to facilitate this work and to establish an implementation plan with the support of the Iowa Core Curriculum Network facilitator from their AEA. **Teacher membership on these leadership teams is strongly encouraged and Iowa Core Curriculum TQ funds may be used to support their attendance.**

As part of the leadership series, districts and accredited nonpublic schools will be provided with technical assistance to develop the required Iowa Core Curriculum Implementation Plan. School districts are required to adopt an implementation plan for the Iowa Core Curriculum for grades 9-12 by July 1, 2010, and for grades K-8 by July 1, 2012, but initial portions of the plan may be completed this school year.

Districts may present initial implementation actions to the TQC so money can be distributed to support the initial work before the district's implementation plan is complete. **School districts are responsible for developing the implementation plan for the Iowa Core Curriculum. TQCs are responsible for distributing the Iowa Core Curriculum TQ funds to the actions identified in the plan.** How TQCs distribute these funds will change from year to year as districts work toward meeting the mandate for grades 9-12 by 2012 and grades K-8 by 2014.

Question 1: What types of expenditures would be an appropriate use of TQ funding for the purpose of implementing the Iowa Core Curriculum? What would be some uses of funding that would not be allowed?

TQ funds may be used to pay for the following:

- Costs associated for teachers to attend Iowa Core Curriculum Leadership Training hosted by the AEAs. This includes mileage and meal reimbursement that would be permissible according to district guidelines.
- Time for teachers to engage in Iowa Core Curriculum training and local district planning meetings that are beyond the contracted day. (Teachers may be asked at this point in time to conduct some preliminary examination of the Essential Concepts and Skills Sets. If a district sponsored event to study Iowa Core Curriculum documents is organized beyond the contracted work day, teachers could be compensated for their time using the Iowa Core TQ funds.)
- The costs for substitutes while teachers are involved with training or work to implement the Iowa Core Curriculum.

TQ funds **may not** be used to pay for:

- Administrators to engage in Iowa Core Curriculum work.
- Teachers to engage in routine textbook adoption cycles.
- Teachers to conduct routine lesson planning and review of textbooks.
- Textbooks and instructional materials.
- Technology or equipment.

If you any questions about the Iowa Core Curriculum TQ funds, feel free to contact Deb Hansen at deb.hansen@iowa.gov or 515.281.6131.