

**Why are Iowa schools being identified as Schools in Need of Improvement (SINI)?**

No Child Left Behind (NCLB), or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), requires schools to have 100 percent of their students proficient in reading and math by 2014. Schools or districts not demonstrating growth toward meeting these requirements are identified as needing improvement and are provided support.

**How can a school building or district be labeled as in need of improvement?**

The U.S. Department of Education has approved Iowa's plan to meet NCLB accountability requirements for "adequate yearly progress" (AYP). NCLB requires that all public school districts and schools meet AYP requirements. A school building or district not meeting one of three specific AYP requirements for two consecutive years will be labeled as "in need of improvement." The three requirements are:

- Achieve a 95 percent participation rate for all students enrolled (or for any subgroup) at the time of testing. (Subgroups such as students with IEPs, English language learners, etc., are defined in NCLB.)
- Achieve the annual measurable objective (AMO) for proficiency in the grade level and content area for any group or subgroup, fall within the bounds of statistical similarity, or meet safe harbor requirements as specified in federal regulations.

- Maintain or make progress toward the state's target for graduation rate (high school) or average daily attendance (elementary and middle school).

The Iowa Approved Accountability Plan, copies of presentations done by the Iowa Department of Education, and sets of "Frequently Asked Questions" can be found on the Iowa DE website: [www.state.ia.us/educate](http://www.state.ia.us/educate).

**What are the requirements for AEAs to support Schools in Need of Improvement?**

No Child Left Behind requires that "each state shall establish a system of intensive and sustained support and improvement." AEAs are part of the Iowa support system for SINI, and each was asked to identify a support team. Grant Wood AEA designated the following individual for this team:

- Keith Stamp

**How will this support be undertaken?**

The Iowa support system for SINI will focus on improvement by building capacity and ensuring sustainability. Support for improvement will be provided in three domains:

- Academic domain – Standards, curriculum, instruction and assessment.

- Quality educator domain – Professional development, leadership/supervision, internal communications, and climate and culture.

- District/school system domain – External environment, stakeholders, resource allocation, technology and accountability.

A process to analyze data and determine actions will have audit, diagnosis, design, implementation, and monitoring/assessment phases. When a school or district meets its AMO for two consecutive years, it is no longer designated in need of improvement.

**How will Grant Wood AEA's support for SINIs impact services for other schools?**

Grant Wood AEA will support schools in need of improvement and continue providing comprehensive support for all other Area 10 schools. Two schools in AEA 10 have been identified as a SINI; however, this number has the potential to increase. Therefore, Grant Wood is actively planning to meet future needs. The Grant Wood SINI team is creating a framework that uses essential components of existing programs and services to assist schools. By working together and combining the expertise of many team members, Grant Wood AEA will be able to meet the challenge of both supporting SINIs and providing services needed by other schools.

