

# Family & Educator Partnership

Family and educator partnerships support good outcomes for children and young adults with disabilities.

## What is the Family & Educator Partnership?

Central Rivers AEA Family & Educator Partnership is part of the Iowa Family & Educator Partnership, a statewide network of families and educators working together to develop and sustain effective partnerships between families, educators and community providers to promote success for all children and youth with disabilities.

The Iowa Family & Educator Partnership program (FEP) is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education's Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports. It was founded in 1984 to provide parents and educators with opportunities to work together in positive ways to improve educational programs for children and young adults with disabilities.

The program is founded on the principals that:

- Families, educators and community providers all have important roles, responsibilities and perspectives in the education and support of children.
- Two-way frequent and meaningful communication builds successful partnerships
- In successful partnerships families, educators and community providers work together by recognizing, understanding and respecting individual differences, cultural backgrounds and differing opinions and seek solutions.
- Building partnerships among families, educators and community providers as early as possible enhances the degree of family and child success.
- Each family determines their level of participation in system processes

## Services for Many

The Family & Educator Partnership serves anyone involved with a child who has special needs. This may include parents, grandparents, foster parents, caregivers, teachers, guidance counselors, school administrators, AEA staff, siblings and community service providers.

## Support

The program offers support to families and schools as they work together to create, promote and sustain systems of family engagement in our schools and communities.



## Direct Support

The Family & Educator Partnership helps parents and educators by:

- Answering questions either by phone, e-mail or in person
- Referring to other resources
- Assisting with the communication process between families and schools

## Support of the IEP...IFSP Process

Family & Educator Partnership supports home and school communication in a variety of ways, including providing support to families so they can more effectively participate in the IFSP (Individual Family Service Plan) or IEP (Individualized Education Program) process, including:

- Information about the IEP/IFSP process,
- Review of procedural safeguards,
- Help prepare for a meeting, or
- Attend IEP/IFSP or other school meetings as requested by the local school, AEA staff or parents

## Transition Assistance

The Family & Educator Partnership places special emphasis on the important transition stages in a child's education. The FEP may support transition planning by:

- Helping a family develop a vision for the student's future,
- Providing workshops on transition related topics,
- Sharing information about community resources, or
- Collaborating with other agencies on family support and transition related issues

## Support Groups

The Family & Educator Partnership can help with the organization of new support groups and assist with the publicity for support group activities.

## Web Site

As part of the Central Rivers AEA web site, the Family & Educator Partnership (FEP) provides information for parents and educators including home school communication tips; IEP and IFSP support; resources with links to sites of interest; a calendar of workshops, events, and support group activities; Early Childhood information and resources.

## Workshops and Conferences

The Family & Educator Partnership can provide or arrange for specific topic workshops for parents, educators and organizations in the community. Topics may include presentations regarding family engagement strategies, home/school communication, resources available in the community and information on financial or other assistance programs.

**Join the Family & Educator Partnership (FEP) email list to receive notifications of workshops and events. There is no cost and you can unsubscribe at any time.**

## Family & Educator Partnership Staff Serving Your School:

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**641.231-1437 or 641-329-4242**

Central Rivers AEA Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Waterloo Schools:

Expo  
Kittrell Early Childhood Center  
Kingsley Elementary School  
Kittrell Elementary School  
Orange Elementary School  
Lou Henry Elementary School  
Irving Elementary School  
Fred Becker Elementary School  
Central Middle School  
Hoover Middle School  
West High School

Cedar Valley Catholic:

Columbus Catholic High School  
Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta Middle School (6-8)  
Sacred Heart School (Pre-K-5)  
Saint Edwards School (Pre-K-5)  
Blessed Sacrament School (Pre-K-5)

**April Wooldridge**

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**641.485-9166 or 641-753-3564**

Central Rivers AEA Regions 8, 9, 10, 11

Waterloo Schools:

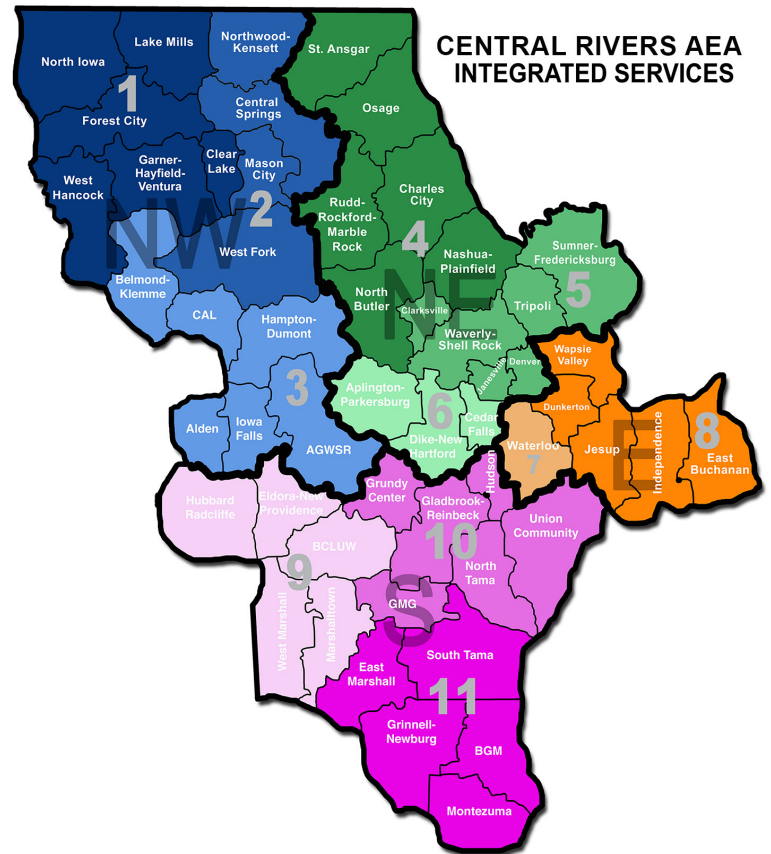
Expo  
Elk Run Early Childhood Center  
Lincoln Elementary School  
Poyner Elementary School - Evansdale  
Lowell Elementary School  
Highland Elementary School  
Cunningham School for Excellence  
George Washington Carver Academy  
Bunger Middle School – Evansdale  
East High School

Waterloo Christian School:

Waterloo Christian School (Pre-K-12)  
Small Wonders Learning Center (Pre-K)

**FEP Administrator**

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**Central Rivers AEA Family & Educator Partnership,  
a member of the Iowa Family & Educator  
Partnership network.**