

EDUCATIONAL  
DIRECTORY  
2023-2024



**CENTRAL RIVERS**  
AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

[www.centralriversaea.org](http://www.centralriversaea.org)





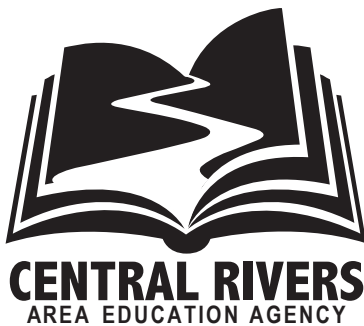
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# Welcome to Central Rivers Area Education Agency!

Central Rivers Area Education Agency (AEA) supports educators, families and the communities we serve as we work together toward one ultimate goal—to improve student learning.

Central Rivers AEA provides support in the areas of quality instructional materials, curriculum planning, best practices, safe and caring learning environment, appropriate educational opportunities for all learners, technology planning, professional learning, assessment, special education, leadership development, and more.



*...we work together  
toward one  
ultimate goal—to  
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learning.*

## What is an AEA?

Central Rivers AEA is one of nine Area Education Agencies in Iowa. Area Education Agencies were created in 1974 by the Iowa legislature to ensure equal educational opportunities for children from birth to age 21. Support to local schools is provided through three service areas: Educational Services, Information Technology Services and Special Education Services.

Area Education Agencies are funded from federal-aid and state-aid payments; legislatively controlled property tax; federal, state and private grants; and tuition for classes. A nine-member board of directors is elected by local school boards to govern budget decisions. The chief administrator handles the daily operation of the agency's service areas, each of which is headed by a director. In addition to the main office in Cedar Falls, the agency also has offices in Marshalltown and Clear Lake.

## Who does Central Rivers AEA serve?

- 63,500+ students
- 5,000 educators
- 53 public school districts
- 21 non-public school districts
- 18 counties covering nearly 9,000 square miles

# How can I find out what Central Rivers AEA has to offer?

## Consultants you can turn to...

### Regional Administrators

Your primary source for information about Central Rivers AEA services is your district's regional administrator. Regional administrators are Integrated Services administrators who provide leadership and supervision to staff members assigned to a specific geographic region. Your district's assigned regional administrator is the front line of communication between the agency and your district.

### Information Technology Consultants

Information Technology Consultants assist schools in technology planning, network support, technology applications, and curriculum integration. Consultants plan and develop inservice training materials and programs related to the use of technology in the regular and special education classroom.

### Teacher Librarians

AEA Teacher Librarians work closely with school district teacher librarians and classroom teachers in using information technology and materials to support student learning.

### School Improvement Consultants

Central Rivers Area Education Agency employs several consultants who specialize in supporting districts throughout the five-year school improvement cycle, specific areas

of general education and also serve as school improvement "generalist" consultants. School contacts not only share important information with district leadership teams on a regular basis, they are also available to ascertain your district's school improvement needs.

### 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 problems. Special Education consultants, school social workers, and school psychologists serve in this role.

### Site Superintendents

The agency also has a contact person at both our Clear Lake and Marshalltown offices. These individuals can help you seek answers to any question about Central Rivers AEA services.

Clear Lake Office  
Melissa Hesner, Regional Administrator  
mhesner@centralriversaea.org

Kay Schmalen, Director of Professional Learning  
kschmalen@centralriversaea.org  
800-392-6640 or 641-329-4200

Marshalltown Office  
Jen Sigrist, Executive Director of Ed Services  
jsigrist@centralriversaea.org

Cari Teske, Director of Media  
cteske@centralriversaea.org

Kristine Kienzle, Technical Support Manager for Media  
kkienzle@centralriversaea.org  
800-735-1539 or 641-753-3564

### Other Information Sources

The Central Rivers AEA website is a major communication tool ([www.centralriversaea.org](http://www.centralriversaea.org)). You will find special announcements, professional learning opportunities, school news, lists of instructional materials, and much more.

The Directory of Services section of this manual has a complete listing of services offered. The majority of services can be accessed by contacting the district's regional administrator (contact information can be found on page 6). Certain services will list the agency contact person.

Toll-free numbers are available at each office location and all staff members have access to voice mail, enabling callers to leave detailed messages that will be returned in a timely fashion. Additionally, each staff member has an e-mail address. The protocol is first initial of the first name, last name, followed by @centralriversaea.org. For more information on agency staff, consult the online staff directory.

Today, most people use social media as their mainstream of communication. The agency also uses social media to share news, information, and resources. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram and watch our videos on YouTube.



# Office Locations and Instructional Programs Served by Central Rivers AEA

## **Cedar Falls Offices**

1521 Technology Parkway  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
Ph. 1-800-542-8375  
or 319-273-8200

## **North Iowa Juvenile Detention Services Classrooms**

1440 West Dunkerton Road  
Waterloo, IA 50703  
Ph. 319-291-2455  
Fax: 319-287-5287  
Rod Ball, Administrator

## **River Hills School**

2700 Grand Blvd.  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
Ph. 319-268-7775  
Fax: 319-268-1828  
Kelsey Baker, Principal

## **Woodhaven Youth Shelter Classrooms**

106 16<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Waverly, IA 50677  
Ph. 319-859-3512  
Rod Ball, Administrator  
Sarah Nelson, Director of I.T.  
and Special Programs

## **Clear Lake Office**

9184 265th Street, Suite B  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
Ph. 1-800-392-6640 or 641-329-4200  
General Fax: 641-357-3201

## **Brookhaven Youth Shelter Classrooms**

50 N. Eisenhower Avenue  
Mason City, IA 50401  
Ph. 641-210-7664 or 641-210-7665  
Fax: 641-210-7666  
Rod Ball, Administrator  
Sarah Nelson, Director of I.T.  
and Special Programs

## **Marshalltown Office**

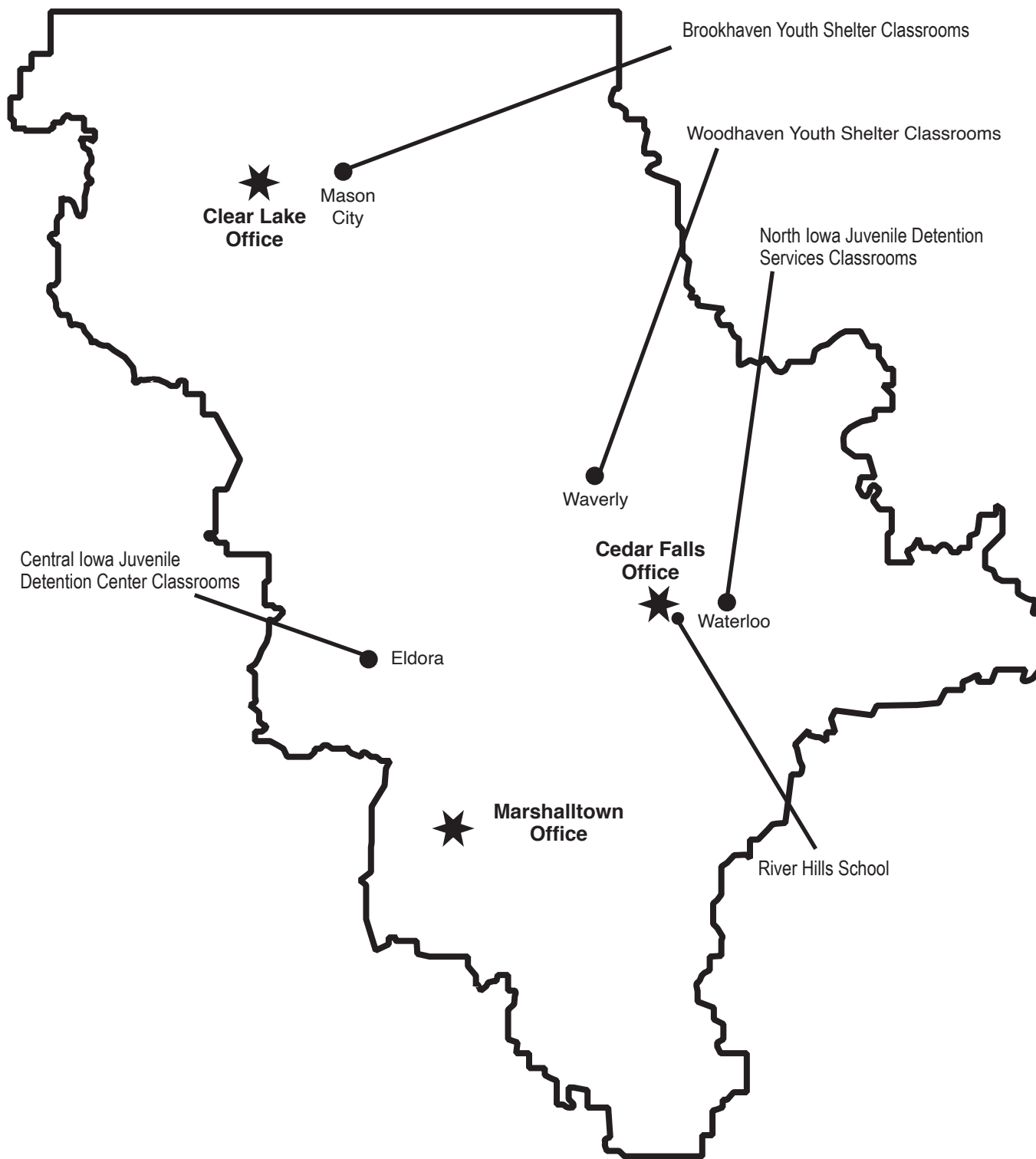
909 South 12th Street  
Marshalltown, IA 50158  
Ph. 1-800-735-1539 or 641-753-3564  
Fax: 641-752-0075

## **Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center Classrooms**

2317 Rick Collins Way  
Eldora, IA 50627  
Ph. 641-858-3427  
Fax: 641-858-3427  
Rod Ball, Administrator

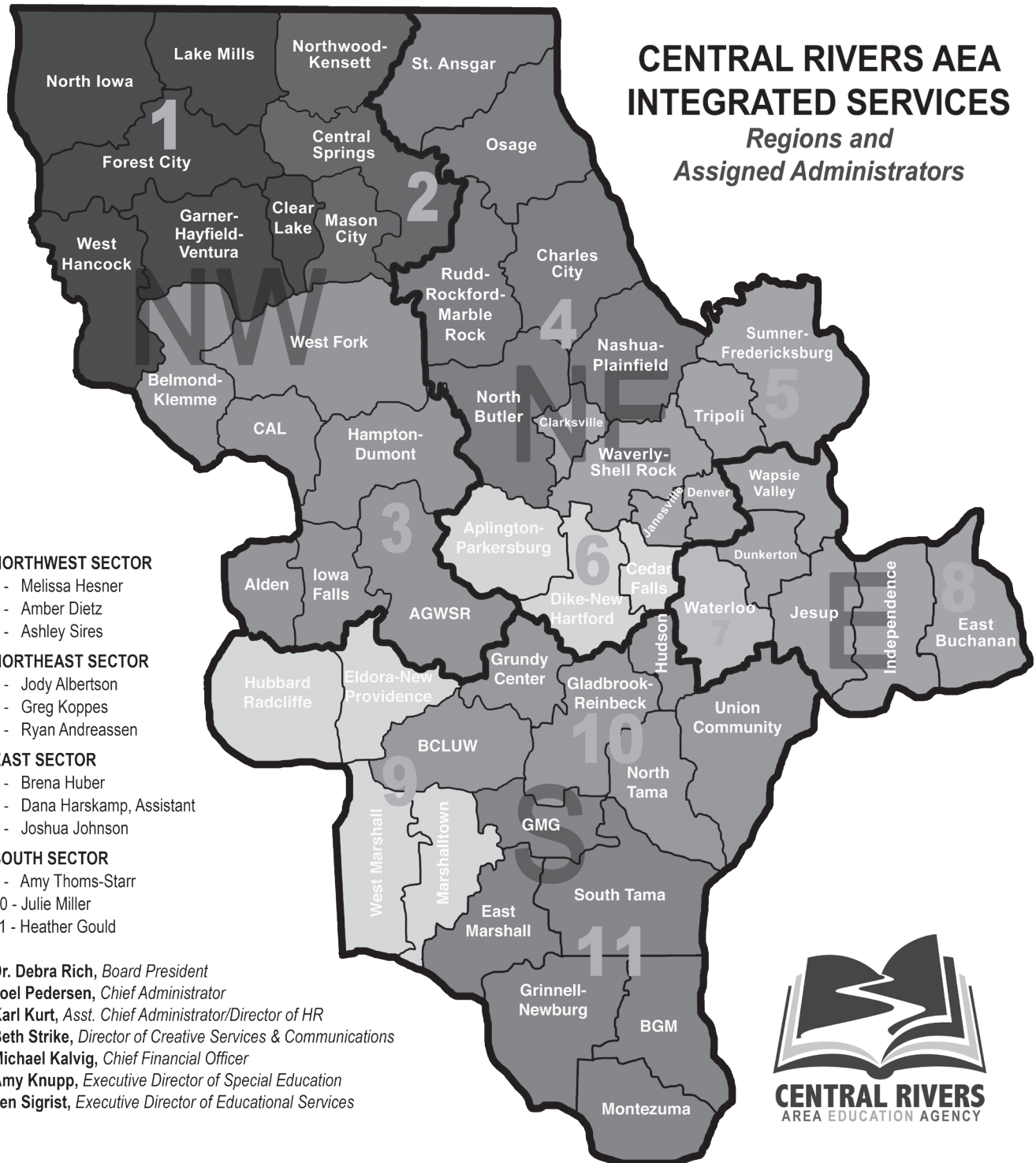
*Interested in a position with Central Rivers AEA? Check out our website and click on "Careers"  
[www.centralriversaea.org](http://www.centralriversaea.org)*

# Central Rivers Area Education Agency Office and Instructional Program Sites



# Central Rivers Area Education Agency Regions and School Districts Served

## CENTRAL RIVERS AEA INTEGRATED SERVICES *Regions and Assigned Administrators*



# Frequently Called Telephone Numbers

## Central Administration

Joel Pedersen, Chief Administrator .....	319-273-8201
Lori Thomas, Executive Assistant/ Board Secretary.....	319-273-8201
Karl Kurt, Assistant Chief Administrator/ Director of Human Resources.....	319-273-8245
Shirley Horak, Human Resources Coordinator .....	319-273-8245
Michael Kalvig, Chief Financial Officer/ Board Treasurer .....	319-273-8206
Beth Strike, Director of Creative Services & Communications .....	319-273-8222
Amy Knupp, Executive Director of Special Education.....	641-753-3564
Jen Sigrist, Executive Director of Educational Services .....	641-844-2424
Kay Schmalen, Director of Professional Learning .....	319-273-8200
Rod Ball, Director of Special Programs .....	319-273-8285
Sarah Nelson, Director of I.T. and Special Programs .....	319-269-0880
Cari Teske, Director of Media .....	641-751-0134

## Regional Administrators

Melissa Hesner, Lead Regional Administrator Region 1 .....	319-273-8241
Amber Dietz, Regional Administrator Region 2 .....	641-329-4200
Ashley Sires, Regional Administrator Region 3 .....	641-329-4200
Jody Albertson, Regional Administrator Region 4 .....	641-329-4200
Greg Koppes, Regional Administrator Region 5 .....	319-273-8249
Ryan Andreassen, Regional Administrator Region 6 .....	319-273-8291

Brena Huber, Regional Administrator Region 7 .....	319-273-8200
Dana Harskamp, Asst. Regional Administrator Region 7 .....	319-273-8200
Joshua Johnson, Regional Administrator Region 8 .....	319-273-8200
Amy Thoms-Starr, Regional Administrator Region 9 .....	319-269-4394
Julie Miller, Regional Administrator Region 10.....	319-273-8233
Heather Gould, Regional Administrator Region 11.....	641-753-3564

## Administrative Assistants for Integrated Services

Marcia Brolsma, Admin Assistant to Executive Director of Special Education.....	319-273-8281
Laura Rinnels, Admin Assistant - Integrated Services Regions 1, 2, & 3.....	641-329-4244
Cole Adams, Admin Assistant - Integrated Services, Ed Services/Regions 4, 5 & 6 .....	319-268-7603
Jamie Pedersen, Admin Assistant - Integrated Services Regions 7 & 8 .....	319-268-7603
Stella Pint, Admin Assistant - Integrated Services Regions 9, 10 & 11 .....	319-268-7608

*\*This list is not meant to be a comprehensive directory of all staff members. For a complete listing, visit our website at [www.centralriversaea.org](http://www.centralriversaea.org)*



# Central Rivers AEA Directory of Services

*The majority of agency services can be accessed by contacting the district's regional administrator (contact information can be found on page 6)*

## **AEA Mediation**

Mediation facilitation services are available to parents and school districts as a support to assist in resolving differences over educational services and/or issues between parents, educators, and other involved parties. The mediation facilitator is an objective third party that works to help both parties seek common ground solutions. Facilitators are AEA special education staff members trained in mediation and are available to parents and educators at no cost throughout the year.

## **AEA Purchasing**

Iowa's Area Education Agencies launched a statewide purchasing program in 1999. AEA Purchasing combines the purchasing power of Iowa's schools to offer aggressive pricing on materials, goods and services through a competitive bid process.

Barb Adams  
AEA Purchasing Administrative Assistant  
319-268-7726  
barb@aeapurchasing.org

Joni Puffett, CPPB  
Marketing & Vendor Relations Facilitator  
563-922-2299  
joni@aeapurchasing.org

Megan Brink, RD, LD, SNS  
Food Program Consultant  
800-632-5918 Ext. 1321  
megan@aeapurchasing.org

Molly Gilmore, MS, RD, LD  
Food Program Consultant  
712-222-6263  
molly@aeapurchasing.org

Clif Cameron  
Food Program Consultant  
563-556-3310 Ext. 6866  
clif@aeapurchasing.org

## **Annual Progress Reports**

Technical assistance with meeting requirements for information and updates on changing guidelines is readily available. Central Rivers AEA Creative Services is available for printing and production of reports to the community.

## **Assessment**

Agency staff will provide consultation on the analysis, construction, development, use, strengths, weaknesses and interpretation of multiple forms of assessment data.

## **Assessment Literacy**

Central Rivers AEA staff are available to help districts set up leadership teams and learning teams for the purpose of promoting assessment literacy. Teams will study strategies for developing a comprehensive, balanced and aligned assessment system. The four major areas include the formative assessment / instructional process, common classroom assessments, interim assessments and summative assessments. Teams will also develop the assessment literacy they need to face current district, school and classroom assessment challenges.

## **Assistive Technology (AT) Support Team**

Central Rivers 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 actual settings.

## **Audiology Services**

Central Rivers AEA audiologists provide educators with information about hearing conservation and educational support services.

## **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors has nine members who are elected for four-year staggered terms by the local school board members of the districts they represent. For information about board decisions or running for the board, contact the Board Secretary.

Lori Thomas  
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary  
Cedar Falls Office

## **Board Meetings**

Board meetings are typically held the first Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Central Rivers AEA Cedar Falls Conference Center. The Chief Administrator and Board Secretary prepare the board meeting agendas and support materials. Agenda items and support materials are available 24 hours prior to board meetings upon request and can also be found on the agency website.

Lori Thomas  
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary  
Cedar Falls Office

## **Board & Superintendent Development**

In the fall of 2023, Central Rivers AEA will be offering retreat style leadership training for up to five school boards annually. This executive leadership training will include a half-day session along with individualized assessments to help each school board member heighten their own self-awareness and better understand their stress response. The goal is to give the superintendent/board team a common language and frame to use to strengthen overall effectiveness and lessen behaviors that may not be serving them. The only cost to districts will be for materials. Interested districts can reach out to the contacts below.

Beth Strike  
Director of Communications &  
Creative Services  
319-273-8222

Karl Kurt  
Asst Chief Administrator/Dir of  
Human Resources  
319-273-8245

### **Boundary Changes (LEA)**

Persons interested in information about school district boundaries or boundary changes should contact the Chief Administrator or Board Secretary.

Joel Pedersen  
Chief Administrator  
Cedar Falls Office

Lori Thomas  
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Brain Injury Resource Team**

A multi-disciplinary team provides consultation to other AEA staff and local educators who are working with students with traumatic brain (head) injuries.

### **Business Office**

The Business Office handles the business affairs of the agency, including purchases, billing, inventory, payroll and benefits, and financial accounting.

Michael Kalvig  
Chief Financial Officer  
Cedar Falls Office

Pam Morrissey  
Accounting Manager  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Career and Technical Education**

Central Rivers AEA personnel are available to consult with area educators regarding all aspects of vocational education.

### **Child Find**

Iowa's AEAs provide special education child find services for individuals between the ages of 3 and 21. The purposes of Child Find are to locate, identify and evaluate individuals with disabilities and to determine their educational needs. The evaluation and eligibility process is based upon a dual determination of an individual's disability (educational progress and educational discrepancy) and educational need. An evaluation is completed prior to making either initial (Full and Individual Initial Evaluation) or ongoing (reevaluation) special education eligibility decisions.

### **Communication Audits**

As an early step in assessing needs, the agency Director of Creative Services & Communications will conduct internal and/or external communication audits with a district or building and its community. The audits provide a snapshot of the effectiveness of communication and recommendations for improvement.

Beth Strike  
Director of Creative Services &  
Communications  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Communication Disorders**

Those persons needing additional information about communication disorders (articulation, language, voice, fluency) have available to them trained staff.

### **Communications Office**

The Communications Office provides internal and external communication planning for the agency, engages in community relations, edits publications, plans special events, handles news media relations and assesses the effectiveness of communication between the agency and its various audiences. Consultation is available to local schools.

Beth Strike  
Director of Creative Services &  
Communications  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Compliance Issues/Monitoring**

Persons with questions about special education rules and regulations are encouraged to contact any regional administrator.

### **Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (CSIP)**

Chapter 12 (Iowa Administrative Code) requires school districts and approved nonpublic schools to develop comprehensive School Improvement Plans and to report to both the Department of Education and local community the progress the district is making toward goals. Agency staff play an important role in providing inservice, technical assistance and guidance in the formation of district plans and goals.

### **Computer and Equipment Repair**

Computer and equipment repair services are offered to all Central Rivers AEA schools. Equipment needing repair can either be dropped off or sent via van mail to the repair center located in our Cedar Falls office. Our repair center is staffed by Apple and Microsoft certified technicians who perform services on computers (Mac, PC, Chromebook), iPads, printers, and associated A/V equipment. Our experienced electronic technicians also stock a complete line of replacement parts and can provide warranty assistance.

### **Conference and Reception Center**

Fully equipped meeting rooms are available at all Central Rivers AEA facilities and are available through the workday, evenings and weekends (dependent upon availability and board policies). Priority use is for educators. Advance scheduling is required. A receptionist is available

to take calls and provide information. For more information, visit the Central Rivers AEA website at [www.centralriversaea.org](http://www.centralriversaea.org).

### **Continuous Improvement**

The bigger picture of continuous improvement can be challenging for educators to see given the multitude of details involved in today's school improvement efforts. Consultation, presentations and models are available for system level discussions.

### **Competent Private Instruction (CPI)**

Parents or guardians considering homeschooling options should contact:

Joe Kremer  
Assessment Coordinator  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Creative Services**

Educators have access to high quality print and production services via a state-of-the-art online ordering system. Services include black and white digital copying, envelopes, graphic design services, color poster printing, color copies, bindery, lamination, video and audio production, high speed scanning, and so much more. Order at [www.aeacreativeservices.org](http://www.aeacreativeservices.org)

Beth Strike  
Director of Creative Services & Communications  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Crisis Communication Planning**

No school leader wants to think about communicating during a crisis in his or her district, but proper planning can make the difference between maintaining community trust and losing it. Contact Beth Strike, Director of Creative Services & Communications, for support in reviewing your crisis communication protocols. Sample messages, as well as tips and resources have also been prepared for school leaders.

Beth Strike  
Director of Creative Services & Communications  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Crisis Response Team**

Central Rivers 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.

### **Data Hygiene**

As schools rely more and more on data for decision making, it becomes even more important that the data used is of high quality and free of errors so that the inferences, consequences and uses are valid. Advice on proper data collection and management procedures are available.

### **Delivery Service (Vans)**

Each school building has weekly van delivery during the school year on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, including our three service area offices (Cedar Falls, Clear Lake, and Marshalltown). Route deliveries are also continued in the summer to administrative offices every other week.

### **Dyslexia**

A new law created during the 2014 legislative session focused on dyslexia. The legislation defined this as an educational diagnosis and so was added to Iowa Education Code. 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 AEA's do not label children with a diagnosis of dyslexia, we do serve learners with dyslexia. Iowa's education system has been focused to ensure that our students are skilled readers.

### **Early ACCESS (Individual Family Service Plans or IFSP for children birth to 3 years)**

Early ACCESS is a partnership between families with young children, birth to age 3, and providers from local Public Health, Human Services, Child Health Specialty Clinics, area education agencies (AEA) and other community programs. The purpose of this program is for families and staff to work together in identifying, coordinating and providing needed services and resources that will help the family assist their infant or toddler to grow and develop.

### **Early Childhood**

Early Childhood services are available to support educators in promoting the optimal development and education of young children from birth to age eight by providing leadership and support to families, schools, and communities.

### **Early Childhood Screenings**

Screenings of 3, 4, and 5-year-olds for vision and hearing are held in local communities.

### **Early Childhood Services (children ages 3-5)**

Reaching students with diverse needs at an early age is critical to their later success. Early Intervention services provide school district personnel with the needed information to reach younger students.

### **EdInsight**

EdInsight is the Iowa Department of Education's Statewide Longitudinal Data System and enhances the capabilities to provide consistent, reliable and accurate quality data for Iowa's educators. It provides teachers and administrators with a tool that offers them a longitudinal (2004- 2005 to present) detailed picture of student, building, and district level achievement. Hosts of other educational data are stored in EdInsight. Central Rivers AEA staff provide training for EdInsight in both pre-formatted reports and the assessment cube reports as well as information on how to use this data management tool as educators engage in data analysis efforts.

### **Educator Support to work with Families of Students with Disabilities**

Educators needing support and general information about working with students with disabilities and their families are encouraged to seek the assistance of the Family Educator Partnership. (FEP)

### **Emergency Building Repair Approval**

Persons needing information about emergency building repair approval should contact the chief administrator of the AEA.

Joel Pedersen  
Chief Administrator  
Cedar Falls Office

### **English Language Learners (ELL)**

Districts in need of a certified EL teacher on an intermittent basis and in a limited capacity, may qualify for EL Instructional Services. This program includes access to a certified EL teacher as a managed, fee-based service. To determine if your district qualifies, contact the Director of IT and Special Programs.

Sarah Nelson  
Director of IT and Special Programs  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Equity**

Persons inquiring about the agency's equity plan and/ or policies should contact the Equity Coordinator.

Karl Kurt  
Assistant Chief Administrator/  
Director of HR  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Family Support**

Parents of children with special needs can benefit greatly from the support and guidance of those who have been in similar situations. Parents are encouraged to contact the Family Educator Partnership (FEP).

### **Financial Consultant Services**

School districts who find themselves in need of consultation regarding budgetary issues have access to the experience and expertise of the Central Rivers AEA Chief Financial Officer.

Michael Kalvig  
Chief Financial Officer  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Focus Groups**

Districts interested in using professionally facilitated focus groups to gain valuable needs assessment information both internally and externally are encouraged to use agency personnel. Staff have formal training in focus group facilitation and specialize in analysis of data for action planning.

Beth Strike  
Director of Creative Services &  
Communications  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Graphic Design Services**

Graphic designers are available to assist in the layout and design of your educational publications in-

corporating original artwork (yours or ours) or stock art. Publications can then be printed on a variety of sizes and weights of paper, and then finished (collated, bound) in various ways to give you the look you want.

Beth Strike  
Director of Creative Services &  
Communications  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Hearing Testing and Services**

Identification through testing, medical referrals and educational planning for students who are deaf or have hearing impairments is available through the agency. Trained audiometrists, audiologists and itinerant hearing teachers provide services, recommendations and materials.

### **Human Resource Management**

Leadership and oversight of the Human Resources Department of Central Rivers AEA, Administrator/teacher evaluation, employee contracts, equity, negotiations, TEACH Iowa background checks, and licensure information.

Karl Kurt  
Assistant Chief Administrator/  
Director of Human Resources  
Cedar Falls Office

Shirley Horak  
Human Resources Coordinator  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Independent Evaluations**

Persons interested in more information about independent evaluations of children following a Central Rivers AEA full and individual evaluation should contact the district's regional administrator.

### **Interpreter and Translation Services**

Educators needing information about interpreters and translation services for special needs students should contact the district's regional administrator.

## Iowa Academic Standards

The Iowa Academic Standards provide academic expectations for all Iowa's K-12 students. They do so by helping teachers take learning to a deeper level by focusing on a well-researched set of core standards for literacy, math, science and social studies as well as 21st Century Skills and Universal Constructs. The Iowa CORE Essential Elements are for students with significant cognitive disabilities participating in alternate assessments. There are recommended standards for fine arts, PE/health and computer science. The Iowa Academic Standards are not course-based, but rather are a student-based approach that supports high expectations for all students. A variety of professional learning offerings are provided to support local educators in understanding and implementation.

## Learning Supports

Learning Supports provides a model of how schools, agencies and organizations can align their work to ensure that all Iowa children and youth are successful in school, healthy and socially competent, prepared for productive adulthood, and in safe, supportive schools, families, and communities. A learning supports model provides a system of supports and strategies that if implemented with integrity, result in the likelihood that more students will achieve at high levels. Children and youth who are not healthy, well adjusted socially, or who don't feel safe may not experience success in school. The six content areas for Learning Supports are: Supplements to Instruction, Family Supports and Involvement, Community Partnerships, Safe, Healthy, and Caring Environments, Transitions, and Child/Youth Engagement.

## Legal Issues in Special Education

Persons needing guidance and interpretation of legal matters in special education may contact the Executive Director of Special Education.

Amy Knupp

Executive Director of Special Education  
Cedar Falls Office

## Legislation

Information on pending legislation and the legislative process is available during the legislative session.

Joel Pedersen

Chief Administrator  
Cedar Falls Office

## Literacy Education

Consultants are available to provide inservice, assistance with curriculum development, materials, model teaching and ongoing consultation in reading, writing, speaking and listening for K-12 students.

## Learning Management System (LMS)

The agency supports a variety of platforms or learning management systems to house online learning experiences for students, staff, educators and leaders. Personalized learning for students and statewide training for staff are supported by AEA Learning Online. In addition, Central Rivers AEA facilitates online learning using the Canvas platform and Google Classroom. Added in the 2022-2023 school year, Central Rivers AEA created an on-demand learning platform that supports anytime, anywhere learning for educators and educational leaders.

Kay Schmalen

Director of Professional Learning  
Clear Lake Office

## Mathematics Education

A consultant is available to provide educators with assistance in designing curriculum, modeling instruction, and using technology for math instruction. Problem-solving, higher order thinking skills and instruction based on standards are emphasized.

## Media Services

An extensive collection of instructional support material and resources are available for check-out from the Central Rivers AEA GetMedia Collection. You may access the material in our collection by using the GetMedia checkout system, using the 'Live Chat' feature on the Central Rivers homepage, or by emailing [reservations@centralriversaea.org](mailto:reservations@centralriversaea.org)

This collection includes:

- Sets of student books
- Books with audio (Playaways, tag readers, etc.)
- Educational kits (models, curriculum samples, manipulatives, etc.)
- Equipment including Swivls, iPads, recording equipment, etc.
- Robots/Coding/STEM materials (Ozobot, Beebots, Spheros, etc.)
- Professional books
- Electronic professional journals
- Digital resources (including streaming video)
- MackinVIA ebooks (student and professional)
- Mystery Science (K-5 online science support)
- RealCare infant simulators
- Starlab planetarium system
- Virtual welding simulators

In addition to the physical materials available for checkout, Central Rivers AEA provides access to quality digital resources such as: AEA Scout, a suite of 16 online resources which support instruction including six new resources. Additional online resources include EBSCOhost and Mystery Science. In addition, consultation services school library media programs include onsite visits to LEA library media centers, digital citizenship support, and learning opportunities relevant to media/technology integration.

Cari Teske

Director of Media  
Marshalltown Office

## **Mentoring and Induction**

Research shows that support for beginning teachers is critical to their later success in the classroom. Central Rivers AEA provides a comprehensive mentoring and induction program specifically designed for area educators and their mentors.

## **MTSS**

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a process whereby schools and school districts create a proactive, early intervention framework that works to meet the unique needs of all students. Using the Continuous Improvement Process (needs assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation) as its foundation, MTSS works to use system/student data in all phases to assist educators in delivering quality content through the use of effective instructional practices to produce improved student performance.

## **Needs Assessments**

Agency staff will assist with a variety of methods for determining the learning needs of students and staff, including organization and facilitation of community forums, strategic planning or small group problem solving sessions; development of print or phone surveys, organization and facilitation of focus groups; and samples of needs assessment strategies used by other districts.

## **Occupational Therapy**

Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants work in early intervention and school-based programs with children, parents, caregivers, educators, and other team members to facilitate the child's ability to engage in meaningful occupations that are based on social, cultural, or peer performance. Occupational therapy practitioners provide services that enable people to organize, manage, and perform their daily life occupations and activities. Occupational

therapy services support a child's participation in activities of daily living, education, work, play, leisure, and social interactions.

## **Organizational Development**

Services such as strategic planning, shared decision-making, school improvement planning, learning organizations, systems thinking, problem-solving and leadership development are available upon request.

Joel Pedersen  
Chief Administrator  
Cedar Falls Office

## **Paraeducator Training**

Central Rivers AEA provides resources and support for paraeducators including certification training and information on State of Iowa requirements.

## **Perkins Funding**

Information regarding Perkins dollars and programming can be obtained from the district's regional administrator.

## **Physical Therapy**

Physical therapists are licensed professionals who provide services to individuals who have impairments, functional limitations, disabilities, or changes in physical function and health status resulting from injury, disease or other causes. Physical therapists working in the educational environment provide services to assist students in benefiting from their educational program. Physical therapists collaborate as a member on the educational team.

## **Professional Learning**

Growing professionals is a key service provided by Central Rivers AEA. We are innovative in our approaches, abreast of the latest research, trends and needs of our customers,

and aligned to requirements from the state. Learning opportunities are delivered in a variety of ways - face to face, blended, virtual, in real-time or on-demand - to help meet each learner's needs.

- **Administrator License Renewal**  
Information regarding license renewal procedures and courses is available through the Central Rivers AEA Professional Learning program. Renewal requirements are binding for those who hold administrative endorsements.

- **Course Catalog & Registration**  
Courses offered for credit through the Professional Learning program are advertised in an online course catalog available on the agency website at [www.centralriversaea.org](http://www.centralriversaea.org). Registration is available online through participants' professional learning accounts offering quick and easy access to courses.

- **Licensure Renewal**  
Information regarding the number of hours needed for licensure renewal for individual educators is available.

- **License Renewal Courses**  
Over 100 courses are offered year-round for college credit, teacher certificate renewal or for degrees and endorsements through the Central Rivers AEA Professional Learning program. All courses are advertised via the agency website at [www.centralriversaea.org](http://www.centralriversaea.org)

- **Transcripts**  
Official student transcripts are available by requesting a transcript through participants' professional learning accounts. Unofficial student transcripts are available on-line through the Central Rivers AEA Professional Learning website and can be downloaded through participants' professional learning accounts.  
Kay Schmalen  
Director of Professional Learning  
Clear Lake Office

### **Professional Learning Communities**

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

### **Program Evaluation**

Agency staff will assist educators in studying the effect or outcomes of various programs within their school.

### **Quality Preschool Program**

In 2004, the Department of Education designated early childhood consultants to develop a set of state standards in early childhood education. Due to the research and comprehensive information of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) the Iowa Early Learning Work Team developed state standards based on all 10 of the NAEYC program standards and 45% of the NAEYC program criteria. The Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS), were drafted then finalized by the spring of 2004. These standards were developed to be used for programs with 3- and 4-year-old children. The agency provides support through professional development training and technical expertise via highly skilled early childhood consultants.

### **School Board Retreats**

Facilitation and planning services are available for local school district boards. School board retreats, mediation, and/or facilitation through difficult or challenging issues are sometimes best handled by a neutral, experienced, third-party.

Joel Pedersen  
Chief Administrator  
Cedar Falls Office

### **School-Community Relations**

School districts interested in developing partnerships with parents and the community for the benefit of students have available to them several resources. Agency staff are available for consultation around issues of interpersonal and mass communication, including ways to involve all persons in the school, family and community.

Beth Strike  
Director of Creative Services & Communications  
Cedar Falls Office

### **School Reorganization**

By law, Area Education Agencies must prepare and approve a reorganization plan for any district within their area which has fewer than 300 students.

Joel Pedersen  
Chief Administrator  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Science Education**

A science consultant is available for consultation with educators regarding curriculum, instruction and the use of technology in the content area of science. Problem-solving, higher order thinking skills and instruction based on standards and inquiry are emphasized.

### **Special Education Compliance/Monitoring**

The Iowa Department of Education, in conjunction with Iowa's Area Education Agencies has general supervision responsibilities and is required to monitor Local Education Agencies/Districts in Iowa (U.S.C. 300.600). The compliance monitoring process has several components. The district must complete all activities to address all noncompliance items no later than one year (365 days) from the Date of Notification (Release of Compliance). The agency provides technical assistance and support throughout all stages of the process. If there are

questions about special education rules and regulations, please contact the district's regional administrator.

### **Special Education Records**

Appropriate access and managing of special education records comes under the direction of each district's regional administrator.

### **Speech and Language Services**

Speech-language pathologists identify and provide consultative and direct speech and language services to children, birth to age 21, who have difficulties in the areas of articulation, language, fluency, and voice. Services are available to all eligible students.

### **STEM Education**

A STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) consultant is available for consultation with administrators and educators regarding planning and implementing STEM programs and/or curriculums. Integration across multiple disciplines, collaborative practice, and instruction based on inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking are emphasized.

### **Talented and Gifted (TAG) Support/Services**

Central Rivers AEA facilitates opportunities for inservice, network sessions, and advisory meetings to aid schools in developing and improving programming for their students who participate in talented and gifted programming.

### **Teacher Leadership and Compensation**

Central Rivers AEA is committed to supporting schools as they develop and refine effective teacher leadership systems. Through ongoing learning and networking opportunities, the Teacher Leadership Network (TLN) equips teacher leaders and their building administra-

tors with the information and tools needed to positively affect student achievement through a student-centered coaching model. With a focus on student outcomes, this model brings both formative assessment and the Iowa Core Standards to the forefront.

### **Team Representative Services**

Team representatives serve each school building in Central Rivers AEA. Consultants, school social workers, and school psychologists serve in this role. Team representatives have expertise in assisting schools with the General Education Intervention process, 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 problems. The emphasis is on intervention and remediation through a team approach.

### **Technology Integration**

Central Rivers AEA provides services around the integration of technology to support student learning that are aligned with the Iowa Core. Our services include providing professional learning, networking opportunities, and consulting within the content areas.

### **Technology Support Services**

The Central Rivers AEA Information Technology Support Team has certified staff to assist with network troubleshooting, technology installation, and device configuration. We provide hardware, software, and email support with the ability to perform advanced diagnostics and performance tuning on network infrastructure. We also provide consultative services around cybersecurity, E-Rate, and technology purchasing, while offering Managed

IT Services to districts that are in need of onsite technical support on an ongoing and regular basis.

### **Transition Services**

The Central Rivers AEA Work Experience Coordinator is a resource to district personnel, families, and students with special needs in the process of transitioning to adult life (future living, future learning, and future employment). Contact the district's regional administrator to coordinate transition services.

### **Transportation Route Approval**

Persons needing information about transportation routes should contact the Board Secretary.

Lori Thomas  
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Vision Conservation and Education**

Information and support regarding the conservation of vision is available through trained staff.

### **Web Site**

One of the major communication tools is the Central Rivers AEA website located at [www.central-riversaea.org](http://www.central-riversaea.org). You'll find special announcements, professional learning classes, technology news, lists of instructional materials, helpful links, and much more. For questions about the content of the site or help finding information contact:

Beth Strike  
Director of Creative Services & Communications  
Cedar Falls Office

Lori Thomas  
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary  
Cedar Falls Office

### **Wellbeing Team**

Central Rivers AEA provides a regional team made up of agency staff who have expertise in Autism, Behavioral Health and Mental Health. This team provides consultation on autism, behavior, mental health and related disorders to students and families. We provide support in numerous ways, which may include suggesting curricula, consulting on individual situations, and assisting a team in accessing community resources. In order to access a member of this team, please contact the district's regional administrator.

### **Work Experience**

Local districts may elect to contract work experience services through Central Rivers AEA. The Central Rivers AEA work experience coordinators will assist school personnel, families and special needs students in the work study process (assessment, worksite development, job placement, and evaluation).

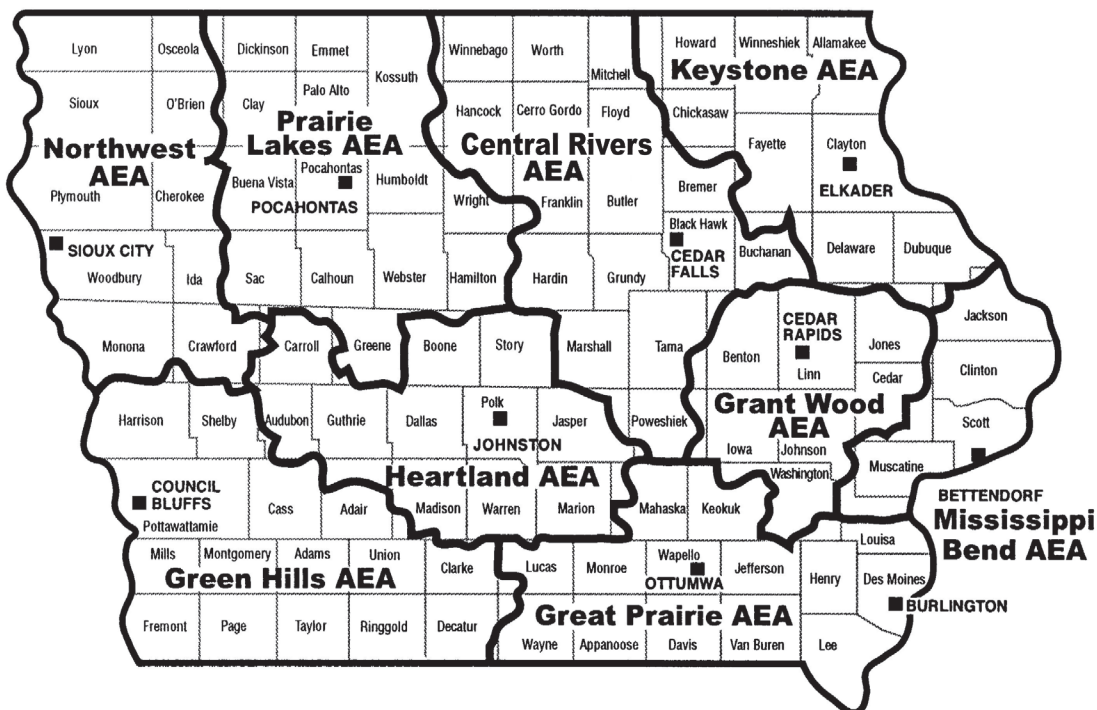
### **Youth Development**

Issues around school culture, youth development and resiliency are important to educators. All regional administrators have expertise in these areas.

*The majority of agency services can be accessed by contacting the district's regional administrator (contact information can be found on page 6).*



# Iowa's Area Education Agencies



**Central Rivers AEA**  
1521 Technology Parkway  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 273-8200 or (800) 542-8375  
Fax: (319) 273-8229  
[www.centralriversaea.org](http://www.centralriversaea.org)  
Chief Administrator: Joel Pedersen

**Grant Wood AEA**  
4401 Sixth Street S.W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
(319) 399-6700 or (800) 332-8488  
Fax: (319) 399-6457  
[www.aea10.k12.ia.us](http://www.aea10.k12.ia.us)  
Chief Administrator: Dr. John Speer

**Great Prairie AEA**  
2814 N. Court Street  
Ottumwa, IA 52501  
(641) 682-8591 or (800) 622-0027  
Fax: (641) 682-9083  
[www.gpaea.k12.ia.us](http://www.gpaea.k12.ia.us)  
Chief Administrator: Nathan Wood

**Green Hills AEA**  
24997 Highway 92  
P.O. Box 1109  
Council Bluffs, IA 51502  
(712) 366-0503 or (800) 432-5804  
Fax: (712) 366-7772  
[www.ghaea.org](http://www.ghaea.org)  
Chief Administrator: Dr. Jason Plourde

**Heartland AEA**  
6500 Corporate Drive  
Johnston, IA 50131  
(515) 270-9030 or (800) 362-2720  
Fax: (515) 270-5383  
[www.aea11.k12.ia.us](http://www.aea11.k12.ia.us)  
Chief Administrator: Dr. Cindy Yelick

**Keystone AEA**  
1400 2nd Street N.W.  
Elkader, IA 52043  
(563) 245-1480 or (800) 632-5918  
Fax: (563) 245-1484  
[www.aea1.k12.ia.us](http://www.aea1.k12.ia.us)  
Chief Administrator: Stan Rheingans

**Mississippi Bend AEA**  
729 21st Street  
Bettendorf, IA 52722  
(563) 359-1371 or (800) 947-AEA9  
Fax: (563) 359-5967  
[www.aea9.k12.ia.us](http://www.aea9.k12.ia.us)  
Chief Administrator: Bill Decker

**Northwest AEA**  
1520 Morningside Avenue  
Sioux City, IA 51106-1780  
(712) 222-6000 or (800) 352-9040  
Fax: (712) 222-6123  
[www.nwaea.org](http://www.nwaea.org)  
Chief Administrator: Dr. Dan Cox

**Prairie Lakes AEA**  
500 N.W. 6th Street  
Pocahontas, IA 50574  
(712) 335-3588 or (866) 540-3858  
Fax: (712) 335-5871  
[www.aea8.k12.ia.us](http://www.aea8.k12.ia.us)  
Chief Administrator: Dr. Dan Mart

# Central Rivers AEA School District Superintendents

## AGWSR CSD



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## Alden CSD



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## Aplington-Parkersburg CSD



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## BCLUW CSD



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## Belmond-Klemme CSD



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## BGM CSD



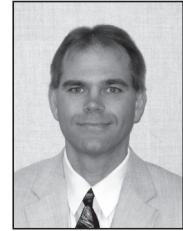
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## Central Springs CSD



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## Charles City CSD



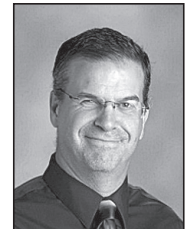
**Dr. Anne Lundquist**  
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# Central Rivers AEA

## School District Superintendents

### Denver CSD



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### Dike-New Hartford CSD



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### Dunkerton CSD



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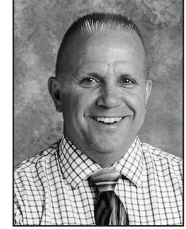
### Forest City CSD



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# Central Rivers AEA School District Superintendents

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## Hudson CSD



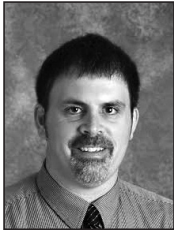
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# Central Rivers AEA

## School District Superintendents

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### Northwood-Kensett CSD



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### Rudd-Rockford- Marble Rock CSD



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### St. Ansgar CSD



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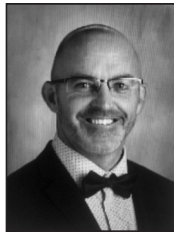
### Sumner-Fredericksburg CSD



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### Tripoli CSD



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### Union CSD



**John Howard**

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La Porte City, IA 50651-1143  
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### Wapsie Valley CSD



**Chris Hoover**

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# Central Rivers AEA School District Superintendents

## Waterloo CSD



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## Waverly-Shell Rock CSD



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## West Fork CSD



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## West Hancock CSD



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## West Marshall CSD



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Central Rivers Area Education Agency (AEA) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, marital status, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic background or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices as required by all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action laws, directives, and regulations of federal, state and local governing bodies and agencies. Students, parents of students, applicants for employment and employees of Central Rivers AEA shall have the right to file a formal complaint alleging non-compliance with federal and state regulations requiring nondiscrimination in educational programs and employment. Inquiries concerning application of this statement should be addressed to: Karl Kurt, Equity Coordinator, Central Rivers AEA, 1521 Technology Pkwy, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613, Telephone: 800-542-8375