

New Research and Development School

Governor Culver has signed legislation that creates a state Research and Development school in Cedar Falls. The purpose of the school is to serve Iowa students and educators in a sustainable partnership between the University of Northern Iowa and the Iowa Department of Education. Supporters of the new school feel strongly that the R & D school is essential to Iowa's coming generations and the vitality of the State of Iowa.

The site for the school is the current Price Laboratory School. The school will accept students in grades kindergarten through grade twelve with total enrollment capped at 650

students. A three-year transition plan is put in place to allow time for the school to become fully operational. Funding for the school will come from open enrollment provisions in current law. The geographic boundary line agreement with the Cedar Falls School District will ensure that students currently receiving priority access to the school through open enrollment will continue to have priority access.

Two committees are established: a 17-member advisory council to review and evaluate the educational processes and results of the school, and a nine-member standing institu-

tional research committee to serve as the clearinghouse for investigative and applied research at the school. Annual reports are to be provided.

A design firm will evaluate the current Price Lab school facility and determine whether renovation or new construction is the most feasible option.

The Board of Regents is the governing entity of the school and is responsible for the faculty, facility grounds, and staffing. The Department of Education is the accreditation agency and the authority on teacher qualification requirements.