

Governor Approves Education Blueprint

Governor Culver approved spending \$844.4 million for education on Iowa's children and older students when he signed Senate File 2376, the education budget bill, into law. The bill appropriates general fund money to the Departments of Education, community colleges, Regents' institutions and the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

This bill, along with another that spends \$2.4 billion in school aid for Iowa's K-12 schools, shows a commitment to invest in education for Iowa's children and young people so they have the skills they will need for a successful future.

In addition to appropriating money for education, the bill provides the following:

- Requires the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) to be subject to the requirements of Iowa's open meetings laws.
- Requires school boards to annually report to their local communities and the state Department of Education the amount of membership dues they pay to the IASB, and the services they receive as part of their membership.
- Requires Library Service Areas (LSAs) and the state library to work collaboratively on a study of ways to streamline state-funded library operations and services.
- Clarifies the Legislature's intent in 2009 that teacher salary supplement funding, funding for professional development, and early intervention remain fully funded in the event of a Governor ordered budget cut.

When signing the bill, Governor Culver stated, "This keeps our promise to hard-working Iowans by making needed investments in education for our young people. This funding will help us maintain our tradition of educational excellence."