



# SWDB Executive Committee

**Date: 1/27/26**

**Location: TEAMS**

## Notes

### Iowa Workforce Development Board Meeting

#### Executive Committee

January 27, 2026

10:30 – 11:00 am

TEAMS

The meeting of the Executive Committee (the Committee) commenced on January 27, 2026, at approximately 10:30 am via TEAMS.

#### Members in Attendance

1. Teresa Hovell, Chair
2. Jack Hasken
3. Kelly Barrick

#### Members Absent:

1. LuAnn Scholbrock

#### Other Attendees:

1. Michelle McNertney
2. Shelly Evans

#### Committee Discussions:

Michelle McNertney, Executive Director of the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB), opened discussions on the current and proposed composition of the board. Federal Code at 20 CFR 679.110(b)(3)(iii)(A)(1)(i) through (iii) details the requirements for this board's composition outlines the Governor's responsibility to ensure adequate representations of the core programs. Iowa Code Section 84A.1A(1)(a) details the members of the board and does not include a unique representative for Adult Education. The current board composition does not meet these requirements.

We will be required to post this change for public comments for thirty days which will run through 2/26/27. An additional meeting of the board will need to be held on 2/27/27 because the due date for the submission of the Unified State Plan Modifications is 3/3/27. May be room for extension but only in certain situations and Iowa does not need that criteria. Waiting for confirmation from USDOL.

#### **III.b.3.B. State Board**

***Provide a description of the State Board activities that will assist State Board members and state in carrying out State Board functions effectively. Also, provide a membership roster for the State Board consistent with 20 CFR 679.110-120, including members' organizational affiliations and position titles.***

Current Language:

Current SWDB Composition includes 22 Voting and 1 non-Voting Members.

Category	Type of organization
Required	Governor
Required	State Senator
Required	State Representative
Appointed - Balance	Director of IWD
Appointed - Balance	Director of Dept. for the Blind
Appointed - Balance	DA for IVRS
Appointed - Balance	City Chief Elected Official
Appointed - Balance	County Chief Elected Official
Business	Business
Business	Business
Business	Business
Business	Business
Business	Business
Business	Business
Business	Business
Business	Business
Business	Business
Business	Small Business
Workforce	Labor Organization
Workforce	Labor Organization
Workforce	Joint Labor Management/RA program
Workforce	CBO
<b>Non-Voting</b>	
Appointed - Balance	Director of Dept. of Education

Director Townsend is the lead state official with primary responsibility of the Title I, II, III, and IV (except IV-Blind) programs and ensures adequate representation of each program under her jurisdiction. The following chart summarizes the Board composition by category of voting members, which consists of 52.6% business members and 21% workforce members. The State Director of Adult Education attends all SWDB meetings and provides input and information to the Board regarding the Title II program.

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Proposed Language for State Plan Modification:

While Director Townsend is the lead state official with primary responsibility of the Title I, II, III, and IV (except IV-Blind) programs, Iowa recognizes the importance of having distinct representation of the Title II Adult Education and Literacy programs on the SWDB. Iowa Code Chapter 84A.1A codifies the membership and composition of Iowa's SWDB and does not currently include a distinct and separate representative for Title II. During the 2026 Iowa General Assembly, currently in session, the Iowa legislature has been asked to consider an amendment to this code section to ensure compliance with federal requirements of state board membership, allowing Governor Reynolds the statutory

authority to appoint additional members to the SWDB. Based on current SWDB membership, this statutory change would add four additional members to the SWDB effective July 1, 2026: one member representing adult education, two additional business members, and one additional workforce member, for a total of 26 voting members.

Required	3	n/a
Appointed - Balance	6	26%
Business Seats	12	52%
Workforce Seats	5	22%
Total Members Appointed by Governor	23	100%
Total Members	26	

### Motion to update the composition of the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB).

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Jack Hasken makes a motion to approve of updating the composition of the SWDB as presented and Teresa Hovell seconded the motion. Members of the Committee in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

#### Committee Discussions:

Michelle McNertney, Executive Director of the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB), opened discussions on Workforce Pell Grants. HR1, One Big Beautiful Bill, approved federal Pell Grants that you do not have to pay back. Approved portion of funding for workforce Pell. Short-term training to provide skills to get into the workforce quickly with high demand high skilled jobs. This is a heavy lift for July 1 and a slow burn.

Iowa Workforce Development and the Department of Education are working with the Governor's Office to develop policies and procedures for implementation of Workforce Pell grants, including a standard definition of high wage, high demand and high skill. Additionally, the State of Iowa is participating in the National Governor's Association Workforce Pell Readiness Cohort to ensure Iowa is on the leading edge of Workforce Pell grants Implementation. IWD's Labor Market Information Division reassesses in-demand industry sectors and occupations regularly, assuring that the latest labor market information data is available and used to drive high quality, short-term training. The US Department of Labor only released guidance on required elements of the 2026 State Plan Modification on January 26, 2026, via [TEGL 07-25, Modification Requirements for WIOA State Plans for Program Years \(PYs\) 2026 and 2027](#). This guidance strongly encourages states to "prepare for implementation of Workforce Pell Grants." The below language acknowledges the work Iowa is undertaking to implement Workforce Pell Grants.

### III.a.2 Implementation of State Strategy

#### F. Improving Access to Postsecondary Credentials

Describe how the State's strategies will improve access to activities leading to recognized postsecondary credentials, including Registered Apprenticeship certificates. This includes credentials that are industry-recognized certificates, licenses or certifications, and that are portable and stackable.

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Proposed Language:

#### Workforce Pell Grants

Iowa Workforce Development and the Department of Education are working with the Governor's Office to develop policies and procedures for implementation of Workforce Pell grants, including a standard definition of high wage, high demand and high skill. Additionally, the State of Iowa is participating in the National Governor's Association Workforce Pell Readiness Cohort to ensure Iowa is on the leading edge of Workforce Pell grants Implementation. IWD's Labor Market Information Division reassesses in-demand industry sectors and occupations regularly, assuring that the latest labor market information data is available and used to drive high quality, short-term training.

#### [Motion to update the language for Workforce Pell Grants in the Unified State Plan.](#)

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Jack Hasken makes a motion to approve of updated language of Workforce Pell Grants in the Unified State Plan as presented and Kelly Barrick seconded the motion. Members of the Committee in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Committee adjourned at approximately 11:00 am.

*Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities*