



**State Agency: IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Description of Resource: Positive Intervention and Supports (PBIS)**

PBIS is an organizational framework used to guide schools in creating a positive school culture and climate, and provide research based practices for implementing a multi-tiered system of academic and behavioral supports. It calls for the development of systems and practices that are regularly assessed through data collection. School wide and individual student data create the path for engaging in a continuous school improvement process focusing on the prevention of and interventions for academic and behavioral deficits. Specifically mentioned in **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**, **PBIS is recognized for its potential for improving educational and social outcomes for students.**

A team-based approach, PBIS is guided by 6 important principles: 1) development of a continuum of evidence based behavior and academic interventions 2) use of data to make decisions 3) structuring of the environment to prevent problem behavior 4) teaching and encouraging pro-social behavior 5) fidelity of implementation and 6) universal screening and progress monitoring of student performance.

PBIS emphasizes early intervention and the use of functional assessment to address intensive, individual needs of students. The Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) process is a formal process for gathering student data and developing individualized behavior plans. Additionally, the PBIS framework includes a “wraparound” process for students with identified home, school and community needs. This is a collaborative process in which schools and community resources are identified and integrated in a comprehensive system of support. During this problem solving process, the family is key in building the academic and support services necessary to meet the unique needs of the student.

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**Description of Resource: Olweus Bullying Prevention Program**

- Olweus <http://www.olweus.org> is a highly research based program known worldwide. It is a whole-school program aimed at preventing or reducing bullying throughout the school setting. Olweus is being implemented in schools K-12. It reduces existing bullying problems among students prevents new bullying problems and achieves better peer relations at school.
- Iowa has over thirty nationally certified trainers for Olweus. Most are positioned in AEAs and are ready to consult with you and also train building coordinating committees to implement Olweus. A list of Olweus Trainers in Iowa accompanies this information.

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### **Description of Resource: Challenging Behavior**

Challenging Behavior Specialists (CBS) have received specific training in how to conduct appropriate, state-of-the-art Function Based Assessments (FBA's) which are essential to writing effective and durable Behavior Intervention Plans (BIP's) that are effective in reducing challenging behaviors and improving appropriate pro-social behaviors in the classroom. Currently, each AEA employs a team of to conduct these assessments at the Center for Developmental Disabilities (CDD) as well as in the local school districts. Children referred to the project through the Lead Challenging Behavior Specialist in each AEA receive a thorough FBA and recommendations that inform BIP's for that particular child. These teams usually assess children with easily observable challenging behaviors such as aggression, disruption, tantrums, and self-injurious behaviors and children that usually receive frequent office disciplinary referrals for such behaviors. The CBS's work as a team within each AEA and fit within the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) model for children at the "top of the triangle". Please contact Sean Casey for more information about these resources.

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### **Description of Resource: Mental Health Wraparound**

Wraparound is a philosophy of care with defined planning process used to build constructive relationships and support networks among students and youth with emotional or behavioral disabilities (EBD) and their families. It is community based, culturally relevant, individualized, strength based, and family centered. Wraparound plans are comprehensive and address multiple life domains across home, school, and community, including living environment; basic needs; safety; and social, emotional, educational, spiritual, and cultural needs. Another defining feature of wraparound is that it is unconditional; if interventions are not achieving the outcomes desired by the team, the team regroup to rethink the configuration of supports, services, and interventions to ensure success in natural home, school, and community settings. In other words, students do not fail, but plans can fail. Rather than forcing a student to fit into existing program structures, wraparound is based on the belief that services and supports should be flexibly arranged to meet the unique needs of the students and their families. (www.PBIS.org)

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**State Agency: Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJ) /  
Department of Human Rights**

**Description of Resource:**

CJJ allocates funds to the juvenile court services office in each of the eight judicial districts to provide community-based services for youth in the juvenile court system. Based on the needs in the respective areas, juvenile court services implement treatment and sanction programs to meet the needs of the juvenile offenders in their communities. The types of programs include:

- Functional Family Therapy,
- juvenile court liaisons in schools,
- gender specific services for girls,
- life skills,
- alternatives to school suspensions,
- substance abuse prevention and treatment,
- supports and services for youth in juvenile detention centers, and
- training and professional development for juvenile court officers.

Also, CJJP allocates federal **Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL)** funding to the eight judicial districts to develop strategies to reduce underage drinking by enforcing laws pertaining to underage drinking. The primary consideration is for **enforcement activities** (e.g. compliance checks, party patrol checks, saturation projects, buyer/seller training), and/or **media campaigns** that promote the uniform administration of the underage drinking laws.

Additional CJJP initiatives:

- Partner with the statewide **Iowa Task Force for Young Women**, which advocates for the needs of girls in the juvenile justice system and hosts the statewide Whispers and Screams conference each year. Upcoming conference is May 19 and 20, 2011.
- Partnering with State Public Policy Group (SPPG) in developing a **Cultural Competency Training** Initiative specifically for law enforcement, court, and school personnel. The curriculum will be shared with school officials, law enforcement, and juvenile court services. On-site training will be available.
- Supports the **Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Resource Center**, which is working with select sites (**Black Hawk, Johnson, Polk, and Woodbury Counties**) to support a variety of DMC issues, including staff training, technical assistance, community planning, and best practices.
- Partnering with the Department of Education (DE) to develop a **School-Court Referral Protocol**. In October 2010, members of the School-Court Referral Sub-Committee initiated meetings to facilitate agreements with local decision-makers (schools, law enforcement, county attorney, Board of Supervisors, juvenile court officers, Department of Human Services, and judges) to develop local protocols in **Woodbury, Black Hawk, Polk, Johnson, and Linn Counties**. DE and CJJP continues to work with the School to Court Sub-Committee and assist in facilitating discussions of the local leaders to get agreements for implementing a protocol and in identifying state resources that may be available to remove barriers for students and enhance a system of student supports.

- Partner with the Department of Human Services (DHS) in the implementation of a rural homeless youth initiative. The initiative is reviewing state and federal policies that are barriers for youth in need of necessities (e.g. food, shelter, clothing, job, school). There is also a demonstration site in Boone that is developing an infrastructure to support homeless youth in a rural community.

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**State Agency: Division of Community Action Agencies /  
Department of Human Rights**

**Description of Resource:** The Division of Community Action Agencies works with the network of Community Action Agencies (CAA) throughout the state. The CAA's serve as advocates for low-income, elderly and disabled residents in Iowa. There are 18 local Community Action Agencies serving all 99 counties in the State of Iowa with a variety of programs but with a common goal: Helping People Help Themselves.

The Community Action Agencies administer:

- **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LiHEAP)**

This federally-funded block grant is designed to aid qualifying households in the payment of a portion of their residential heating costs for the winter heating season. The program's energy crisis intervention components are designed to provide immediate response to alleviate potentially life-threatening situations, and the client education component of the program provides funds for activities that encourage regular utility payments, promote energy awareness and encourage reduction of energy use through energy efficiency, client education and weatherization.

- **Family Development and Self Sufficiency (FaDSS)**

FaDSS provides services to Family Investment Program families facing multiple barriers to self-sufficiency. The FaDSS program provides comprehensive in-home services through certified Family Development Specialists. The FaDSS program is a nationally recognized model which has demonstrated that it pays off, both in social and economic terms, to invest in high quality intensive services by partnering with families at risk of long term welfare dependency.

- **Weatherization Assistance Program**

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is a federal grant program established to help reduce the heating and cooling costs for low income persons, particularly the elderly, disabled, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes. The WAP has developed from a program that stressed low cost, temporary measures installed by volunteers, to a program that uses trained crews and contractors to install permanent cost effective measures that address both the building shell and the heating and cooling systems in the dwelling.

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**State Agency: IOWA DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC HEALTH**

Description of Resource:

- Iowa Youth Survey
- Teen Screen (youth suicide prevention)
- Prevention grants including youth development, mentoring, SPF SIG, and others
- Substance Abuse Prevention agencies

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**State Agency: IOWA JOBS FOR AMERICA’S GRADUATES (iJAG)**

**Description of Resource:** What is Iowa Jobs for America’s Graduates?

Iowa Jobs for America’s Graduates (iJAG) is a nonprofit organization established in 1999. For over 10 years iJAG has helped students knock down barriers by unlocking student potential. iJAG provides a comprehensive school-to-career program for high school students who are faced with multiple barriers to success. Our program teaches performance competencies which are needed in order for our students to: succeed in school, thrive in the workplace, and lead productive and fulfilling lives. Our vision is to lead every iJAG student to graduation, post-secondary education, a successful career, and life-long learning.

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**State Agency: IOWA DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)**

**Description of Resource: Iowa Foster Care Youth Council: *Elevate***

Since 2007, DHS contracts with Children and Families of Iowa to implement, facilitate, and maintain a council for adolescents currently in, or who were formerly in a foster care placement. The support groups are held in ten chapters across the state and provide an opportunity for teens in foster care/alumni to meet youth having similar experiences, learn about programs and services, and have an opportunity to impact policy and practice change in the child welfare system. Over four hundred youth regularly attend elevate chapter meetings.

Frequently, community volunteers teach life skills to help participants improve relationships, perform in school, and prepare to enter the workforce. Life skills lessons have the obvious benefit of preparing youth for adulthood, but also provide participants with much needed adult mentoring and potentially, permanent relationships.

Elevate youth share their stories of hope at DHS and court trainings, as well as numerous other venues. Elevate have made a series of videos, including *“Seeds of Hope: Educational Perspectives from Foster-Adoptive Teens”*.

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**Description of Resource: Education Collaborative**

The Iowa Children’s Justice, Iowa Department of Education, and DHS have partnered since 2008 to collaboratively address the educational needs of children in the Child Welfare System. Children in the foster care system are vulnerable to possible school change, gaps in learning, and loss of credits. The Collaborative is an opportunity for students, foster parents, courts, educators, state policy professionals and others to share responsibility for ensuring the educational stability for Iowa’s children involved in the child welfare system.

Since the passing of the Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, the Collaborative has addressed the state’s compliance with the federal law which expects children entering foster care to remain in their home school, unless not in the child’s best interest, immediate transfer of records if a child changes schools, and increased cooperation between local schools and child welfare. The Collaborative has driven policy decisions, developed multiple training tools, and improved working relationships between schools, courts, and child welfare professionals.

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**Description of Resource: Family Team Meetings**

DHS adopted **Family Team Meetings (FTM)** as a method to empower, engage and encourage families to take ownership and control over their own lives. The FTM process, a strength-based process, encourages families to draw upon formal and informal supports, promotes team decision-making, and provides a healthy environment for resolving conflict and solving problems. With families taking ownership of their lives, services are more effective to address underlying issues. The FTM process allows parents to include supports such as extended family, providers, and school personnel.

Prior to June 2007, FTM’s were a strategy to improve outcomes for the system’s most vulnerable children, 0 to 5 year old victims of abuse. Effective June 2007, FTM’s were prioritized for all children who were a victim of abuse.

To date approximately 1,920 have attended training and 1,045 are approved FTM facilitators-allowing statewide coverage for DHS cases. Also, over 50% of the 99 counties have family team meetings available in the community for non-IDHS involved families as prevention strategy.

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**Description of Resource: Partnership of DHS and the Iowa College Student Aid Commission**

**Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Grant**

- Up to \$5,000 per academic year
- Student eligibility: must have aged out of foster care, been adopted after age 16, or entered a Subsidized Guardianship after age 16.
- Funds can be used for tuition/fees, room/board (both on and off campus), school equipment/supplies, daycare, travel, personal expenses
- Money is sent to the college to pay tuition/fees and other expenses. Once college is paid in full, excess funds are refunded to the student.

**All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant**

- Up to \$7,330 per academic year
- Student eligibility: must have aged out of foster care, aged out of the state training school, or been adopted after age 16
- Funds can be used for tuition/fees, room/board (both on and off campus), school equipment/ supplies, daycare, travel, personal expenses.
- Money is sent to the college. Once college is paid in full, excess funds are refunded to the student.

ETV and Foster Grant can be used in combination with Federal (Pell) and state grants and loans/work study.

	<u>2008-2009 academic year</u>	<u>2009-2010 academic year</u>
ETV	Served: 192 (avg. award \$4,094)	175 (avg. award \$2,712)
AIOFCG	Served: 121 (avg. award \$3,994)	128 (avg. award \$4,76)

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**State Agency: IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (IWD)**

**Description of Resource:** The YouthBuild Iowa Coalition is a growing network of YouthBuild programs supported by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) with a shared mission to unleash the positive energy of Iowa's low-income young adults to rebuild their communities and their lives with a commitment to work, education, responsibility, and family.

In local YouthBuild programs, low-income young people ages 16-24 work toward their GEDs or high school diplomas while learning job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people. Participants are dropouts, low-income youth, ex-offenders, disabled youth, and other disadvantaged or at-risk youth. Emphasis is placed on leadership development, community service, and the creation of a mini-community of adults and youth committed to each other's success. This comprehensive approach addresses multiple issues at once: employment, education, crime prevention, housing, and leadership development.

YouthBuild in Iowa has grown from 1 program starting in 2007 to 5 active programs reaching 115 youth collectively this year, and 3 planned additional programs in 2011. At the national level, there are 273 YouthBuild programs in 45 states and territories.

The primary source of funding for YouthBuild is a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, received by 3 Iowa programs in 2009-2011. The coalition supports current and new programs by sharing best practices, development opportunities, and advocacy efforts. Iowa coordinates coalition activities through IWD's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth program, the national coalition, YouthBuild USA, and the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service AmeriCorps program. Eligible young people co-enroll in YouthBuild, WIA Youth, and AmeriCorps, benefiting from a coordinated support system.

Nationally, YouthBuild programs produce a return on investment of \$10.80 or more for every dollar spent on a participant based on increased tax payments due to improved earnings, and prison cost savings due to reduced recidivism. More information and research is available at <http://www.youthbuild.org>.

*Active programs:*

- Sioux City YouthBuild, Goodwill Industries (DOL grantee 2007-2009, 2009-2011)
- Burlington YouthBuild, Southeastern Community College (DOL grantee 2009-2011)
- Des Moines Area Community College YouthBuild (DOL grantee 2009-2011)
- Dubuque HEART YouthBuild, Four Mounds Foundation
- Fort Dodge Central Iowa YouthBuild, Rabiner Residential Treatment Center

*Planning programs:*

- Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo
- Iowa Western Workforce Development, Council Bluffs
- Proteus Inc., Creston

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**State Agency: IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION, 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

**Description of Resource:**

Regional/Urban Iowa 4-H Youth Development Program Specialists could potentially offer school districts resource support in developing safe, healthy, and caring learning environments by providing the following:

- Developmentally appropriate research-based 4-H curricula that support youths' literacy, science, math, and 21st century skills in out-of-school time settings.
- Community asset mapping facilitation and connections to a wide variety of community partners and county-wide/state-wide networks.
- Positive youth development principles and practices, youth/adult partnership development, volunteer management, and service learning training for school staff, volunteers, and community partners.
- Co-facilitation of youth and/or family asset and need assessments.
- Development of out-of-school/afterschool programming for children and youth, including the development of 4-H clubs.

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