

Critical Department of Education due dates - Each month's important deadlines are posted at bit.ly/dedeaddlines.

2020 Legislative Session - The legislative priorities have been finalized by the SAI Legislative Committee, and approved by the Rep Council. They're posted at sai-iowa.org/sai-legislative-priorities.cfm. As we head into 2020 and the upcoming session, visit with your local legislators about public education and remind them that Iowans have always been extremely proud of our schools and the quality education provided students. Legislators' actions should reflect our Iowa values during the upcoming session!

Executive Leaders - The next Executive Leaders meeting is Jan. 16-17 on Thursday evening and Friday morning at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. Thursday attendees will have the opportunity to review a website drafted by Evan Abbey, AEA PD Online director, that will be a one-stop informational outlet for school mental health services in Iowa. Participants will be able to provide feedback and input prior to the site going live sometime this spring. DE representatives will talk about the new SEL competencies and how they will serve as a guide for districts. Friday morning, attendees will continue learning about the new leadership standards. A portion of the morning will focus on 2020 legislative session advocacy. Sign up is available under the event listing at bit.ly/SAIevents.

New Standards for Iowa School Leaders - In anticipation of the adoption in July 2020 of the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders as Iowa's new standards, a stakeholder group continues to meet to design and develop tools and resources as well as update current materials to support implementation of the new standards. Read this brief overview for a greater understanding of the new standards' emphasis in comparison to the current Iowa Standards for School Leaders: bit.ly/nasbepsel

Why Rural Matters - Released Nov. 7, it's the ninth in a series of reports analyzing the contexts and conditions of rural education in each of the 50 states and calling attention to the need for policymakers to address rural education issues in their respective states. Access the complete report at ruraledu.org.

SAI Annual Conference 2020 - Reserve Aug. 4-6, 2020, on your calendar.

Professional learning opportunities - register online and find more information at bit.ly/SAIevents

December

5 - Teacher Evaluation and Assistance within a Supportive, Civil and Professional Culture

January

16 & 17 - Executive Leaders

February

11 - School Law Conference

20 - Building a Contagious Culture