

Iowa Department of Education Seeking Applicants to Develop Online Courses

The Iowa Department of Education is seeking licensed Iowa educators to develop online courses for inclusion in the Iowa e-Learning Central (ILC). The ILC is being developed as a new resource to provide access to courses and tools to support educators as they navigate virtual learning environments and incorporate online instruction. Funding for the Iowa e-Learning Central comes from a federal grant.

Content Development

Iowa educators (developers) will design online, student-facing courses using Canvas as a platform. Developers will design courses to meet ILC quality criteria. These quality criteria (listed below), as articulated in the Quality Content Rubric (QCR) were developed in order to ensure content is appropriately aligned to Iowa's Academic Standards and that courses are based upon the National Standards for Quality Online Instruction.

ILC Quality Criteria

- Standards-aligned (non-negotiable)
- Authentic, discipline-specific sources, resources, and tools (non-negotiable)
- Coherent learning progressions
- Educator and student supports
- Accessible and viable materials
- High quality instructional and assessment strategies that are considered “best practice”
- Student engagement
- Equitable access and opportunity for all students

Courses Available for Development in 2021-2022

Content developers will create online, student-facing courses and the supporting teacher materials. It is anticipated that course development will begin in July and the expected completion date for each available course can be found in the [ILC Content Development List](#).

Compensation

Courses may be either one-semester or two-semesters in length. Payment for the course development will be as follows:

- \$7,500 for developing a course (semester-long content): Student materials only.
- \$7,500 for developing a course teacher guide: Companion teacher guide to the developed student materials.
- \$3,750 for developing a unit (approximately 4 weeks): Student materials only.
- \$3,750 for developing a unit teacher guide: Companion teacher guide to the developed student materials.

Content Developer Expectations

Content developers will be expected to:

- Complete the content developer application.
- Complete Department-specific training(s) and become familiar with the QCR to ensure ILC users have access to high-quality online curricular materials.
- Create an online, student-facing course and corresponding teacher materials.
- Create a course development plan and timeline.
- Use all templates provided by the Department.
- Regularly provide updated content for Department review and meet with Department representatives to review the developed content and receive feedback.
- Make revisions to content until the Department determines all submitted materials meet/exceed all components of the non-negotiable criteria and other quality content criteria as articulated in the QCR.
- Work with the Department instructional designer to ensure all curricular materials are uploaded to the ILC within the agreed timeline.
- A content developer may be asked to provide content support through feedback using the QCR to other developers in their content area.

Content Developer Applicant Qualifications

- In order to apply as a content developer, an individual must be, or must have been, an appropriately-licensed educator.
 - A retired educator or an educator whose license has expired may apply.
 - The educator must have expertise in the content area for which they are applying as a developer.
- Applicants will be asked to provide evidence of their content expertise and their experience developing curricular materials, online teaching/learning, and meeting the needs of all learners.
- Applicants may be contacted to develop a course for which they did not apply, but are qualified to do.
- An employee of an Area Education Agency (AEA) may apply with an assurance that the work will be completed outside their AEA contracted hours.
- Staff from Iowa's Regent institutions may apply with an assurance they will have a certification of consent from the Board of Regents prior to beginning work.
- A group of educators may apply as a developer. If a group of educators intends to apply together, the group will designate a lead developer to be listed on the contract/Scope of Work for the purposes of accountability. The lead developer must be an appropriately licensed Iowa educator who has expertise in the content area. Any compensation paid to parties who assist a lead developer is the responsibility of the lead developer and outside the parameters of the contract between the lead developer and the Iowa Department of Education.

- An Iowa organization may not apply as a developer. If an Iowa educator who is a member of an Iowa organization is qualified and chooses to apply, the Iowa organization may support the educator(s) in any way they see fit, but the contract will be solely between the licensed teacher and the Iowa Department of Education.

Content Developer Application

All individuals/teams will need to complete a [Content Developer Application](#). Applications are due June 21, 2021.