

Iowa Department of Education Seeking Applicants to Provide Content Expertise During Unit Development

The Iowa Department of Education is seeking licensed Iowa educators to provide content support during elementary unit development 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 Expertise

Iowa educators (content experts) will provide support to developers with a focus on content and coherence (horizontal and vertical). Content experts will review units and provide feedback until the unit meets or exceeds the 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 units 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

Units Available for Development Support in Summer 2022

Iowa educators (content experts) will provide support to developers with a focus on content and coherence (horizontal and vertical). Content experts will review units and provide feedback until the unit meets or exceeds the ILC quality criteria. It is anticipated that unit development will begin in July and be completed by September 2022. The units that will be developed are kindergarten through fifth grade English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Compensation

Content experts will review 4 - 5 units and provide ongoing feedback. Payment for the course development will be as follows:

- \$15,000 for providing content support, reviewing units, and providing feedback

Content Expert Expectations

Content experts will be expected to:

- Complete the content expert application.
- Complete Department-specific training(s), which includes a 3 day On-boarding event at the Iowa Event Center in Des Moines on July 11-13, 2022, and become familiar with the QCR to ensure ILC users have access to high-quality online curricular materials.
- Support developer teams during the onboarding session with a focus on content and coherence (horizontal and vertical).
- Review units and provide feedback until the unit meets or exceeds the criteria in the Quality Content Rubric (QCR)
- Assist in reading applications for content developers
- Assist in planning the 3 day in-person onboarding sessions
- Assist in stage one of scope and sequence work. This is the initial stage of developing scope and sequence documents for each course/grade level/content area to help with course development and end user implementation.
- Follow the timeline provided by the Department.
- Use all templates provided by the Department.
- Work with Department staff and Department instructional designer to ensure all content meets the requirements of the QCR.
- Regularly provide feedback to assigned content developers until all submitted materials meet/exceed all components of the non-negotiable criteria and other quality content criteria as articulated in the QCR.

Content Expert Applicant Qualifications

- In order to apply as a content expert, an individual must be, or must have been, an appropriately-licensed Iowa 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 and meeting the needs of all learners.
- Applicants may be contacted to support 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.

- An organization may not apply as a content expert. If an Iowa educator who is a member of an organization is qualified and chooses to apply, the 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 Expert Application

All individuals will need to complete a [Content Expert Application](#).

Applications are due January 20, 2022.