

Profile of Services

Several agency staff members are assigned specifically to the Benton Community School District and work individually with children and staff. They include:

John Aarni	Audiologist
Mary Airy	Curriculum Consultant
Linda Atkins	Audiometrist
Anne DeRycke	Speech-Lang. Pathologist
Gregory Dunn	Assessment Consultant
Todd Frank	Itinerant Vision Teacher
Bruce Frana	Curriculum Consultant
Bob Furino	Technology Consultant
Cheryl Gibney	Vision Screener
Janet Gilliam	Speech-Lang. Pathologist (EC)
Chuck Gustafson	Curriculum Consultant
Charlotte Haddy	Media/Technology Liaison
Becky Holdstock	School Psychologist (EC)
Sue Johns	School Improvement Consultant
Janet Kovarik	School Social Worker (EC)
Jan Lamm	Physical Therapist (EC)
Rod Lenz	Special Education Consultant
Peg Maher	Audiologist (EC)
Laura McGraw	Itinerant Hearing Teacher
Carla McMillan	Occupational Therapist (EC)
Mary Lou Meier	Occupational Therapist
Susie Poulton	Special Education Nurse
Linda Quinn	Work Experience Coord.
Janice Sewell	Adapted PE Consultant
Emily Thomson	Physical Therapist
Deanna Thursby	School Psychologist
Michelle Tressel	ACHIEVE
Debra Wilke	Speech-Lang. Pathologist
Melody Williams	School Social Worker
Christina Zebuhr	Parent-Child Educator
Phyllis Bradley	Regional Facilitator

School Technology Services

- The district participated in the **online resources buy** from the AEA Collaborative for Educational Media (ACEM), sponsored by Grant Wood AEA.
- Benton Community staff participated in **EduTrac** programming during the 1999-2000 year. EduTrac is an interactive series of programs designed for educators and is delivered via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN.)
- Grant Wood AEA assistive technology consultants provided **consultation support** to Benton Community staff.
- GWAEA technology consultants supported Benton Community staff with **technology planning, a technology grant, and the Universal Service Fund** application process.
- Benton Community staff attended **agency-sponsored workshops** in support of media/technology education.
- District staff checked out materials from the **GWAEA Assistive Technology Lending Library**.
- Grant Wood AEA serves as the district's **Internet service provider**.

Management Services

- The Benton Community School District purchased audiovisual items totaling \$11,219.34 through the **GWAEA Cooperative Purchasing Program**. All schools have an opportunity to save up to 40 percent depending on the purchase.
- The district is a member of the **Area 10 Eisenhower Funding Consortium**.
- The Benton Community School District participates in **Carl Perkins Funding**.
- The district received support from Grant Wood AEA for its implementation of an Internet-based suite of software tools called **Virtual Education** by EDmin.com.
- Gary Zittergruen served as a member of the 1999-2000 **Area 10 Superintendents Advisory Council**.
- Benton Community receives support from Grant Wood AEA's Administrative Technology department for **computerized processing of data** to fulfill the district's accounting and payroll functions. Administrative Technology supports the district with **scheduling and grade reporting** for students in middle and high school, and assistance with the SASIxp grade reporting program.

April 2001



Benton Community School District

Grant Wood Area Education Agency provides educational services and leadership for 33 public school districts and 23 approved non-public schools in seven East Central Iowa counties, including the Benton Community School District in Benton County.

Services and resources from the agency are available to the Benton Community School District and its staff without charge, except in cases of some non-mandated services such as printing or administrative data processing or for individualized district requests.

Nearly 60 percent of the agency's staff members are assigned to specific school districts and work directly with children as an integral part of the local school staff. Other staff serve children through inservice and consultation with teachers and administrators, offer courses and workshops, and link schools with other resources that meet their needs.

The AEA's have specific responsibilities assigned by the Code of Iowa. To provide funding for these services, the state comptroller notifies each Area 10 school district of the divisional per pupil cost for Grant Wood AEA services. The school district then includes those costs, multiplied by its enrollment, in its budget calculations and collects the AEA funding for the state. The state, in turn, provides monthly payments to the agency. The 1999-2000 costs for Grant Wood AEA services were:

Educational Services	\$ 37.40 per pupil
Media Services	\$ 34.12 per pupil
Special Education Services	\$ 182.54 per pupil

This report will give you a brief look at specific services and projects that took place in the Benton Community School District during the 1999-2000 school year. Together with you, we hope to make a difference in the educational programs for the children in your community.

GWAEA Board of Directors

Local district school boards are represented through the nine members of the Grant Wood AEA Board of Directors. The AEA Board meets monthly and sets policy and budget for the agency. The Grant Wood AEA board member representing the Benton Community School District is William Rainbow.

Please feel free to contact him with your questions, concerns or appreciation for services.

Our Mission

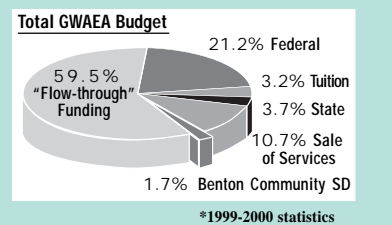
As a partner, we provide exemplary leadership and service to support learning in schools and communities.

Grant Wood AEA Administration

Board President	Lynne Cannon
Chief Administrator	Ron Fielder
Executive Directors	Clifford Ehlinger Jeananne Hagen
Associate Directors	Bonnie Boothroy Leslee Sandberg
Asst. to Admin.	Robert McNiel
Board Secretary/ Treasurer	Ron Bowers

"Flow-through" Funding*

Benton Comm. SD	\$ 494,641
Total GWAEA Budget	\$28,994,840
Total GWAEA "Flow-through" Funding	\$17,745,360



Grant Wood Area Education Agency does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, marital status, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability in its educational programs, activities or employment practices, or as otherwise prohibited by statute or regulation. For more information, contact Cliff Ehlinger, equity coordinator, at (319) 399-6730 or 1-800-332-8488 or TDD (319) 399-6766.



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Services for Benton Community Students and Families

The agency's most direct student contact occurs with students who have disabilities. Through district and agency cooperative efforts, each child has an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) and receives instruction and therapy to meet his/her needs.

Screening Services

Catching difficulties early is the goal of Grant Wood AEA's various screening programs. Student services include the following:

- **Child Check**, a screening of all three-year-olds for hearing, vision, speech, coordination and ability to learn, is held in the district yearly. Last year, 72 children from the district participated in the screening.
- Students in kindergarten, first, second and fifth grades, as well as new students to the buildings, are **tested annually for hearing impairments**. Last year in the Benton Community School District:
 - 569 students were screened
 - 178 students received a diagnostic hearing evaluation
 - 39 students were referred for medical follow-up.
- In addition to the annual testing, many hearing evaluations are conducted throughout the year in response to medical or educational referrals.
- The Grant Wood AEA hearing staff supported a Benton Community student with an **auditory trainer**.
- Benton pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade students receive **vision screening** annually. A total of 1,264 students were screened and 94 were referred to a physician for further testing.
- Seven Benton Community students were evaluated in the **Child Evaluation Clinic**. Referrals are made through a school's Child Study Team.

Student Services

The agency sponsors various student educational activities. The following activities do not represent the only contact that Grant Wood AEA staff have had with Benton Community students and families, but rather highlight recent efforts.

- Grant Wood AEA staff provide **direct student services** in the areas of speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, hearing and vision, work experience, assistive technology, adapted physical education, counseling, and social and cognitive skill development.
- **Kids on the Block puppeteers** presented puppet shows to Benton Community students. These puppet shows and classroom activities are designed to promote positive attitudes and increase understanding between students with and without disabilities.
- Thirty Benton Community students participated in Grant Wood AEA's **College for Kids** program, which is a two-week tuition summer school for high-ability students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. C4K is held at Cornell College in Mount Vernon.
- **The Kids Doing Science Project (KiDS)** helps students develop thinking skills while learning scientific concepts. More than 300 Benton Community K-8 students participated in the KiDS Project during the 1999-2000 school year. A Grant Wood AEA science consultant provided KiDS inservice training for a new Benton Community staff member.
- Benton Community students participate in **High School High Tech**, which is a collaborative effort between Grant Wood AEA, Goodwill Industries, the business community, school districts, and other agencies in the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City area to prepare students with mild disabilities for post-secondary education and careers in high tech fields, and to meet area employer needs for qualified applicants for high tech positions.

- Seven Benton Community students participated in the **Invent, Iowa! Invention Convention**, held March 6, 2000, at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids.
- Benton Community high school work experience students participate in the **GWAEA Job Olympics**, an event which gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in the areas of job interviewing, application writing, telephone procedures, team collaboration, and as well as dress and attire skills for interviews.
- Benton Community high school students participated in **Think Careers on IIN Fridays (TCIF)** programming. The discussions, held via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN), allow juniors and seniors to discuss a variety of careers through questions and discussions with local experts.

Family Resources

- Benton parents have access to services offered by the **Grant Wood AEA Parent Educator Partnership (PEP)** program, including the resource library, consultation, conferences, networking, and the semi-annual *Partnership* newsletter.
- The **Grant Wood AEA Work Experience** staff support parents in linking with community resources in the areas of health and human services, vocational assessment and training, and transition to adulthood.
- **Grant Wood AEA's Specialty Resource Teams** (Autism, Brain Injury, Health, and Inclusion) provide educational consultation, information, and coordination for students with special needs and their families.

Services for Benton Community Staff

Grant Wood AEA provides a variety of services for teachers and administrators. It is difficult to assess the importance of any one activity. Sometimes a single phone call will give the information to solve a problem; at other times, a consultant and teacher may spend an entire year working together on a regular basis.

The following activities do not represent the only contact that Grant Wood AEA staff have had with Benton Community staff, but rather highlight recent efforts.

Curriculum Development, Instruction and Assessment

- Benton Community staff, parents, and Grant Wood AEA support staff work together through **The Solutions Focused Approach** to bring ideas, strategies, and resources to diverse learners in the Benton Community Schools.
- Agency staff consult with teachers on **instructional design and classroom management**.
- Benton parents and administrators can receive answers to **home school questions** from Grant Wood AEA staff.
- Agency curriculum and school improvement consultants provide **curriculum assistance** and serve as classroom resources for Benton Community staff.
- Early Childhood staff work with parents, local preschools, in-home care givers, health providers, and the elementary staff to **address the needs of infants and young children**.
- District staff attended **School Improvement Seminars** during the 1999-2000 school year, and **Assessment Seminars** offered this year by Grant Wood AEA to support Benton Community in developing and implementing its Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.
- Grant Wood AEA staff support Benton Community's **Continuous School Improvement Planning (CSIP)** with preparations for the district's accreditation visit.
- Benton Community staff joined more than 4,000 area educators at Grant Wood AEA's **"Kaleidoscope of Learning" Conference**, held November 2-3, 2000 at various locations in Cedar Rapids.

Instructional Media Services

- Grant Wood AEA's **Traveling Production Lab** visited the district during 1999-2000. The lab provides teachers with the equipment for making buttons, books, bulletin board letters/shapes, and for laminating materials.
- Benton received a \$623.20 allotment of **enrollment-based credit** from Grant Wood AEA Graphics and Printing Services during the 1999-2000 school year.

Professional Development

- Fifty-five Benton Community staff attended courses through the **Grant Wood AEA Staff Development Program**. Twenty-six individuals received recertification credit, and 29 received graduate credit.
- Fifteen Benton Community staff participated in **Grant Wood AEA Professional Development** workshops during 1999-2000.
- Seven Benton Community staff attended **Grant Wood AEA Media & Technology** workshops and events.
- **Scott Kriegel** was a member of the 2000-01 class of the **GWAEA Contemporary School Leadership Program**, which provides experiences for practicing or emerging school leaders and networks for those who wish to be leaders in their schools and communities. Individuals are selected through an application process.

School-Community Planning and Support

- Grant Wood AEA and Benton Community staff work together to maintain and expand **inclusive education models** to serve students in their home community.
- Grant Wood AEA staff have **facilitated meetings** with Benton Community staff as they continue work on their school improvement goals.

Profile of Services

for 1999-2000 school year

Use of GWAEA Media Center Materials by Benton Community

Collection	No. of Items
Books	1,176
Films, Videos, Laser Discs, CD's	2,979
Nonprint (kits, microcomputer software)	9

Use of GWAEA Media Center Classroom Materials by Area 10 Schools

Collection	No. of Items
Books	18,935
Films, Videos, Laser Discs, CD's	128,757
Nonprint (kits, microcomputer software)	403

Use of GWAEA Professional Library Support for Information Needs

	Benton	Area 10
Information Searches	0	142
Photocopying to support information needs	6	3,057
ProQuest Resource	3,768	112,595
Reference Support	0	415

Use of GWAEA Professional Materials by Benton Community

Collection	No. of Items
Prof. Books/Journals	12
Prof. Classroom Materials	49
Prof. Nonprint Materials	58

Use of GWAEA Professional Materials by Area 10 Schools

Collection	No. of Items
Prof. Books/Journals	6,678
Prof. Classroom Materials	3,824
Prof. Nonprint Materials	3,804

Use of GWAEA Technical Services by Benton Community

Service	Amount
Equipment Repair	0
Laminating	3,931.26 (sq. ft.)
Printing Impressions	223,400
Video Curriculum (No Charge)	0

Use of GWAEA Technical Services by Area 10 Schools

Service	Amount
Equipment Repair	170
Laminating	170,194.99 (sq. ft.)
Printing Impressions	4,083,710
Video Curriculum (No Charge)	1,926

