



Iowa Branch Connector

September 2017

A Monthly Electronic Bulletin for AAUW Leaders in Iowa
The Value of Affiliation with AAUW: By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Welcome to this monthly electronic publication. You are invited to share this information with other members and branch leaders by forwarding it to them or providing a hard copy.

Ann Gale, AAUW Iowa President 2016-18

This article is by Maureen White, President of Cedar Falls local branch, and AAUW Iowa Board Member as Public Policy Director.

Title IX and Independent Private Instruction

AAUW is a nonpartisan organization. That means we don't endorse candidates or align with a political party. However AAUW is a political organization—we take positions on issues and advocate and lobby in relation to those issues.

One of those issues is Title IX enforcement. Though Secretary of Education DeVos is signaling that she will direct a rollback of the 2011 Title IX guidance to schools and higher education institutions regarding sexual violence and harassment in schools, it is important for all of us to communicate to local education officials that we expect them to still do the right thing for our students.

For several years branches in Iowa have been encouraged to contact school district officials in their area to determine if they have named Title IX coordinators and whether they have the Title IX Resource Guide. AAUW Iowa has had conversations with the Iowa Department of Education about problematic Title IX data reporting and the need for training for district Title IX coordinators. Fred Kinne, Consultant for Equity, at the Iowa Department of Education reports that materials have been prepared for districts and Title IX coordinators to access for professional development. He is also working with AEAs to schedule training sessions. The Iowa DE has a dedicated [web page](#) for Title IX information that will be updated as additional materials become available.

An Iowa specific issue is Independent Private Instruction (IPI). The Iowa legislature created IPI in 2013. AAUW Iowa has spoken out against this home schooling option since its inception because of the lack of education standards

and child safety concerns. We supported bills in 2014 and 2015 to repeal this option. We continue to call for repeal.

Because of the lack of enrollment requirements for IPI, school personnel have no idea how many children are supposedly home schooled under this option. According to Department of Education data, 10,732 Iowa children were enrolled in home-schooling during the 2012-13 school year (prior to IPI). For the 2015-16 school year, districts reported that 6,875 students were enrolled in Home School Assistance Programs, received Competent Private Instruction, or both. Either the number of home-schooled children dropped significantly in three years, or there are nearly 4000 school age children (maybe IPI students-who knows) now unaccounted for in Iowa.

Kids have no political power and no voice. Responsible adults need to speak out on their behalf and demand repeal of IPI. Several alleged IPI students have died. Don't wait for the 2018 Legislature to convene, tell your legislators now to support repeal of IPI in order to protect school age children and ensure they receive an education.