



Transforming

Price Laboratory School into

Iowa's first statewide Research and Development School

The University of Northern Iowa has a rich history of excellence in teacher education and is honored to be the home of the state's first research and development (R&D) school. As the state leader in Pre-K-12 education issues, UNI is helping to build a solid and secure future for Iowa and its citizens. The R&D school is a collaborative effort with the University of Northern Iowa, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa State University and the University of Iowa.

Legislation transforming Price Laboratory School (PLS) into Iowa's statewide Research and Development School is now in effect. The collaborative effort aims to:

- Raise and sustain the level of all Iowa students' educational attainment.
- Enhance the preparation and professional competence of Iowa educators.
- Focus on research that transforms practice to meet Iowa's changing educational needs.

The legislation does the following:

Governance

- Establishes the Board of Regents (BOR) as the governing entity of the school and the Department of Education (DE) as the accreditation agency for the school.
- Establishes a 17-member advisory council that is jointly appointed by the president of UNI and the director of the DE to review and evaluate the educational processes and results of the school. This council will provide an annual report to the president of UNI, the director of the DE, the BOR, the State Board of Education and the General Assembly.

- Creates an 11-member standing institutional research committee appointed by the president of UNI and the director of the DE to serve as the clearinghouse for investigative and applied research. This committee will create research protocols, approve research proposals, review the quality and results of research and support dissemination efforts.

Enrollment

- The student population of the R&D school will mirror Iowa schools as much as possible with diversity in the student body including different cultures and ethnicities, English language learners, low socio-economic status, gifted and talented and students with Individualized Education Plans.

Funding

- Requires that students attending the R&D school be counted in their district of residence which will pay the R&D school the state cost per pupil of the previous year plus any monies received for non-English speaking weighting.

Transition

- Sets forth a three-year timeline to establish the R&D school with the guidance of a transition team, which is to be appointed by the president of UNI and the director of the DE.
- Directs the transition team to develop and implement specific transition plans using the recommendations in the report of the 2008-2009 implementation committee.

Infrastructure

- Instructs UNI and the DE to create a report about potential access to infrastructure funding for the school and submit a report to the General Assembly.
- Appropriates \$35,000 for a contract with a design firm to evaluate the condition of PLS to determine an approximate cost for renovation and rebuilding, as well recommend which is more feasible with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification as the goal.

