

Iowa Valley, English Valleys Boards Name Finalists for Shared District Superintendent

March 2, 2026

The Iowa Valley Community School District School Board and the English Valleys Community School District Boards of Education have named three finalists in their search for a shared superintendent. The finalists are Dr. Kimberly Graven, Jason Lampe, and Derek Philips.

The superintendent search was conducted in partnership with staff at [Grundmeyer Leader Services](#), who facilitated the review process for all qualified candidates.

Dr. Graven is the current director of teaching and learning for North Linn CSD in Coggon, Iowa. In this role, she led administrative teams and developed a district-wide communication plan with a focus on community outreach. She also guided efforts to increase North Linn CSD's Iowa School Performance Profile score each year. Scores started at 54.5 percent during her tenure and grew each year to 71.26 percent in the latest measurement.

During much of her tenure as North Linn CSD's director of teaching, Dr. Graven concurrently served as an elementary school principal for the district. This gave her experience managing budgetary allocations and promoting social-emotional learning initiatives.

Currently, Jason Lampe is the principal of Manson Northwest Webster Elementary School in Barnum, Iowa. He leads a building with more than 60 staff who serve over 450 students. In this role, he has also assisted with the planning and oversight of a \$4 million voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy-funded facilities project. His administrative experience also includes serving as an assistant principal and activities director for elementary and middle school students.

As principal of Davis County High School in Bloomfield, Iowa, Derek Philips leads a staff of 55 educators serving 380 students across grades 9-12. He developed and implemented a walkthrough form that provides instant feedback to teachers, while also collaborating with building leaders to provide professional development opportunities for staff and increase retention rates.

Derek Philips previously served as superintendent of Pekin CSD, principal of Columbus Elementary School in Chariton, and associate principal of Liberty Elementary School in Ottumwa. While he was a superintendent, he developed facilities plans while collaborating with the school board and contractors to complete audits of these plans.

As a next step, both district boards and stakeholder interview teams will conduct formal interviews with each of the three finalists on Wednesday, March 4th. The boards will then deliberate and reach a final decision soon after concluding the formal interviews.

The next superintendent will assume leadership of the English Valleys and Iowa Valley Community School Districts effective July 1, 2026.

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