

## Meet Mike Cormack

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Mike Cormack is the policy liaison for the Iowa Department of Education, serving in this role since October 2011. In this role, he serves as an assistant to Director Jason Glass on educational policy and works with a wide variety of individuals in the legislative process. At times, he works with Governor Terry Branstad, Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds and their staff on educational issues. He also is responsible for providing information and advice to all members of the Iowa General Assembly as well as staff members who work for them. Cormack also is contacted by members of the general public who have questions and comments about issues or items of concern. Finally, he also is responsive to assisting other members in the Department and does provide information or interviews with the media.



Cormack is a native of Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he graduated from Fort Dodge Senior High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Mankato State University (now known as Minnesota State University-Mankato) with a double major and magna cum laude status. His first major was in Secondary Education-Social Studies and he also earned a second major in Political Science-Public Administration. He also served as an intern for one semester in the Washington, D.C. office of U.S. Senator Charles Grassley.

After leaving college, Cormack ran for the Iowa House of Representatives and at the age of 23, was elected to that position. He represented Iowa House District 13 for four, two year terms. This area was all of Fort Dodge, Clare and northwest Webster County in north central Iowa. He declined to seek a fifth term in office. Some legislative accomplishments included passage of a sales tax free holiday for consumers each August on clothing and shoes, allowing Veteran Honor Guards to discharge their weapons in a ceremonial fashion on school grounds, allowing videotaped rebroadcasts of high school athletic events for free after a 24 hour waiting period by non-profit entities, tougher animal abuse legislation and passage of a 32 million dollar correctional facility in Fort Dodge with a 10 million dollar expansion to follow.

During his legislative years, Cormack served as a substitute teacher at Manson-Northwest Webster Community School District and Southeast Webster Community School District when they were not in session. From his sophomore year of high school through the end of his legislative career, Cormack worked each summer in the Fort Dodge YMCA Summer Baseball Program. Upon leaving the Iowa General Assembly, Cormack was hired as a Social Studies teacher at C&M Community School District (later to be known as CAM Community School District which is Cumberland-Anita-Massena). He was in his tenth year as an instructor, serving initially at the high school level and later as a middle school teacher. He served eight years there as Middle School Athletic Director with coaching duties at that level in baseball, softball and basketball. He also served in 2010 as the CAM High School Baseball Coach.

In Massena, Cormack was a member of the Massena United Methodist Church, Massena Lions Club and the Massena Chamber of Commerce. He was elected Mayor of Massena, serving two, two year terms between January 2008 and December 2012. In both cases, he was written into office and was not an official candidate.

Cormack is married to his wife Jennifer and they now reside in Polk County, living just south of Ankeny in Saylor Township.