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**AOS Technical Update**  
**Iowa Gift Law Alert**

**Attention Auditors of Local Governments:**

The following "Gift Law Alert" was published in the October 2008 issue of the Iowa Department of Education, [School Leader Update](#), available at the link noted below. We have included the entire article for your review and information during your audits of local governments. While this article was written for school districts, the provisions of Chapter 68B are applicable to all local government officials and employees and pertain to any circumstances similar to the restricted donor situation described in the article.

<http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/854/1006>

**"Gift Law Alert: Pearson Trip Violates Gift Law"**

"It has come to the attention of the State Auditor, who has shared the information with the Iowa Department of Education, that the Pearson Company, which sells student information systems, has offered all-expense-paid trips to a conference in Las Vegas to Iowa school district superintendents.

Acceptance of the offer would be a violation of the Iowa gift law because Pearson is a "restricted donor" under 68B.2(24).

The State Auditor has also contacted the Iowa Ethics Board, and its executive director. The Ethics Board notes that enforcement of the gift law when applied to local officials/employees is done by the county attorney as a criminal matter. Because no one wants to see these situations become criminal matters, the Ethics Board recommends that any superintendent who may have accepted this gift reimburse the company. If the trip has not yet taken place, Pearson must put the superintendent on a panel or speaking engagement to cover at least the food, beverage, lodging, and travel."