

Guiding Principles

All students can learn at a high level.

Students respond best to challenging expectations.

Safety and respect are essential to student learning.

Educators need ongoing support and professional development to improve student achievement.

Improving student performance requires a broad constituency of support.

A quality education system is essential to a successful democracy, lifelong learning, and a vibrant economy.

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If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by the Iowa Department of Education, please contact the legal counsel for the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, 400 East 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, telephone number 515/281-5295, or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 111 N. Canal Street, Suite 1053, Chicago, IL 60606-7204.

For more information, please visit:

www.iowa.gov/educate

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Our Vision: Iowa students will become productive citizens in a democratic society, and successful participants in a global community.

Our Mission is to champion excellence for all Iowa students through leadership and service.



State Board of Education
Iowa Department of Education

Strategic Plan

2010
Grimes State Office Building
400 E 14th Street
Des Moines IA 50319-0146

515/281-5294
www.iowa.gov/educate

Goals

GOAL 1: All children will enter school ready to learn. (Early Childhood)

Measures of Success:

Increase the percentage of children entering kindergarten ready to read.

Increase the percentage of four-year-old children participating in a quality preschool program.

Major Initiatives:

- Implement the *Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Olds*.
- Develop a comprehensive early childhood professional development system.
- Support implementation of the *lowa Quality Preschool Program Standards*.

GOAL 2: All K-12 students will achieve at a high level. (K-12)

Measures of Success:

Increase the percentage of 4th, 8th, and 11th grade students achieving proficient or higher in reading and math.

Increase the percentage of students who graduate from high school.

Increase the number of high school students taking advanced coursework.

Major Initiatives:

- Provide professional development and technical assistance for school districts and area education agencies (AEAs) in the areas of literacy, science, mathematics, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).
- Expand high school reform efforts utilizing a network of AEA trainers to help districts implement the lowa Core Curriculum and address the needs of struggling learners.
- Improve the quality of teaching and school leadership.
- Improve the quality of data and information.
- Improve educator preparation programs.

GOAL 3: Individuals will pursue post-secondary education in order to drive economic success. (Postsecondary Education)

Measures of Success:

Increase the percentage of students who have obtained an Associate of Arts degree who transfer into a four-year institution.

Increase graduation rates by race/ethnicity and gender at lowa postsecondary institutions.

Increase the average hourly wage of clients employed as a result of vocational rehabilitation services compared with the state of lowa average hourly wage.

Major Initiatives:

- Provide support for STEM activities, *Project Lead the Way*, and entrepreneurship education.
- Facilitate student transfers through articulation agreements.
- Improve the quality of data and information.
- Align curriculum so that students are better prepared for the global workforce.

Strategies

System Leadership

Provide collaborative state level leadership and policy support for lowa education in order to create system-wide improvement and increased student achievement.

System Support/Technical Assistance

Provide information and data, technical assistance, and a system of support to help schools, school districts, and community colleges meet the needs of all their learners.

Quality Instruction/

Professional Development

Support the improvement of instructional practices and strengthen the quality of educator preparation and professional development programs to give educators at all levels the skills they need to improve teaching and learning.

Resources

Advocate for adequate and equitable funding and support, and for the responsible stewardship and efficient use of public resources.

Collaboration/Partnerships

Promote strong community partnerships and linkages among schools, school districts, AEAs, higher education, parents, community members, business, policymakers, and others in order to achieve positive results for children, youth, and adult learners.

Assurance/Accountability

Implement policies and procedures that use information for decision making, assure that student or client needs are met, and support continuous improvement.



EDUCATION is Iowa's FUTURE



Annual Update of the Strategic Plan
Iowa State Board of Education



Education is Iowa's future. To stay on track towards a bright future, the Iowa State Board of Education and the Iowa Department of Education have developed a long range strategic plan for our education system in Iowa, including goals, initiatives, and measures of success for the preschool, K-12, and postsecondary levels.



This document provides a brief summary of that strategic plan, highlighting major initiatives as well as the progress being made.



It is our mission to champion excellence for our students, our teachers, our schools, and all Iowans.



IOWA | State Board of Education

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Annual Update of the Strategic Plan
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2011



All Children

will enter school

Ready to Learn

All K-12 Students

will achieve at a

High Level

Individuals will pursue Postsecondary Education

in order to drive

Economic Success

Initiatives

Measures

Implement the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children

Quality early learning programs play a crucial role in helping prepare children for school. The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program is designed to allow four-year-old children access to high quality early learning opportunities throughout Iowa.

Develop a Comprehensive Early Childhood Professional Development System

It takes effective teachers to provide quality early childhood education. To meet this goal, the Board backed cooperative efforts between the Department of Education and the AEAs to provide training of evidence-based assessment, curriculum, and instruction for local school districts and community partner early childhood education staff.

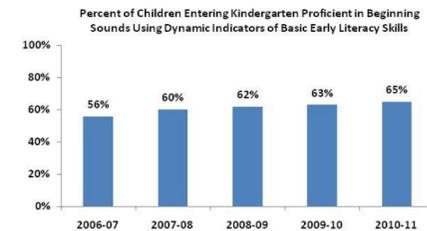


Support Implementation of the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards

Strong early childhood programs require not only qualified teachers, but also high standards. The Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards were developed to ensure that state-funded preschool programs met ten standards and required criteria to support the goal of preparing children for school.

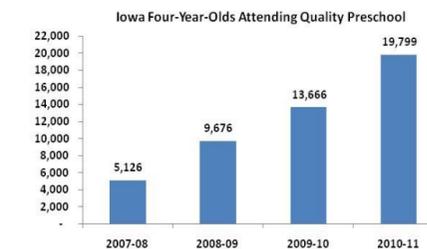
Increase the Percentage of Children Entering Kindergarten Ready to Read

Since the Iowa General Assembly required school districts to administer a literacy assessment to kindergarten students, Iowa has seen a double-digit increase in students ready to learn to read.



Increase the Percentage of Four-Year-Old Children Participating in a Quality Preschool Program

In just four years, the number of four-year-old children attending a quality preschool program has quadrupled in Iowa, from 5,126 in 2007-08 to 19,799 in 2010-11.



Provide Professional Development for School Districts and AEAs

The Department of Education supports several initiatives to support literacy, science, and math education, including Every Child Reads, Statewide Literacy Team, Every Child Inquires, Every Child Counts, Authentic Intellectual Work, and the Teacher Development Academies.

Expand High School Reform Efforts Utilizing AEA Trainers to Help Districts Implement the Iowa Core and Address Needs of Struggling Learners

The focus on implementing the Iowa Core is key to supporting reform efforts at the high school level that will help all students find success.

Improve the Quality of Teacher and School Leadership

Since 2001, the Teacher Quality Program provides professional development to improve instruction and support the work to provide every school with good leadership and every student with a great teacher.



Improve the Quality of Information and Data

With EdInsight, the Department of Education recognizes the importance of comprehensive and accurate data with a tool that empowers educators with information.

Improve Educator Preparation Programs

The State Board and the Department have led the effort to reform teacher preparation programs to ensure first-rate quality in classroom teachers and school administrators.

Initiatives

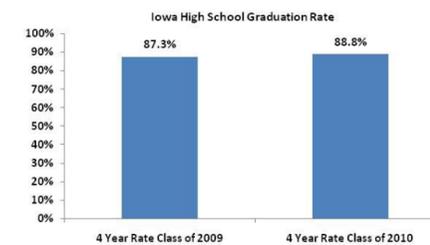
Measures

Increase the Percentage of 4th, 8th, and 11th Grade Students Achieving Proficiency or Better in Reading and Mathematics

Iowa 4th and 8th grade students have shown steady progress over the past decade on ITBS exams, while 11th grade students have had a slight decline.

Increase the Percentage of Students Who Graduate from High School

During the first two years using the new National Governors Association Title I graduation rate formula, Iowa saw an increase in the graduation rate.



Increase the Number of High School Students Taking Advanced Coursework

From physics to chemistry to high-level math, more and more Iowa students are taking advanced courses in order to be prepared for postsecondary education as well as the jobs of tomorrow.

Provide Support for STEM Activities, Project Lead the Way, and Entrepreneurship Education

The Department of Education commits itself to helping students receive the education and training in marketable skills, so that they are able to attain good jobs and careers for themselves and contribute to our state's economy.

Facilitate Student Transfers Through Articulation Agreements

Our state education agencies are working closely together to help students receive college credit—in high school, through community colleges, and moving on to our public universities—in a way that best meets their needs and provides a quality education.



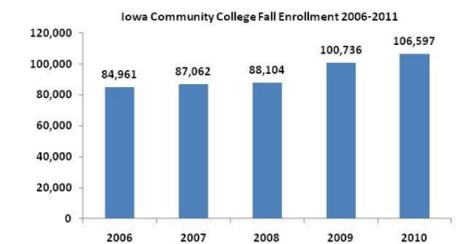
Improve the Quality of Data and Information

The Department of Education makes use of data to inform Iowans on the success and trends in our community colleges across the state.

Measures

Increase the Percentage of Students Who Have Obtained an Associate of Arts Degree and Enter a Four-Year Institution

Enrollment at Iowa's community colleges is at a record level, and it is a major bridge for students to access a Bachelor's degree-level education.



Increase Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender at Iowa Postsecondary Institutions

The female graduation rate at community colleges is slightly higher than male students. Minority students are still significantly behind the graduation rate of white students.

Increase the Average Hourly Wage of Clients Employed as a Result of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Compared to the State Average Wage

Vocational Rehabilitation clients have seen a slight increase in their average hourly wage over the past five years in Iowa, and greatly exceeds the federal required wages.