



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JASON E. GLASS, DIRECTOR

DATE: September 8, 2011

TO: Public School District Superintendents
Area Education Agency Administrators

FROM: Jason E. Glass
Director

SUBJECT: Student Curriculum Plan (8th Grade Plan) and Iowa Code 279.61

In 2010-2011, 31,275 eighth graders, 26,264 ninth graders, and 22,252 tenth graders developed career and educational plans as a part of their work on the required state components of the Student Curriculum Plan (8th Grade Plan) process. The report is available on the Department of Education's website at <http://tiny.cc/deegz>. Thank you for your work in helping Iowa's schools meet the intent of the law regarding this matter.

While we are pleased with the increasing trajectory of this data, it is important to note that there are schools or groups of students who did not begin or finish their student portfolio. We are relying on your help to meet our state law requirement of ALL students having a career and educational plan.

Iowa Code 279.61 requires Iowa schools to work with students beginning in 8th grade to create a plan which shall include career options and shall identify coursework needed in grades 9-12 to support the student's postsecondary education and career options. The state-designated system for career and educational information is I Have A Plan Iowa™ (www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov).

For the 2011-2012 school year, each Iowa student in 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th grade is expected to complete the grade level Guideways to provide the school data on the career planning process of the Student Curriculum Plan (8th Grade Plan). Guideways for 12th grade will be required in 2012-2013.

I Have A Plan Iowa™ provides school and district student data to Iowa's partner agencies—the Department of Education and the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. However, spreadsheets to provide data for students who complete these requirements through alternate means as described in their Individual Education Plans are available on the Department of Education website at <http://tiny.cc/yvo2c>. While I Have A Plan Iowa™ is the state's designated system, districts are free to use any system they desire so long as the data from any alternate system can be uploaded into the state-level database.

District personnel working with students must be aware that **I Have A Plan Iowa™ only collects data on the components that are completed *within the Guideways*. Any school that does not have students go into the Guideways to complete the components or uses a system other than IHaveAPlanIowa™ should file a report with the state.** The Iowa Department of Education has prepared spreadsheets that districts can use to meet the state reporting requirements if they are using a system other than IHaveAPlanIowa™. The grade specific spreadsheets for this report can be found on the Department of Education website <http://tiny.cc/x7tph>.

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In addition, guidance and resources to assist schools and their staffs have been created by a cross-divisional team of educational consultants at the Department of Education which can be accessed at <http://tiny.cc/ahtu77>.

If you need assistance or would like some individual help on the Student Curriculum Plan, please contact Sandra Dop at Sandra.Dop@iowa.gov or 515-281-0127.

For technical assistance with the **I Have A Plan Iowa**[™] website or for training, please contact Iowa College Student Aid at 877-272-4456 or info@iowacollegeaid.gov.

Thank you for your continued dedication to improving education in Iowa.

With respect and admiration,

Jason E. Glass
Director of Education