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



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2013 Legislative Advocacy Agenda

Restoring Iowa as the Leader in Education



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of Education

2013 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Iowa State Board of Education stands ready to work with policymakers in the executive and legislative branches to build the best educational system for our students. Our efforts are voluntary but our commitment is strong to quality education for all Iowa students. We are an independent, bi-partisan group of Iowans who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate to work on educational issues. These issues impact students in preK-12 through community colleges, as well as adult learners and college students in teacher preparation programs. We are charged in Iowa Code to adopt rules that establish policy for programs and services in accordance with legislation. We have been given the responsibility to prescribe standards and approve teacher preparation programs. We rule on appeals related to local board decisions. We have the authority to grant or deny charter school applications. In short, we have these responsibilities and more that help to enact the laws that are passed during the legislative process each year.

In working exclusively on educational issues, we strive to be an objective voice that provides a perspective that is unique in the process. We do our best to stay above the fray of politics, seeking to be a resource that provides policy-based insight on this important policy area. With our complete focus on education and our independent, experienced review of the issues, we seek to fill a needed niche in the educational dialogue in this state.

The Board believes that the status quo is not sufficient to meet the educational needs of our children and adult learners. Education must be the top legislative priority in 2013, with new public policies and financial commitments to do just that.



EDUCATION GOALS

We believe strongly that the following key concepts must be addressed and advanced with positive support from the Governor and the Iowa General Assembly:

- Improve teacher and leader preparation in this state to produce quality professionals in every Iowa classroom and school setting.
- Support the expansion of online learning and the infusion of other technology in the classroom.
- Reduce the achievement gap that exists in our state so that all Iowa children are learning at a higher level of student achievement.
- Continue to build on the initial success and innovative opportunities that Competency-based Education has provided in Iowa education.

The Iowa State Board of Education has four main policy development priorities to improve Iowa education. We encourage strong policy work in the following areas:

Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation

- Improve accountability with a reliance on student achievement data to demonstrate results
- Increase clinical practice included in the academic program
- Promote stronger efforts in recruitment, better teaching standards and performance assessments
- Align certification and graduation standards with the Board of Educational Examiners
- Study best practices in other states and nations in order to develop a revised program approval process
- Highlight exceptional methods for using technology in the classroom

Competency-based Education

- Build on the recent solid work of the Governor and the Iowa General Assembly in this area in Iowa Code
- Work with the task force that is studying this in 2013 to provide concrete proposals
- Monitor a school that is presently engaged in Competency-based Education and encourage replication of positive results shown in it
- Track the ongoing grassroots networking taking place in this area
- Establish a permanent state funding stream to support competency-based measures in schools

Online Learning and Other Technological Advances

- Expand Iowa Learning Online
- Collect data from present innovative practices in technology to measure success and learn from mistakes to build best practice models
- Require all Iowa students to take at least one class online
- Create a permanent funding source for quality technology in every classroom
- Be bold in embracing online learning as a state
- Put student interests first in all state policy discussions on this topic

Reducing Achievement Gaps

- Study root causes of and current efforts to address disparities
- Learn from schools that have been effective in closing the gap
- Provide collaboration toward eliminating achievement gaps
- Promote efforts that increase communication with stakeholders and the public