# 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.

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 (42 U.S.C.§2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C.§206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C.§1681 - 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C.§794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq.).

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:

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## Our Vision

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

## MISSION

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



# EDUCATION is Iowa's FUTURE

State Board of Education
Iowa Department of Education

## Strategic Plan 2012

Grimes State Office Building
400 E. 14th Street
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# 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-Old Children.
- Develop a comprehensive early childhood professional development system.
- Support implementation of the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards.

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

**Measures of Success:**
Increase the percentage of 4th, 8th, and 11th grade students in all subgroups achieving proficient or higher in reading and math.

Increase the percentage of students in all subgroups 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 Iowa Core and address the needs of struggling learners.
- Implement Response to Intervention, providing extra support to students who need it, in order to eliminate achievement gaps and help all students achieve at a higher level.
- Improve the quality of teaching and school leadership.
- Improve the quality of data and information.
- Improve educator preparation programs and accountability related to standards in order to increase educator effectiveness.
- Foster and support educational innovation that will transform the system and increase student success (e.g., competency-based education, online learning).

## GOAL 3: Individuals will pursue postsecondary 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 Iowa postsecondary institutions.

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