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



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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 contact the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 111 N. Canal Street, Suite 1053, Chicago, IL 60606-7204.

2011 Legislative Advocacy Agenda

Preparing
Iowa's
Students
for the
21st Century

In 2010, legislators returned to the State Capitol facing a slowly recovering economy, yet continued to meet Iowa's financial commitment to education. State aid to school districts was nearly fully funded with the remaining American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars. Legislators made a historic decision to delay setting allowable growth for the 2011-2012 school year in order to address the unknown element of state fiscal recovery. And, last summer, Congress infused school districts across the nation with a \$10 billion appropriation aimed at creating and saving education jobs, resulting in \$96 million for Iowa.

In 2011, as veterans and newcomers begin the General Assembly, the importance of our PK-12 and community college system remains constant. The State Board of Education sees exciting opportunities and improvements for our students. School districts are completing the implementation of the Iowa Core for high school students, technology continues to change the way students learn, and the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act may create even more opportunities. Community colleges continue to see record breaking attendance as students enter post-secondary and as adults seek job training.

The Board believes education must be a top legislative priority in 2011 for public policies and financial support that will positively impact our students and all of Iowa.



EDUCATION GOALS

- Increase the proficiency of all students in reading, math, and science.
- Reduce the achievement gaps that exist for African-American and Hispanic students, and students in low socioeconomic categories.
- Reduce the achievement gap for students with disabilities and English Language Learners.
- Increase the K-12 graduation rate, specifically with African-American and Hispanic youth.

BOARD VISION

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

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Improve the quality of the educational system

- Continue implementation of the Iowa Core at the state and local level.
- Support assessments designed to measure student achievement under the Iowa Core.
- Design a competency-based education system.
- Pursue online learning and other advances to support 21st century learning.



Improve Teacher Quality programs

- Increase the quantity and quality of professional development for teachers, especially in reading, mathematics, and science using content-specific Teacher Development Academies.
- Maintain professional development that provides support for every teacher.



Continue access to quality preschool programming

- Provide continued access for all four-year-old children.
- Support established program and early learning standards.



Expand opportunities to develop Iowa's workforce

- Support implementation of 21st century skills and efforts to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities.
- Support the EdInsight data warehouse to provide essential information on students from preschool to the workforce.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

PK-12 Schools

- Preserve state aid funding for school districts.
- Maintain average teacher salary so it is no less than national median.
- Support resources for full implementation of the Iowa Core.
- Maintain funding of quality professional development for teachers.
- Continue fiscal accountability and student data management support.



Community Colleges

- Preserve state aid funding for community colleges.
- Increase the community college levy authority to provide increased capacity to support local and regional decision-making that ensures continued vigorous economic and workforce development.



Area Education Agencies

- Ensure AEAs are adequately funded so they can meet the needs of districts, teachers, and students, specifically in the areas of Iowa Core implementation and professional development.



Department of Education

- Support adequate staffing that allows the Department to provide technical assistance, monitoring of quality, and accountability for results.
- Ensure that any new policies or funding priorities include appropriate staffing to implement additional programs or expectations.