IOWA | State Board of Education

Rosie Hussey
President
Clear Lake

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
Vice President
Des Moines

Diane Crookham-Johnson
Oskaloosa

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick
West Des Moines

Michael Knedler
Council Bluffs

Valorie Kruse
Sioux City

Mike May
Spirit Lake

Max Phillips
Woodward

LaMetta Wynn
Clinton

Edgar Thornton
Student Member
Iowa City

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

www.educateiowa.gov

2014 Legislative Advocacy Agenda

Restoring Iowa as the Leader in Education

IOWA | State Board of Education

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

IOWA | State Board of Education

2014 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AGENDA

Your Iowa State Board of Education is Ready to Serve!

We are an independent, bipartisan group of Iowans who are selected by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate to work on educational issues. In working exclusively on educational issues, we strive to be an objective voice by doing the following:

- Adopt rules for the enforcement of school laws.
- Review and approve teacher preparation programs in Iowa colleges and universities.
- Approve or deny K-12 charter school applications.
- Work with policymakers in the executive and legislative branches by providing input on major educational issues.
- Listen to the concerns and input of Iowa citizens throughout the year.
- Interact with Iowa school leaders through dialogue and action in our duties.
- Approve the budgets of the community colleges and area education agencies.
- Hear appeals of local school board decisions.
- Adopt rules for accrediting public and nonpublic schools.

EDUCATION GOALS

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

- Improve teacher and leader preparation in this state to produce quality professionals in every Iowa classroom and school setting. We should prepare candidates to meet the high expectations of our teacher and leader workforce.
- Continue to build on the initial success and innovative opportunities that competency-based education has provided in Iowa schools.
- Support the infusion of online learning and other technology in the classroom.
- Reduce the achievement gap that exists in our state so that all Iowa children are learning at their maximum capacity.
- Increase the effectiveness of our assessment system so that students, parents, and educators can best measure the status of learning taking place in our state.

2014 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As a State Board, we commend Governor Branstad and the Iowa General Assembly for major progress in educational policy in 2013. Their passage of education reform was historic and is appreciated. Building off of these good bipartisan efforts, we believe in these goals:

Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation

- Highlight exceptional methods for using technology in the classroom.
- Improve accountability with a reliance on student achievement data to demonstrate results.
- Continue to push for innovation and high quality in all programs in our state.
- *Analyze the new 2014-15 yearlong student teaching experience pilot project that we believe will yield positive results in helping prepare our teachers.*

Competency-based Education

- Continue to establish Iowa as a national leader in providing this learning option.
- Utilize the report from the multi-year task force that extensively studied competency-based education.
- Establish a permanent state funding stream to support competency-based measures in Iowa schools.
- *Support the innovative efforts of ten Iowa schools who were awarded grants to develop a framework to support statewide implementation of competency-based education.*

Online Learning and Other Technological Advances

- Be bold in embracing online learning in this state in preparing our learners for the future.
- Require all Iowa students to take at least one class online before graduation.
- Collect data to measure best practice in using technology, properly funding the necessary broadband capacity and hardware to allow such learning to take place.
- *Work to promote the usage of the expanded Iowa Learning Online system by Iowa schools to provide expanded student learning opportunities.*

Reducing Achievement Gaps

- Learn from Iowa schools that have effectively closed the gap.
- Establish intensive efforts for students based on ever improving data in this policy area.
- Continue to study root causes of and current efforts to address disparities.
- *Implement pilot extended learning projects researched and prepared for the Iowa General Assembly as well as monitor the distribution of $10 million in high need school grants.*

Assessment

- All student assessments must align with the Iowa Core to accurately study what students know.
- Assessments should provide usable results that help educators provide instruction that best meet the needs of their students.
- All assessment choices should be available for potential use in this state, with testing choices being selected based on professional research and review, not legislative prohibitions.
- *We commend the legislative action that established an assessment task force and encourage this group to support reliable testing systems that use the latest technology.*