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.

State Board Members

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Charles C. Edwards, Jr., Vice President, Des Moines
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Judy A. Jeffrey, Director and Executive Officer

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

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

Strategic Plan

2010
Grimes State Office Building
400 E 14th Street
Des Moines IA 50319-0146
515/281-5294
www.iowa.gov/educate
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-Olds.
- Develop a comprehensive early childhood professional development system.
- Support implementation of the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards.

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

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

Increase the percentage of students 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 Curriculum and address the needs of struggling learners.
- Improve the quality of teaching and school leadership.
- Improve the quality of data and information.
- Improve educator preparation programs.

GOAL 3: Individuals will pursue post-secondary 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.
Education is Iowa’s future. To stay on track towards a bright future, the Iowa State Board of Education and the Iowa Department of Education have developed a long-range strategic plan for our education system in Iowa, including goals, initiatives, and measures of success for the preschool, K-12, and postsecondary levels.

This document provides a brief summary of that strategic plan, highlighting major initiatives as well as the progress being made.

It is our mission to champion excellence for our students, our teachers, our schools, and all Iowans.

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

MISSION
Champion excellence for all Iowa students through leadership and service.
Iowa’s Quality Preschool Program Standards were developed in concert with other federal preschool programs to set standards and required extensions to support the goal of preparing children for school.

- **All Children**
  - will enter school Ready to Learn

- **All K-12 Students**
  - will achieve at a High Level

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**Initiatives**

- Develop a Comprehensive Early Childhood Professional Development System
  - In states effort’s toddler workplace quality online childhood education. To meet this goal, the Board backed cooperation efforts between the Department of Education and the AEA’s to provide training of residential local curriculum, and based assessment, training of evidence-backed cooperative childhood education. To meet this goal, the Board endorsed the effort to improve instruction and support literacy, science, and math education, including Every Child Reads, Statewide Literacy Team, Every Child Inspires, Every Child Creates, Authentic Intellectual Work, and the Teacher Development Academies.

- Implement the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program
  - The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program is designed to allow four-year-old children access to high-quality early learning opportunities from local programs.

- Increase the Percentage of Four-Year-Old Children Participating in a Quality Preschool Program
  - In just four years, the number of four-year-old children providing a quality preschool program has quadrupled in Iowa, from 5,128 in 2007-08 to 17,918 in 2010-11.

- Increase the Percentage of Children Entering Kindergarten Ready to Read
  - More than 80% of Iowa students planned for kindergarten are reaching a literacy benchmark in kindergarten.

- Provide Professional Development for School Districts and AEA’s
  - The Department of Education supports several initiatives to support literacy, science, and math education, including Every Child Reads, Statewide Literacy Team, Every Child Inspires, Every Child Creates, Authentic Intellectual Work, and the Teacher Development Academies.

- Expand High School Reform Efforts Utilizing AEA’s
  - Teachers implementing the Iowa Core is key to supporting student success at the high school level that will help all students find success.

- Improve the Quality of Teacher and School Leadership
  - Since 2001, the Teacher Quality Program provides professional development to improve instruction and support the work to provide higher quality support to all teachers with evidence-backed support.

- Improve the Quality of Information and Data
  - With Department of Education support, the Iowa Student Information System (ISIS) provides comprehensive data that improves instructional and administrative support.

- Improve Educator Preparation Programs
  - The State Board and the Department have led the effort to improve teacher preparation programs to better meet the needs of aspiring educators and school administrators.

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**Measures**

- Increase the Percentage of 4th, 8th, and 11th Grade Students Achieving Proficiency or Better in Reading and Mathematics
  - Iowa 4th and 8th-grade students have better small group reading and math test scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), while 11th-grade students have had a slight decline.

- Increase the Number of High School Students Taking Advanced Coursework
  - Students who graduate from high school are more likely to graduate from high school.

- Increase Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender at Iowa Postsecondary Institutions
  - Iowa’s graduation rates at community colleges is slightly higher than state students. Minority students are well represented behind the graduation rates of white students.

- Increase the Percentage of Students Who Graduate from High School
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- Increase the Percentage of Students Who Have Obtained an Associate of Arts Degree and Enter a Four-Year Institution
  - Enrollment at Iowa’s community colleges is a record high.

**Individuals will pursue Postsecondary Education in order to drive Economic Success**

- Increase the Percentage of Students Who Have Obtained an Associate of Arts Degree and Enter a Four-Year Institution
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- Increase Average Hourly Wage of Workers Employed as a Result of Postsecondary Vocational Rehabilitation Services Compared to the State Average Wage
  - Vocational Rehabilitation clients have seen a slight increase in their average hourly wages over the past five years, and greatly exceeds the federal required target.

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