

# ***EDUCATION*** **IS IOWA'S FUTURE**

## **2008** **Strategic Plan**

State Board of Education  
Iowa Department of Education

### **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.

### **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.

## **Goals**

All children will enter school ready to learn.

All K-12 students will achieve at a high level.

Individuals will pursue postsecondary education in order to drive economic success.

## **Cross-Cutting Strategies for Achieving the Goals**

### **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.

## **Measures of Success and Major Initiatives for Each Goal Area**

### **Early Childhood**

**Goal 1: All children will enter school ready to learn.**

#### **Measures:**

Increase the percentage of children entering kindergarten ready to read.

Increase the percentage of four-year-old children participating in a quality preschool program (baseline established in 2007-2008).

#### **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*.

### **K-12**

**Goal 2: All K-12 students will achieve at a high level.**

#### **Measures:**

Increase the percentage of 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

Increase the number of districts implementing the high school core curriculum (baseline established in 2007-2008).

#### **Major Initiatives:**

- Provide professional development and technical assistance for school districts and 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 core curriculum and address the needs of struggling learners.
- Improve the quality of teaching and school leadership.
- Improve the quality of data and information.

## **Postsecondary Education**

**Goal 3: Individuals will pursue postsecondary education in order to drive economic success.**

### **Measures:**

Increase the percentage of students who have obtained an AA 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 daily 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.