

State Board of Education Strategic Plan 2017-2018

1. Eliminating Early Literacy Achievement Gaps

Goal 1: Students in kindergarten through third grade will meet or exceed reading benchmarks.

Action step: Review data on the reading screening assessment three times each year.

Goal 2: Students not meeting grade level benchmarks will have access to differentiated interventions and learning opportunities.

Action step: Support the development of a reporting method for assessing which students need interventions and do not have access to those interventions.

Goal 3: Teachers will have access and training, in preservice and in-service, to early literacy best practices.

Action step: Support the training of teachers and develop a report for the Board to determine next steps.

2. Transitioning to New Assessments

Goal: Statewide assessment of student learning in English language arts, math, and science will be aligned to Iowa's academic standards.

Action step: Notice rules to adopt a statewide assessment.

Action step: Support the implementation of resources and opportunities for teacher development for new assessment and school readiness update on technology.

3. Implementing Iowa's Academic Standards

Goal: All school districts and accredited nonpublic schools will implement Iowa's rigorous academic standards to prepare students to be college and career ready.

Action step: Review implementation plan for social studies standards.

Action step: Adopt fine arts standards.

Action step: Adopt computer science standards.

Action step: Begin development of physical education and health standards.

4. Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation

Goal: All teacher and leader preparation programs in Iowa will align with comprehensive standards and prepare candidates to meet the high expectations of our teacher and leader workforce.

Action step: Emphasize practical experience, classroom management, appropriate and effective differentiation strategies and meaningful endorsements.

5. Increasing Accessibility of Career and Technical Education, Work-Based Learning, and Community College Credit and Preparing Productive Citizens for Rewarding Careers

Goal 1: Students across Iowa, regardless of geography, will have access to robust Career and Technical Education (CTE), work-based learning experiences, and community college credit and credential opportunities through an integrated system.

Action step: Monitor implementation of CTE redesign and support the Department in providing assistance to regional planning partnerships.

Goal 2: Students, including adult learners, will be prepared and supported by community colleges to be credentialed, productive citizens, and lifelong learners.

Action step: Adopt expanded high school equivalency rules.

Action step: Support the Department's work on alignment of the various sector boards.

Action step: Support the implementation of the Future Ready Iowa initiative.

6. Creating a Safe and Rich Learning Environment

Goal: All Iowa schools will foster a culture and climate in which students feel safe and supported.

Action step: Host a discussion with students, the Iowa Association of School Boards, and administrators who have had success in creating a positive school culture.

Action step: Discuss the impact of open enrollment date and impact at the district level.

Action step: Review relevant information on this priority.

