



10 REASONS TO TAKE PRIDE IN IOWA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Great public schools are a promise we make as Iowans to our next generation of leaders, innovators and citizens.

1 STUDENTS SERVED

Iowa public schools serve 486,264 K-12 students in 330 community school districts—93.7% of students enrolled in school. Iowa invests \$5.9 billion annually in public schools and ranks 26th nationally in spending, an average of \$11,017 per student.

2 PRESCHOOL

Iowa has expanded access to voluntary preschool for 4-year-olds, up from 77% of school districts offering preschool in 2007-08 to 99.1% of districts in 2017-18. 82% of students entering kindergarten in 2018-19 participated in a preschool program. Iowa ranks 7th nationally in access to preschool and 36th in state spending.

3 EARLY LITERACY

A statewide initiative to ensure strong reading skills by the end of 3rd grade has shown results for three years in a row. The share of Iowa students in kindergarten through third grade who met or surpassed reading benchmarks has climbed about 7 percentage points since 2015 (well over 14,000 students).

4 STEM

A statewide focus on STEM is promoting hands-on, project based learning, internships and mentorships in STEM occupations to prepare students for careers and strengthen the economy. Enrollment in advanced level math and science courses is growing: 45.2% of graduates enrolled in higher-level math classes in 2017-18, up from 25.7% in 2006-07.

5 ENGLISH LEARNERS

Iowa public schools are serving a growing population of students learning English, up from 11,248 students in 2000-01 to 30,357 students in 2017-18, or 6.1% of all students. The graduation rate for students with limited English proficiency has increased from 64% in 2009 to 80.3% in 2017-18.

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6 TEACHER QUALITY

100% of Iowa public schools voluntarily take part in Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) initiative, which rewards effective teachers, attracts promising new teachers with competitive starting salaries and more support, and fosters greater collaboration.

7 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

AP courses offer college-level curricula and exams to high school students. The number of Iowa public school students taking AP courses and total AP enrollment continues to rise. In 2017-18, 17,798 students took 26,239 AP courses. In 2017-18, 20,986 AP exams were taken by 13,591 Iowa students, up from 12,512 exams taken by 8,298 students in 2009.

8 COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL

Iowa is #1 in the nation for students who earn college credit in high school. In 2017-18, 46,281, or 31.1%, of high school students enrolled in community college credit courses.

9 GRADUATION RATE

Iowa is #1 in the country with a 91% graduation rate for the Class of 2017 and the rate is continuing to increase each year. Iowa's 5-year graduation rate is even higher—93.4% for the Class of 2016.

10 COLLEGE PREPARATION

Iowa ranks #2 nationally among states for which ACT is the primary college entrance exam (greater than 50%), with an average composite score of 21.8. Within one year of graduation, 71.1% of Iowa high school graduates enrolled in college or training programs.

JOIN US IN KEEPING THE PROMISE FOR A NEW GENERATION

Iowa school boards are taking on the responsibility to tell the story and rally public support and understanding for continued efforts that ensure our public schools are world class.

Get involved in the Promise of Iowa, a statewide movement to celebrate the successes of Iowa students and rally support for continued investments in great public schools.

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