



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

### 10 REASONS TO TAKE PRIDE IN IOWA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**1 STUDENTS SERVED:** Iowa public schools serve 483,451 K-12 students in 333 community school districts—94% of students enrolled in school. Iowa invests \$5.9 billion annually in public schools and ranks 27th nationally in spending, an average of \$10,622 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 97% of districts in 2014-15, now serving about 61% of Iowa 4-year-olds. Iowa ranks 7th nationally in access to preschool and 35th in state spending.

**3 EARLY LITERACY:** A statewide initiative to ensure strong reading skills by 3rd grade is beginning to show results: 14,000 more Iowa students went from missing reading benchmarks to meeting them, a statewide increase of 7% in two years.

**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: 45.3% of graduates enrolled in higher-level math classes in 2015-16, 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 27,241 students in 2015-16, or 5.7% of all students. The graduation rate for students with limited English proficiency has increased from 64% in 2009 to 82.9% in 2015.

**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 2015-16, 16,369 students took 24,756 AP courses. In 2015-16, 19,790 AP exams were taken by Iowa students, up from 18,568 in 2014-15.

**8 COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL:** Iowa is #1 in the nation for students who earn college credit in high school. In 2015-16, 44,000, or 28%, of high school students enrolled in community college credit courses.

**9 GRADUATION RATE:** Iowa's is #1 in the country with a 91.3% graduation rate for the Class of 2016, and the rate is continuing to increase each year. Iowa's 5-year graduation rate is even higher—93.3% for the Class of 2015.

**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 22.2. 71.1% of Iowa high school graduates enrolled in college or training programs within one year of graduation.

#### 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.

[www.promiseiowa.org](http://www.promiseiowa.org)

Explore our website, discover and share Promise Stories, spread the word and get involved today.

Connect with the Promise of Iowa through social media:

