



IOWA

State Profile

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
Advanced Placement (AP)	Yes	The Iowa Online AP Academy (IOAPA) allows students from every high school to take AP courses online or over the Iowa Communications Network (ICN). Most high schools offer some AP.	No	Specific efforts are made by individual teachers, with emphasis on high-achieving students. The IOAPA serves all students, especially students in rural areas.	Yes	Provided through general state appropriations and federal grants
Alternative High Schools	Yes	K-12 districts, in partnership with other districts, create an off-site school. Each school is linked with a community college.	Yes	At-risk students	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools are not required to have an alternative high school, but all schools are required to educate at-risk students. State funding and legislation: schools receive additional funds for having an at-risk plan.
Bridge Programs	Yes	University of Iowa and Iowa State University have bridge programs, including TRIO.	No		Yes	Funded through general state appropriations
Career Academies	Yes	Two community colleges and focus on career-technical education (CTE). Students split their day between high school and the college campus.	Yes	First-generation students	Yes	State funding and legislation
Charter Schools	Yes	The first charter school opened in Fall 2004, and it has links with colleges.	Yes	First-generation students	Yes	State funding and enabling state legislation: Rules: 281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 68, Iowa Public Charter Schools
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	Yes	At independent colleges and some public higher education institutions	No		Yes	General state appropriations.

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<p>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Distance learning through Iowa Communications Network (ICN), which ties all K-12 and community colleges together in a complete network. IA also has two new virtual schools and a virtual classroom. There is also the Iowa Online AP Academy (IOAPA).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home schooled students • Low-income students • Rural students • Students with disabilities 	<p>Yes</p>	<p><u>Distance learning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State has over a half billion dollars invested in the ICN. • State legislation requires every school to connect to ICN, but usage is determined locally. <p><u>Virtual schools:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is experimental state policy to encourage participation. • Some state grants are available. <p><u>Virtual classroom:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created by local innovation on the part of the participating community college; • Funded from a small grant from the U.S. Department of Defense.
<p><u>Des Moines Central Campus</u></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional academy/enrichment center linked to colleges for all students enrolled at Des Moines high schools; Over 2000 students enrolled • Many community college courses are taught at the secondary level. 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The program is intended to enrich the curriculum for all students. Special emphasis on the following Des Moines students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESL students • Racial and ethnic minority students 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>General state appropriations</p>
<p><u>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</u></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Called Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO). Very common due to state incentives for schools to participate.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Reviews are conducted to ensure equitable participation by underserved students, including minority and female students in non-traditional fields, immigrants and ESL students, and students with low SES, disabilities, and low achievement levels.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state provides 148% of state funding aid per pupil enrolled. Local districts pay for students' tuition up to \$250, but community colleges cannot charge more than \$250 for tuition. • The Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Act (Chapter 261C, Iowa Code) gives every student the right to enroll, mandating that schools allow their students to use this program.
<p>Early or Middle College High Schools</p>	<p>No</p>		<p>No</p>		<p>No</p>	

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
GED in College Settings	Yes	At all 15 community colleges	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-achieving students • Low-income students • Racial and ethnic minority students 	Yes	All community colleges are mandated to offer it; state funding and legislation.
High Schools That Work	Yes	Approximately 6 schools are participating.	Yes	First-generation students	No	
International Baccalaureate (IB)	No		No		No	
Jobs for America's Graduates	Yes	Develops study habits and job skills through supportive education, mentoring, and community service	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-risk students • First-generation students • Low-achieving students • Low-income students 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financed through mostly private, corporate contributions, and some federal funds through Workforce Development, which are targeted to disadvantaged youth. • No state legislation or policy, it receives a lot of support from the governor's office.
Tech Prep	Yes	At all regional institutions and all 15 community colleges. Every rural school is linked to at least one community college.	Yes	Same as dual enrollment, plus emphasis on rural students	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state awards grants to consortia in each educational region using federal Perkins funds. In addition, institutions get funds as part of general state appropriations if it has a dual credit program. • State Department of Education has policy to administer and fund Tech Prep. • State policy requires all high school programs are articulated with at least one postsecondary institution.

Summary of academic pathways:

Iowa offers an extensive number of academic pathways, with several in early stages. The state works with federal legislation for career and technical education (CTE) because the state has identified education as the major catalyst for its economic development and growth. Tech Prep is a high priority in Iowa, as evidenced by the state requirement that mandates all programs articulate with at least one postsecondary institution, then all rural schools are linked with at least one community college.

Dual enrollment through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options is Iowa's highest priority academic pathway. It receives the largest amount of state funding among the various pathways and is available to every student in every school district. It is open to arts and sciences, but also CTE. Participation in dual enrollment is very high. AP enrollment has skyrocketed in recent years. Largely through its Iowa Online AP Academy (IOAPA), students from every high school, especially those from rural areas, enroll in AP courses online or over the Iowa Communications Network (ICN). The IOAPA provides training and support to educators who are teaching or who want to teach AP courses.

Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- Alternative high schools
- Des Moines Central Campus
- Distance learning & Virtual schools: Iowa Communication Network
- Jobs for America's Graduates
- Virtual classroom: Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, Iowa

Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

Iowa embraces higher education, with 80% of high school graduates aspiring to go to college, although almost half leave after their first year of enrollment. The Governor's goal is to double the rate of success; that is, 90% of Iowans will have at least two years of postsecondary education.

Ten academic pathways present in Iowa make special efforts to reach various underserved student populations, with the strongest emphasis on first-generation and rural students. In addition, equity reviews are conducted to ensure participation by underserved students, including minority, low SES, low-achieving, and immigrant/ESL students. Non-traditional students by gender, usually females, and students with disabilities are other target groups. Disaggregating data to see if any group is not participating or not having success allows the state to make special efforts for that group to gain increased access.

Iowa makes especially strong efforts to help at-risk students. The state achieves this goal through Jobs for America's Graduates and alternative high schools. Jobs for America's Graduates help at-risk high school students develop better study habits and job skills through supportive education, mentoring, and community service. Alternative high schools serve students at risk of not receiving a high school diploma due to a variety of reasons, such as poor social conditions, low high school attendance, and low academic achievement. K-12 districts, in partnership with other districts, create off-site schools that are linked with at least one of the state's 15 community colleges.

Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

Despite the autonomy afforded to local districts, the state provides funding, legislation, and policy for most of the academic pathways. Bridge Programs, CLEP, AP, and the Des Moines Central Campus are supported by state general appropriations. In addition, the state has invested over half a billion dollars into distance learning with accompanying legislation that requires all schools participate in the Iowa Connection Network (ICN). Dual credit through Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is heavily funded and legislated by the state. Through the Iowa PSEO, every student has the right to enroll in a dual credit course. Additionally, the state mandates that all community colleges offer GED



programs. As a matter of state policy, schools with Tech Prep and alternative high schools are required to have articulation with at least one community college. In addition, the state required that the first charter school have links to colleges.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- Focusing on career maturity and academic preparation are not only necessary but are interdependent.
• Parent involvement is extremely critical. Since many parents believe that high school GPA is the most important thing for success at the postsecondary level, rather than the courses taken, the state needs to get information out to parents so they can make informed decisions when they approve which courses their children take.
• Schools should help students and their families focus on a broad career area, tie them to a given area, and help them take the required courses so they can learn them in the context in which they will use them.
• When student aspiration for postsecondary education and first-year enrollment is high but second-year enrollment is low the state can double students' chances of finishing their postsecondary degrees if students have a career focus and get the appropriate academic preparation while in high school.

Programs recommended by state officials:

Table with 5 columns: Pathways, Educational Institution, Contact person, E-mail, Phone. Rows include Career Academies and Charter Schools.

State official's contact information:

Table with 5 columns: Name, Title, Agency, E-mail, Phone. Rows include *Robert Barak and Roger Foelske.

(Prepared by Melanie B. Rubin/ Updated March, 2006/ *State official reviewed this state profile.)