

Education Policy Recommendations

1. Sustain and improve Iowa's commitment to Early Childhood Empowerment:
 - Provide early care through both the health and education systems
 - Improve child care quality
 - Promote safe and stable communities
 - Facilitate family/parent support
 - Continue to improve the 4 year-old preschool program
 - Provide access for all
 - Implement quality standards
 - Ensure schools employ certified teachers

2. Continued focus on quality teaching and learning:
 - Sustain improved teacher salaries
 - Preserve funding for mentoring and induction
 - Sustain and improve access to quality professional development
 - Preserve the funding necessary to implement the Iowa core curriculum
 - Implement a new writing assessment
 - Recruit more teachers

3. Retain Iowa's place as the education first state
 - Attract and retain quality teachers
 - Provide quality growth opportunities for educators
 - Improve graduation rate, specifically for minority and low income students
 - Provide support for students at-risk of dropping out
 - Engage all students in relevant and rigorous work through a quality curriculum and good teaching

4. Focus public attention on the need for a 21st century workforce with 21st century skills.
 - Ninety-nine percent of registered voters indicate that the attainment of 21st century skills is of equal or greater importance with basic academic skills.
 - Promote an Iowa educational system that focuses on preparing citizens for the 21st century.

5. Make Iowa the national leader in providing postsecondary educational opportunities to high school students.
 - Implement Senior Year Plus
 - Develop articulated agreements to transfer courses to 4 year universities

- Career academies
 - Community college
6. Provide public access to data on the health and well being of our schools
- School report cards
 - Financial
 - Student achievement
 - Create a data warehouse
 - Establish an electronic transcript repository
 - Create a workforce and education data system to support workforce outcomes