

■ What is the Iowa Core Curriculum?

The Core Curriculum provides the details for teachers to make sure students reach Iowa's Core Content Standards and Benchmarks. It assists teachers in knowing how to integrate essential concepts and skills into student learning opportunities. The Core Curriculum is about teaching and learning; it provides examples of powerful instruction clearly tied to classroom assessments. It provides a comprehensive picture of effective curriculum that addresses pedagogy, content knowledge, and assessment.

The purpose of the Core Curriculum is to raise student expectations and change teaching behaviors to impact student achievement. The Core Curriculum provides the processes and establishes the urgency to set higher expectations and infuse more challenging and meaningful content into classroom instruction.

New Iowa Core Curriculum Website

The Iowa Department of Education announces the launch of a new Iowa Core Curriculum website at www.corecurriculum.iowa.gov.

The purpose of the official Iowa Core Curriculum site is to help Iowa parents and all citizens learn more about the state-wide academic expectations for kindergarten through 12th-grade students.

The website offers a look at the skills and concepts all Iowa students must know under the Iowa Core Curriculum, signed into law by Governor Culver in 2008. This includes concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, and 21st century learning skills (civic literacy, financial literacy, technology literacy, health literacy, and employability skills). Parents will be able to do customized searches by academic area or by grades.

Superintendents, principals, and other education leaders in Iowa are currently receiving training on how to implement the Iowa Core Curriculum, which must be fully put into practice in high schools by 2012-2013 and in kindergarten through eighth grades by 2014-2015. Iowa's area education agencies and the Iowa Department of Education have collaborated to provide this training. This cooperation will continue as districts begin to provide professional development directly to teachers on the Iowa Core Curriculum and supportive teaching strategies.

For background information on the Iowa Core Curriculum, please visit the Iowa Department of Education's website at www.iowa.gov/educate and click on "Iowa Core Curriculum" on the left-hand side of the page.

Common Core Standards Adopted as Part of Iowa Core

The State Board of Education voted 6-0 on July 29, 2010 to adopt the Common Core State Standards as part of the Iowa Core. The standards cover the areas of English language arts and mathematics only. With this adoption, the literacy and math sections of the Iowa Core will be adjusted to include Common Core.

Please be aware that the literacy and math sections of this website do not currently reflect the change. Work is being done to update this website.

It should be noted that:

- The Iowa Department of Education conducted a formal alignment study—or comparison—of both the Common Core and the Iowa Core. The study results show a high level of correspondence between the Iowa Core to the Common Core.
- In addition, all states are allowed to keep 15 percent of their own English language arts and math standards—in our case the Iowa Core in literacy and math. The Iowa Department of Education will identify essential concepts and skills from the Iowa Core to include as part of the 15 percent. These will be brought to the State Board of Education in September or October for review and possible approval.
- While the Common Core has been adopted as part of the Iowa Core, the work Iowa school districts are currently doing to implement the Iowa Core will not change significantly.