

Right Work, Right Time, Right People

Every student in Iowa deserves an education that helps them succeed in today's technology rich, global economy. The Iowa Core Curriculum delivers that education.

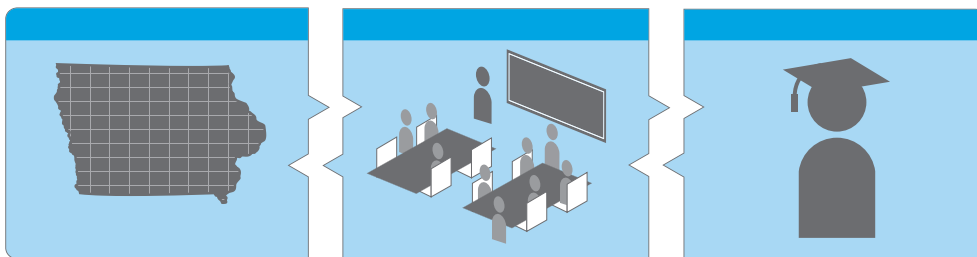
It does so by taking learning to a deeper level and by focusing on a set of essential skills and concepts in literacy, math, science, social studies, and 21st century learning skills that Iowa students must know to succeed in today's competitive world.

As a leader in education, Iowa is the right state to move education to a new level. The Iowa Core Curriculum builds on our state's long history of community leadership in education and relies on partners across the state for implementation in high schools by 2012 and in elementary and middle schools by 2014.

In fact, Iowans – representing education and business – developed the Iowa Core Curriculum through a broad and in-depth review of national and international standards, research, and best practices.

The Iowa Core Curriculum will soon be alive in Iowa's classrooms. The Core Curriculum and its accompanying professional development are the critical pieces to infusing rigorous and meaningful content into classroom instruction and raising student achievement. Iowa teachers and administrators have the greatest impact on student learning and they deliver excellence day in and day out.

All of this is why the Iowa Core Curriculum is the right work, at the right time, and for the right people.



STANDARDS
AND BENCHMARKS

CORE 

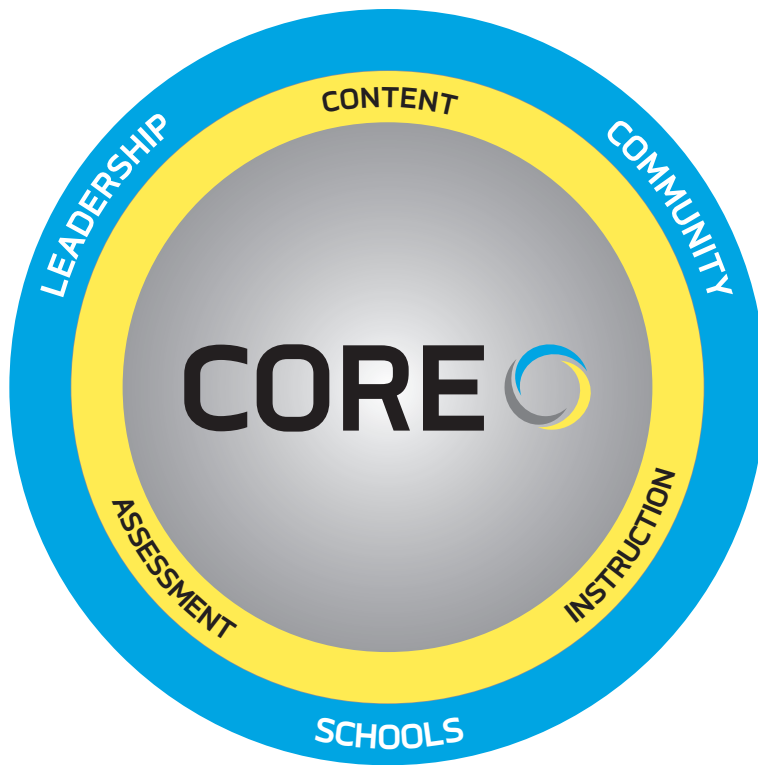
STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT

The Iowa Core Curriculum bolsters Iowa's education structure that includes state standards, which are mandated, and achievement benchmarks. All are aligned to improve student achievement in Iowa.

How Will Iowa *Students* Benefit?

The Iowa Core Curriculum:

- Ensures that students will grasp big ideas through a focus on essential topics.
- Moves students beyond superficial knowledge to deep conceptual and procedural knowledge through learning for understanding, problem solving, and inquiry.
- Provides students opportunities to learn rigorous, robust content through effective instruction.
- Enhances student engagement by involving students in interesting, relevant learning experiences.



What does the Iowa Core Curriculum look like?

It is a question many people are asking, "What does the Iowa Core Curriculum look like?" The answer is simple, and complex at the same time.

While the Core Curriculum identifies essential skills and concepts, it is not just a document distributed to school districts. Ongoing and sustained professional development and leadership are required to guide and enhance curriculum content, classroom instruction, and classroom assessment.

School district personnel will analyze both the content and instruction of their current curriculum, find the gaps, and, as needed, restructure their current instructional program to fully embrace the Core Curriculum.

The Iowa Department of Education and its education partners advocate and support the implementation of a consistent approach to instructional improvement that integrates multiple components implemented in concert.

The Core Curriculum is not course-based, but rather is a student-based approach that supports high expectations for all students. So what will the Iowa Core Curriculum look like? It will be students engaged in relevant learning experiences, students attaining deep conceptual knowledge through problem-solving and inquiry, and students preparing for the 21st century.

The full picture of the Iowa Core Curriculum is one that includes communities and schools working together. The Core Curriculum galvanizes action to improve teaching and learning by encouraging educators, parents, and community members to strive toward a common goal of increasing student achievement.

How will Iowa Benefit?

The Iowa Core Curriculum:

- Identifies Iowa as a state that values high expectations for all students and all educators.
- Extends the Iowa Core Content Standards and Benchmarks to identify priorities to improve the educational system in all of Iowa's schools.
- Maximizes the effectiveness of the existing statewide assessment system, which was developed to comply with NCLB.
- Improves test scores and increases the number of graduates who are poised to pursue post-secondary opportunities if implemented with fidelity.
- Has the capacity, when implemented with fidelity, to positively impact Iowa's economic base by providing more skilled employees for the workplace and students better prepared for post-secondary education.
- Provides Iowa with citizens better prepared to address the complexities of life in the 21st century.