

ICCSA School Board Policies

ENDS POLICIES

Academic achievement is the highest priority of the Iowa City Community School District. The policies listed here define the end results desired for our students and include what they are expected to know and be able to do as a result of their educational experience. The policies were developed through extensive community and staff involvement and reflect our community's educational values. Very specific goals are stated only for the core areas of the curriculum, reflecting their status as receiving the highest priority in the District with respect to allocation of resources. Other areas of the curriculum, such as Social Studies, Foreign Language, Arts Education, Physical Education, ELP, ELL, and Career Education are considered very important to accomplishment of the Global Ends Policy listed below and will be supported and monitored with respect to that goal statement.

The Ends Policies are goal statements set by the Board to govern the ICCSD. They are not the only academic goals in effect in the District. A listing of more specific District wide student learning goals with standards and benchmarks for each curricular area can be found at <http://www.iowa-city.k12.ia.us/District/StudentGoals/Intro.html>.

Additionally, measurable goals and action plans designed to achieve the goals are established annually for the District and each school, as mandated by the State of Iowa. The District's current Comprehensive School Improvement Plan can be found at <http://www.iowa-city.k12.ia.us/District/csip04/04-05%20CSIP%20Report.htm>

When cohort group comparisons are specified, data will be compared for students from the same graduating class as they move from one grade to the following grade (3rd to 4th to 5th grade). Same grade comparisons will compare data for students in a particular grade level from one year to the next (3rd to 3rd) and thus will be based on different graduating classes.

GLOBAL ENDS POLICIES (LEVEL 1):

The District will ensure that students become responsible, independent, lifelong learners capable of making informed decisions in a democratic society as well as in the dynamic global community.

Reading

Students will over time independently read increasingly complex text with understanding.

- On average, yearly achievement will be as high as or higher than previous years for same grade groups.

- On average, achievement will increase at a rate greater than the national average for cohort groups.
- Performance of the average student in the bottom quarter of the distribution for all ICCSD students and for cohort groups will increase annually. The national percentile rank associated with this average will be reported each year. *
- Performance of the average student in the top quarter of the distribution for all ICCSD students and for cohort groups will be maintained or will increase annually. The national percentile rank associated with this average will be reported each year.

Writing

Students will over time independently write increasingly complex text with meaning, clarity, purpose and application of standard conventions.

- On average, yearly achievement will be as high as or higher than previous years for same grade groups.
- On average, achievement will increase at a rate greater than the national average for cohort groups.
- Performance of the average student in the top quarter of the distribution for all ICCSD students and for cohort groups will be maintained or will increase annually. The national percentile rank associated with this average will be reported each year.

Math

Students will over time independently solve increasingly complex mathematical problems.

- On average, yearly achievement will be as high as or higher than previous years for same grade groups.
- On average, achievement will increase at a rate greater than the national average for cohort groups.
- Performance of the average student in the bottom quarter of the distribution for all ICCSD students and for cohort groups will increase annually. The national percentile rank associated with this average will be reported each year. *
- Performance of the average student in the top quarter of the distribution for all ICCSD students and for cohort groups will be maintained or will increase annually. The national percentile rank associated with this average will be reported each year

Science

Students will over time independently use increasingly complex scientific information and the processes of inquiry to construct scientific knowledge.

- On average, yearly achievement will be as high as or higher than previous years for same grade groups.
 - On average, achievement will increase at a rate greater than the national average for cohort groups.
 - Performance of the average student in the top quarter of the distribution for all ICCSD students and for cohort groups will be maintained or will increase annually. The national percentile rank associated with this average will be reported each year.
- * Specific goals for students who are struggling academically have been included for reading and math. This has been done in order to focus the district's resources first on these most basic and important skills. These goals reflect the current needs of the district but, as is true with all board policies, they should be reviewed frequently to ensure their continued appropriateness.

Social Studies

Students will over time develop the knowledge and the skills of the core disciplines of social studies and apply this knowledge to their lives as citizens.

- On average, yearly achievement will be as high as or higher than previous years for same grade groups.

Character Development

Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of community accepted intrapersonal, interpersonal and civic values consistent with the ICCSD Equity Statement. Students will demonstrate acceptance and internalization of those values through their behavior during the school day.

Approved: June 13, 2000

Revised: March 11, 2003

January 11, 2005

September 12, 2005

January 9, 2007

July 12, 2011