

Iowa Department of Education

Annual Report:
Student Curriculum Plan Process
(8th Grade Plan)

2011-2012 data report

Statewide Data by Grade

Data Totals:	Graduation Year 2013 (11 th Gr Guideways)	Graduation Year 2014 (10 th Gr Guideways)	Graduation Year 2015 (9 th Gr Guideways)	Graduation Year 2016 (8 th Gr Guideways)
STARTED Required State Components but did not finish	6610	4478	6820	14,275*
FINISHED portfolio with all Required State Components	15,869	21,022	21,554	19,086
Total students who ENGAGED in education and career planning	22,479	25,500	28,374	33,361

* The number of students who started but did not complete the 8th grade Guideways may be inaccurate as they may simply have missed clicking the final completed button after the parent signature was entered.

The Student Curriculum Plan Process

In 2006, legislation was passed mandating that all 8th graders create a career and education plan that included a career interest option, a course plan for high school and post-secondary institutions that correlated with that career option, and a parent signature. In 2007 legislation was passed for every Iowa student to complete the graduation requirements. In 2008, SF 2216 was passed to provide that each Iowa student have a career and education plan that included the local and state graduation requirements and a course plan based on their interests using the state-designated career information system. The career information system is I Have A Plan Iowa[®]. These requirements began with the students who will graduate in the school year 2012-2013.

To facilitate the transition for every Iowa student to use the I Have A Plan Iowa[®] (IHAPI) career information system, the 2008-2009 school year focused on the current 11th graders—then in 8th grade, and the 8th grade state components for career planning in Iowa Choices[®]. This year (2011-12), these students continued building their established career portfolios with other assessments and career research and revised or revamped their career and course plan using the 11th grade *Guideways* within IHAPI. Each year, students will add more state components to their student portfolios as well as information on the completion of the local courses that support the Iowa Core, and new 8th graders will begin the process.

In 8th grade the Required State Components are:

- Development of an electronic student portfolio (linked to the district and school building)
- A career interest assessment and saved careers of interest
- A Career Cluster inventory or assessment and saved cluster of interest
- A course plan built utilizing their saved career option(s) and their schools course handbook
- A parent approval/signature form (printed or electronic)

In 9th grade the Required State Components are:

- Complete the Interest Profiler Assessment.
- Complete a career assessment that links interests and school subjects.
- Complete a skills assessment that links their skills and careers.
- Revise and rebuild a course plan based on interests, courses and programs at their school.
- Complete a student reflection paragraph on the portfolio and career and educational plan.

In 10th grade the Required State Components are:

- Complete work values/beliefs survey
- Compare careers options side by side
- Research careers to programs
- Research College information and careers
- Compare colleges/programs side by side
- Revise and review course plan in portfolio
- Complete a student reflection paragraph

In 11th grade the Required State Components are:

- Complete a skills inventory, checklist or assessment
- Create a resume
- Create a cover letter
- Compare schools and programs side by side
- Note any postsecondary visits (virtual or physical)
- Complete a practice postsecondary application
- Research financial aid and financial aid information
- Research scholarships and scholarship information
- Review and revise course plan in portfolio
- Complete a student reflection paragraph

The components are self-directed, step-by-step processes within the ***Iowa Guideways*** of I Have A Plan Iowa[®], which enable each student to complete the required state components within an electronic portfolio. All *Guideways* through 12th grade are currently available; however, only 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students were required to complete the *Guideways* in 2011-12. (The 12th grade *Guideways* will be required in 2012-13.) Students who did not have the opportunity to start or finish their grade's *Guideways* will be able to work through them the following year so as to complete the requirements before graduation.

This tool was customized specifically for Iowa's needs by the vendor Xap Corporation and Iowa Student College Aid Commission.