



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JASON E. GLASS, DIRECTOR

DATE: November 6, 2012

TO: Public School District Superintendents
Area Education Agency Administrators

FROM: Jason E. Glass, Director

SUBJECT: Student Curriculum Plan (8th Grade Plan) and Iowa Code 279.61

In 2011-2012, there were 19,086 eighth graders, 21,554 ninth graders, 21,022 tenth graders, and 15,869 eleventh graders who completed all of the Required State Components of the Student Curriculum Plan process. The report is available on the Department of Education's website at <http://tiny.cc/deeqz>. Thank you for your work in helping Iowa's schools meet the intent of the law regarding this matter.

It is important to note, however, that there are schools or groups of students who did not begin or finish their student portfolio and that the overall number of students completing this year is down. We are relying on your help to meet our state law requirement of ALL students having a career and educational plan.

Iowa Code 279.61 requires Iowa schools to work with students beginning in 8th grade to create a plan which shall include career options and shall identify coursework needed in grades 9-12 to support the student's postsecondary education and career options. The state-designated system for career and educational information is I Have A Plan Iowa® (www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov).

Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, ALL Iowa students in 8th through 12th grade are expected to complete the grade level Guideways to provide the school data on the career planning process of the Student Curriculum Plan.

I Have A Plan Iowa® provides school and district student data to Iowa's partner agencies—the Department of Education and the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. However, spreadsheets to provide data for students who complete these requirements through alternate means as described in their Individual Education Plans are available on the Department of Education website at <http://tiny.cc/yvo2c>.

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www.iowa.gov/educate

Championing Excellence for all Iowa Students through Leadership and Service

District personnel working with students must be aware that **I Have A Plan Iowa®** only collects data on the components that are completed *within the Guideways*. Any school that does not have students go into the Guideways to complete the components or uses a system other than I Have A Plan Iowa® should file a report with the state. The Iowa Department of Education has prepared spreadsheets that districts can use to meet the state reporting requirements if they are using a system other than I Have A Plan Iowa®. The grade specific spreadsheets for this report can be found on the Iowa Department of Education website <http://tiny.cc/x7tph>.

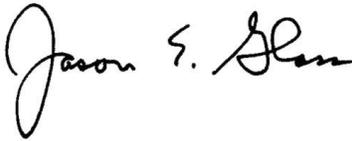
In addition, a list of Frequently Asked Questions, guidance and other resources to assist schools and their staffs have been created by a cross-divisional team of educational consultants at the Iowa Department of Education which can be accessed at <http://tiny.cc/ahtu77>.

If you need assistance or would like some individual help with reporting on the Student Curriculum Plan, please contact Sandra Dop at Sandra.Dop@iowa.gov or 515-281-0127.

For **technical assistance** with the **I Have A Plan Iowa®** website or for training, please contact the Iowa College Student Aid Commission at 877-272-4456 or info@iowacollegeaid.gov.

Thank you for your continued dedication to improving education in Iowa and ensuring that all students be college, career, and citizenry ready at graduation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason E. Glass". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

Jason E. Glass
Director of Education