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The Essential Elements **ARE** *specific statements* of knowledge and skills linked to grade-level Iowa Core ELA, Math and Science Standards. They are intended to describe challenging expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Like the Iowa Core Standards, the Iowa Core Essential Elements do not define how standards should be taught and are **NOT**:

- A redefinition of the Iowa Core Standards
 - Downward extensions
 - Statements of functional skills
- Curriculum or learning progressions
 - IEP goals or benchmarks

The Iowa Core is the mandated curriculum for **ALL** students in Iowa, including students with the most significant disabilities. The Iowa Core Essential Elements support educators, students, and their families in understanding how to provide individualized specially designed instruction of grade level Iowa Core Standards in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics and Science.

Through instruction of the Iowa Core Essential Elements and a personalized learning approach for adult life outcomes, students with significant disabilities will increase their development of academic skills and life goals to reach their maximum potential.



The Iowa Core Essential Elements are intended for only a very few students who cannot access the Iowa Core Standards even with accommodations and who participate in District and State AYP alternate assessments.

The Iowa Core Essential Elements satisfy the requirement of the U.S. Department of Education that Iowa have alternate achievement standards for its students with significant cognitive disabilities that reflect high expectations, are clearly linked to grade-level academic content standards that yield student achievement, and prepare our students with significant cognitive disabilities for college & career readiness.

For more information

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Essential Elements

For Students with Significant Disabilities



Guided by the core belief that all students should have access to challenging grade-level Iowa Core Standards