

To ensure the success of Iowa's own special education performance plan, please vote no on HF 2612.

Iowa's AEAs are essential to implement the state's special education performance plan focused on impacting early literacy and post-secondary success. Iowa validated the professional learning and supports needed to impact outcomes during a 5 year 5 million dollar special education personnel development grant (2015-2021) implemented across the state with more than 40 districts. The Department worked side-by-side AEAs to develop the professional learning and coaching supports necessary to impact early literacy outcomes. You can find the state's evaluation of this work at the following:

- [January 2019 teacher outcomes and coaching supports](#)
- [May 2019 student outcomes](#)
- [January 2020 longitudinal teacher outcomes](#)
- [September 2020 school supports](#)

AEA professional learning and content experts are essential in the implementation of the state's plan.

- The plan requires 8-10 days of professional learning across 2-3 years, coaching 1-2 times per month and a coordinated implementation effort. AEAs have the expertise and are already doing this work with districts who are counting on AEAs to support them in implementing their plans. Most AEA personnel providing training are funded through educational services resources and work with schools to implement improvement plans for both IDEA and ESSA.
- With nearly 100 districts required to implement this professional learning, the state needs AEAs to provide the training and coaching supports necessary to implement successfully. The Department does not have capacity as was found during the grant. The grant built a network of trained professionals within AEAs to assist in delivery.
- AEAs have been gearing up to implement this plan and have networks of trainers who started training and coaching districts last spring as part of Iowa's IDEA DA supports.
- Based on Iowa's own 2023 designation, and while there is plenty of room for improvement, we are already starting to see the results of improvement efforts. While Iowa is in the "Needs Assistance" designation (the 2nd of 4 levels of support), Iowa improved on 16 of 19 academic performance measures including (See [Iowa's 2023 SPP/SPR](#).)
  - Improving reading performance for 4, 8, HS
  - Decreasing the percentage of students at-risk for early literacy
  - Improving performance for students with significant cognitive disabilities
  - Decreasing the gap between students with and without IEPs for grades 8 and HS reading and math and grade 4 reading.

To quote the state's January 2020 evaluation of what's necessary to implement these changes:

*“Lastly, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the SDI work, Iowa will need to continue building an infrastructure of supports cascading from the Department to the AEA, district, and school levels. Good partnerships and strong coordination should continue beyond the grant funding period.” (Iowa’s State Personnel Development Grant Spotlight 2020)*

Please vote no on HF 2612 so Iowa can make their own special education performance plan a success.