

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Competency-Based Education

History

Competency-based education (CBE) permits a school district or accredited nonpublic school to award high school credit to an enrolled student upon the demonstration of required competencies for a course or content area, as approved by a teacher. The school district or accredited nonpublic schools are required to determine the assessment methods required for a student to demonstrate sufficient evidence of the required competencies. The CBE was added in 2012 Iowa Acts, [ch. 1119](#) (Senate File 2284 – Education Reform). Senate File 2284 also created a Competency-Based Instruction Task Force to conduct a study regarding competency-based instruction standards and options. The Task Force was established to do the following:

- Redefine the Carnegie unit into competencies.
- Construct personal learning plans and templates.
- Develop student-centered accountability and assessment models.
- Empower learning through technology.
- Develop supports and professional development for educators to transition to a competency-based system.
- Develop a draft strategic plan and proposed timeline for statewide implementation of competency-based learning for consideration by the General Assembly (amended in 2013 by [House File 215](#) – Education Reform Appropriations Act).

The Task Force submitted a [preliminary report](#) on January 15, 2013. The [final report](#) with final recommendations was submitted to the State Board of Education, the Governor, and the General Assembly on December 9, 2013.

Overview

The Competency-Based Education Grant Program was established in 2013 in [HF 215](#) – Education Reform Appropriations Act. The Department of Education is required to:

- Award grants to no more than 10 school districts annually for purposes of developing, implementing, and evaluating competency-based education pilot and demonstration projects.
- The Department is required to develop grant application, selection, and evaluation criteria.
- Each pilot or demonstration project is required to be conducted for a minimum of one year, but may be conducted for multiple school years as proposed by the applicant and approved by the Department.
- Grant money must have been distributed to selected school districts by the Department no later than December 1, 2013. Grant amounts were distributed as determined by the Department.
- The Department is required to submit progress reports analyzing the status and preliminary findings of the projects to the State Board of Education, Governor, and the General Assembly by January 15 annually. The Department is required to summarize the project findings, including student achievement results, and submit the summary and any recommendations in a final report to the State Board of Education, Governor, and the General Assembly by January 15, 2019.

Funding

Competency-based education receives a General Fund appropriation of \$425,000. The appropriation allocates \$100,000 for the Competency-Based Education Grant Program. The remaining \$325,000 allocates to the Department in 2013 Iowa Acts, [ch. 141](#) (FY 2014 Education Appropriations Act) according to the Competency-Based Instruction Task Force [preliminary report](#):

More Information

Iowa Department of Education: <http://educateiowa.gov/>

Competency-Based Education Task Force: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/competency-based-education-task-force>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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- \$100,000 to bring together in-state and out-of-state experts to write model competencies aligned to the Iowa Core and the universal constructs.
- \$25,000 to investigate and provide examples of templates that will effectively and efficiently record and report student achievement in a competency-based environment.
- \$100,000 to develop the Assessment Validation Rubric and model assessments aligned to the competencies.
- \$100,000 to design professional development for pre-service and in-service teachers, as well as in-service and aspiring administrators.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [256.7, subsection 26\(a\)\(2\)](#)

[281](#) Iowa Administrative Code

2012 Iowa Acts, [ch. 1119](#)

2013 Iowa Acts, [ch. 121](#)

2013 Iowa Acts, [ch. 141](#)

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