

Welcome TO THE IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2017-18
SNAPSHOT



Educational Services Center
1725 North Dodge Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52245
Phone: (319) 688-1000 | Fax: (319) 688-1009

Website: www.iowacityschools.org

Building Hours: 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Monday - Thursday)
7:30 am – 4:00 pm (Friday)



When people think about our schools, words like *traditional* and *established* come to mind, but also *responsive*, *innovative*, *creative*, and *progressive*. For more than one hundred years, the Iowa City Community School District has been an instructional leader in eastern Iowa, across the state, and throughout the nation.

What makes our district so special? A talented and dedicated staff is the foundation of our success. Walking through the halls of our schools, you will notice the pride our employees take in their work. Everything we do is focused on providing the finest educational opportunities for the children of our community. Expectations are high - for students and employees - and it shows time and time again in the recognition of our people and programs.

Our community sets a high priority on the education of its youth. Strong, open communication and efficient use of tax dollars are cornerstones of citizen support for the District's educational programs. Community partnership and input into our planning are key components of our schools' success.

There are many ways to measure the quality of education in a community. We feel confident that you will find that quality is the hallmark of each of our schools. When you visit our classrooms, you will see firsthand what educational excellence is all about in the Iowa City Community School District.

Stephen F. Murley
Superintendent of Schools

Known as a leader in educational excellence, the Iowa City Community School District works to meet the needs of all its families. Children receive a strong background in basic skills while working and playing in a safe and inviting learning environment.

- The District's 18 preschool sites, 20 elementary schools, 3 junior high schools, 1 alternative and 3 comprehensive high schools are recognized for developing innovative instructional programs.
- Our district is one of the fastest growing in the state. In 2013, District leaders, with the support of local voters embarked upon a plan to modernize current facilities and add capacity by building three new elementary schools and a new high school.
- The District was named the No. 5 best public school district in the nation by Expansion Management magazine.
- The District's comprehensive high schools recognize academic excellence. The District's high schools consistently rank at the top in Iowa for the number of National Merit Scholars. Our students' graduation rates and ACT and SAT scores are consistently higher than both state and national averages.



COMMUNITY

The fifth largest school system in the state, the Iowa City Community School District sits in the east central portion of the state. Encompassing 133 square miles, the District is located at the crossroads of Interstate 380 and Interstate 80. It includes the cities of Iowa City, Coralville, North Liberty, University Heights, Hills, and the surrounding rural areas. The diverse, spirited atmosphere of the area has something for everyone. Home of Iowa's first state capitol and the University of Iowa, the area is second to none with its rich cultural offerings, historic charm, and ideal central location.

Based on US Census data, Iowa City is the third most educated metropolitan community in the country. More than 48 percent of Iowa City residents age 25 years and older have completed four or more years of college education. Iowa's commitment to quality of life is best exemplified in our commitment to education. The University of Iowa is integral to our rich educational tradition. The area is the birthplace of the nationally recognized Iowa Test of Basic Skills and Iowa Test of Educational Development, two nationally-known achievement tests for K-12 students, and home of the ACT collegiate entrance exam, headquartered in Iowa City. Education in the Iowa City area is among the very best in the nation and the area offers many opportunities for lifelong learning. The state and our area represent a first-rate, skilled workforce, which also reflects the quality of our education.

OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The heart of education in the Iowa City Community School District is an educational program focused on the diverse needs of our students. Nearly 14,000 students attend our schools each day, but each one is much more than a number. Building upon a foundation of basic skills, our teaching staff offer opportunities that meet our students' diverse needs and interests - one child at a time.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

One of the greatest assets of the District's preschool programs is its strong, developmentally appropriate curriculum delivered by talented teachers who are specifically trained to teach young children. Students are able to participate in these programs at several District elementary schools, as well as in a variety of community partner preschool programs across the District. Programs provide opportunities for all preschool children and offer an inclusive settings, open to children of diverse backgrounds and needs.

All programs use the state and District approved, research-based curriculum and are accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children and/or the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards. This experiential instruction prepares children for the opportunities and challenges of kindergarten and beyond.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



Elementary schools in the District serve students in grades kindergarten through six. Instruction in all curricular areas is designed to encourage students to become responsible and independent learners. In language arts, teachers work with students in their use of language to communicate, to stimulate the imagination, and to construct meaning. In mathematics, students learn to apply mathematical principles as well as think critically and solve complex problems. In all curricular areas, students work toward

making informed decisions. All elementary schools serve students in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, art, general music, physical education, library/technology, and guidance education. Other special programs that serve students in all schools include, orchestra (grades 5-6), band (grades 5-6), gifted and talented (for qualifying students), special education (for qualifying students), reading support (for qualifying students), and hot lunch program. Most schools have an English Language Learner program and/or Family Resource Centers.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Our junior high school students in grades seven and eight find themselves in a time of personal and educational exploration. Students at South East, Northwest, and North Central junior high schools have the opportunity to sample a full range of academic and after-school experiences. Junior high students may study one of two world languages, participate in performing music (band, orchestra, and choir), and be challenged with a diverse curriculum. Our seventh graders enjoy exploratory classes that lead to elective opportunities as eighth graders. We also offer a variety of after-school activities in clubs and athletics.

HIGH SCHOOLS

The District's comprehensive high schools create numerous opportunities for our ninth through twelfth grade students to achieve success. City High, Liberty High and West High offer comprehensive instructional programs that meet the diverse educational needs of young adults.

Course offerings prepare students for the future, whether they pursue vocational training, attend a technical college or a university, join the military, or move into the world of work. Our students have the opportunity to build their own educational plans through the use of individual learning plans, which help our students and parents select appropriate courses to support the exploration of various career opportunities. Project Lead The Way and numerous Advanced Placement courses give students an advantage in pursuing their collegiate-level education and in-demand career fields. Career academies and concurrent college credit courses are offered through a strong partnership with Kirkwood Community College and the University of Iowa. In addition, students have the opportunity to enroll directly in college courses through the Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO).

Students at all high schools have access to comprehensive career centers that help them explore and determine their path to the future. Access to a full range of technologies, apprenticeships, and community business partnerships keeps our high school programs dynamic learning environments. A wide choice of championship and award-winning athletic and extracurricular offerings provides our students an arena in which they can build upon the values of teamwork, self-esteem, and perseverance.

Students desiring smaller teacher:student ratios, more individualized learning, and/or new or innovative approaches to high school have the opportunity to become part of Elizabeth Tate High School. This program offers a flexible learning environment and allows students the options they need to become successful graduates.



SPECIAL SERVICES

The Department of Special Services in the Iowa City Community School District offers a planned program of instructional, psychological, social, and related services to meet the unique needs of students and their families. A network of support, integral to success, is provided for staff, students, and families that eliminates obstacles, facilitates instruction, and enables students to succeed as individuals within the learning environment. Through instructional leadership, curriculum development, program evaluation, and staff development, the department ensures that all program areas in schools are fully supported and comply with fiscal, legal, and personnel requirements.

The department supports the School Board's student achievement goals by identifying research-based best practices and supplemental materials to support the achievement of students with disabilities and by providing programs and services that foster the academic, health, and social success of all students. The department's programs and services contribute to constructive school climates that actively teach and encourage all students to demonstrate the aptitude, attitude, and skills to lead responsible and fulfilling lives and to demonstrate respectful and responsible behaviors to become productive members of the community.

Beyond the core academic programming available to all students, a variety of services and programs are available to students based on their needs.

Academic Achievement

- Early childhood special education programs
- State funded and tuition based preschool programs
- Special Education programs
- Supplemental reading and mathematics programs
- One-on-one academic mentoring
- Summer learning programs
- Special Olympics
- Gifted and talented programs (Extended Learning Program)

Social Development

- Guidance counselors at all schools
- At-Risk youth programs
- Best Buddies program

Physical Health

- Health services and school nursing services
- Healthy Kids Community Care school-based health clinic

Mental Health

- Mental health case managers
- Substance abuse counseling programs

Language Barriers

- English Language Learner program
- Language interpreters

Student and Family Advocates

- Family Resource Centers
- Parents-as-Teachers training program



ENROLLMENT

You may register your child as a student at any time within the school year. Simply call the secretary at the elementary school in your attendance area or the guidance office at the junior high or high school to make an appointment. If you have relocated or are unsure of which school serves your residential area, click on the Attendance Area Look-Up link below. Parents of elementary students seeking to enroll students during July and early August should contact the Educational Services Center at (319) 688-1000 for information on summer registration dates and times.

Students seeking to enroll in the Iowa City Community School District must reside within our established District boundaries or be participants in Iowa's Open Enrollment program for inter-district enrollment. Open enrollment applications must be filed by March 1 for the following school year, as mandated by the state.

Students must be 5 years of age by September 15th in order to enroll in Kindergarten. The District must have immunization records as required by the state of Iowa on file for all students.

SCHOOL HOURS

Elementary Schools 7:55 AM - 2:55 PM

Junior High Schools 8:50 AM - 4:00 PM

High Schools 8:50 AM - 4:00 PM

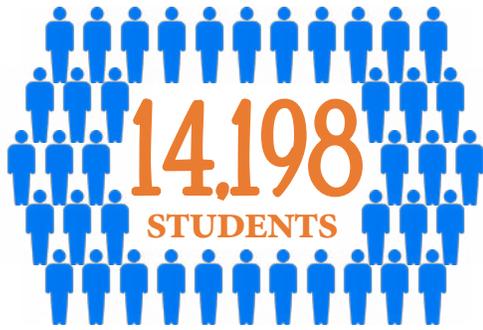
All students are released one hour early on Thursdays.



**ATTENDANCE AREA
LOOK-UP**

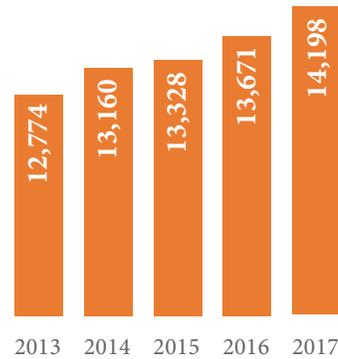
www.IowaCitySchools.org/HomeSchoolLookUp

OUR STUDENTS



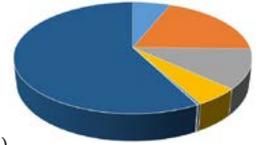
- 8.9% English Language Learners
- 10.4% Students receiving special education services
- 37.4% Low socioeconomic status students

CERTIFIED ENROLLMENT



STUDENT DIVERSITY

- Asian (6.1%)
- Black (19.2%)
- Hispanic (11.5%)
- Multi-racial (5.2%)
- Native American/Alaskan (<1%)
- Pacific Islander/Other (<1%)
- White (57.6%)



NEARLY 80
LANGUAGES
SPOKEN

OUR SCHOOLS & STAFF



- 17 PRESCHOOL SITES
- 20 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
- 3 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS
- 3 HIGH SCHOOLS
- 1 ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

- DES MOINES
- CEDAR RAPIDS
- DAVENPORT
- SIoux CITY
- IOWA CITY
- WATERLOO
- DUBUQUE
- ANKENY
- COUNCIL BLUFFS
- WEST DES MOINES

5th
LARGEST
SCHOOL
DISTRICT
IN IOWA

DISTRICT SIZE
133
SQ. MILES



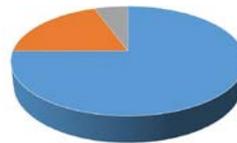
CLASSROOM-FOCUSED PRIORITIES

84%

OF ANNUAL DISTRICT BUDGET IS SPENT ON PERSONNEL COSTS.



SALARY/BENEFIT COSTS

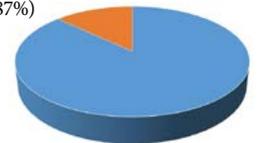


- Teachers (74.9%)
- Support Staff (19.5%)
- Administrators (5.6%)

STAFF DIVERSITY

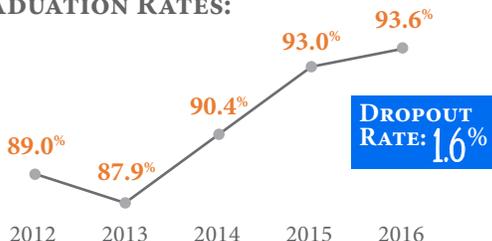
- Non-Minority (87%)
- Minority (13%)

Information based on voluntary data provided by employees.



RAISING THE BAR

GRADUATION RATES:



84% OF DISTRICT GRADUATES INTEND TO PURSUE POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

977
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AP COURSES

269
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN KIRKWOOD REGIONAL CENTER ACADEMIES

173
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PSEO AND ALTERNATIVE CONCURRENT COURSES

[2016-17 ACT AVG. COMPOSITE SCORES]

