

# 2017 Annual Report



**iowa**collaboration  
for**youth**development

**State of Iowa**  
February 1, 2017





Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds  
San Wong, Director

February 1, 2017

Dear Governor Terry Branstad and Members of the General Assembly:

The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) Council respectfully submits its Annual Report, as required by Iowa Code Section 216A.140.

The ICYD Council is committed to providing the Legislature and Governor with information, data, and recommendations to improve the lives and futures of Iowa's youth by continuing to:

- coordinate youth policy and programs across state agencies;
- increase the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of opportunities and services for youth;
- support, adopt, and apply positive youth development practices at the state and local level.

The 2017 Annual Report includes our primary issue and goal, data that demonstrate the state's current position, activities and accomplishments in the area of youth development completed by the ICYD Council in 2016; emerging activities being implemented in 2016; and recommended actions that will help Iowa achieve the ICYD goal – *Increasing Iowa's Graduation Rate to 95% by 2020*. With the understanding that several issues (e.g. substance abuse, family, employment, teen pregnancy, and mental health) prevent many youth from graduating from high school, the ICYD Council agencies address these issues as individual agencies and work together as a team by making the best use of existing resources to maximize efficiency in state government in order to create substantial and lasting positive changes for Iowa's youth. The State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC) is now an official member of the ICYD Council, raising membership to 12 entities.

The ICYD Council continues to leverage grant funding and in-kind staff support to implement many of the recommended actions without increased funding. However, as the state continues to invest in Iowa's youth, ICYD has identified prioritized actions where that investment may be directed to maximize positive outcomes. These include sustaining the use of the Iowa Youth Survey every two years, funding for youth to participate in state-level initiatives, eliminating the educational achievement gap for underrepresented students, and a shift in staff time to consolidate multiple advisory groups into the existing infrastructure of the ICYD Council. In addition, as pilot projects are completed (currently funded with grants), there will be a need to incorporate effective programs into current agency structures that facilitate expansion to other areas in the state.

We look forward to working with the Governor's Office and the Legislature to increase the graduation rate. The ICYD Council will continue to keep you informed of the progress made toward that goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "San Wong".

San Wong  
Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council



State of Iowa

**Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council**

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**Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council Members**

February 2017

San Wong, Director, Department of Human Rights  
Steve Michael, ICYD Chair, Administrator, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice  
Planning, Department of Human Rights  
John-Paul Chaisson-Cárdenas, State 4-H/K-12 Youth Development Program Leader  
Andrew Dunn, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC)  
Jim Hennessey, Administrator, Child Advocacy Board  
Adam Lounsbury, Executive Director, Commission on Volunteer Service  
Steven Lukan, Director, Office of Drug Control Policy  
Gary Niles, Chief Juvenile Court Officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District  
Chuck Palmer, Director, Department of Human Services  
Kathy Stone, Department of Public Health  
Beth Townsend, Director, Iowa Workforce Development  
Shanell Wagler, Facilitator, Early Childhood Iowa  
Ryan Wise, Director, Department of Education

***Acknowledgments***

The ICYD Council thanks all of the staff who contributed to producing this report. A special acknowledgment is extended to the newest member of the Council, the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC), who made important contributions in sharing their thoughts, ideas, expertise, and youth voice with us.





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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – ICYD COUNCIL 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) Council members are leaders of 12 state agencies with the vision that **“All Iowa youth will be safe, healthy, successful, and prepared for adulthood.”** The ICYD Council oversees the activities of the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC) and has sought input from these youth leaders in the development of more effective policies, practices, programs, and this Annual Report. SIYAC consists of youth between 14 to 21 years of age who reside in Iowa, with the purpose to foster communication with the governor, general assembly, and state and local policymakers regarding programs, policies, and practices affecting youth and families; and to advocate on important issues affecting youth. In 2009, legislation passed formalizing the ICYD Council and SIYAC in Iowa Code Section 216A.140.

The ICYD Council has prioritized the following youth issue: **By 2020, Iowa will increase the graduation rate from 89% to 95%.** According to the Iowa Department of Education’s 2012 Annual Condition of Education Report, the high school graduating class of 2010 four-year cohort graduation rate was 89%. Several issues (e.g. substance abuse, family, employment, teen pregnancy, and mental health) prevent youth from graduating from high school. ICYD Council agencies work to address these issues as individual agencies and together as a team to maximize efficiency in state government and make the best use of existing resources. According to the Department of Education’s *State Report Card 2016*, the 2014 four-year graduation rate for all students was 90.5%; in 2015 it increased to 90.8%. The five-year fixed cohort graduation rate in 2013 was 92.3%; in 2014 it increased to 93.1%.

The ICYD Council has several emerging activities in 2017:

- Statewide implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (JJRRI), which assesses the effectiveness of juvenile justice programs and determines whether the quality and dosage of programs are consistent with evidence-based practices. The overall goal of the project is to reduce recidivism of juvenile offenders by ensuring that the right services are provided to the right youth at the right time.
- Implementation of the Juvenile Reentry System (JReS). JReS will guide efforts to reduce the historical baseline recidivism rates for youth returning from placement in the Boys’ State Training School (STS) and other residential facilities.
- Develop strategies to eliminate the educational achievement gap for underrepresented students.
- Participate on the new SMART on Juvenile Justice Leadership Team, which will develop a comprehensive strategic plan to improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system and decrease racial and ethnic disparities.
- Utilize the strategies developed by the Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) proposal in existing efforts to improve outcomes for disconnected youth.

- Provide the core membership to new youth-serving advisory groups allowing state agencies to utilize the ICYD Council infrastructure as the coordinating body and consolidate multiple advisory groups into the existing ICYD Council.

### **Recommended Actions in 2017:**

The ICYD Council seeks support from the Iowa Legislature and Governor's Office to continue these activities by modifying laws and policies, as necessary, and providing resources needed to support the activities noted above in an effort to achieve this very ambitious goal. Specific recommendations to support the work of ICYD Council are to:

- Provide resources to continue and expand evidence-based practices and programs, as they are developed and identified, such as:
  - Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (JJRRI).
- Support the ICYD Council in identifying new and better ways to provide services and supports to Iowa's youth by encouraging the development of innovative strategies and initiatives:
  - SMART on Juvenile Justice;
  - Juvenile Reentry System Planning and Implementation;
  - Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) proposal.
- Support the ICYD Council's planning, research, and development of strategies to eliminate the educational achievement gap for underrepresented students.
- Support the ICYD Council's approach to consolidate multiple advisory groups into the existing infrastructure of the ICYD Council. The model will result in a reduction of duplication, enhanced coordination and collaboration between state agencies, and a reduction in costs.
- Support the Iowa Youth Survey. The survey is administered every two years to 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The results are valuable to state agencies and communities in assessing self-reported youth behaviors and perceptions.
- Provide resources to support state-level youth opportunities and youth-led initiatives (e.g. State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council, Iowa Youth Congress, Achieving Maximum Potential).
- Engage youth on state boards and commissions and provide the training and support necessary for youth members to be active participants. In addition, state agencies should seek new and creative ways to involve youth.
- Continue to develop ways to share information among agencies and coordinating bodies to address issues affecting youth who receive services and supports from multiple agencies.
- Support the continued use of state agency staff time to implement activities that meet the goals of the ICYD Council.
- Infuse positive youth development (PYD) principles in all youth programming, including PYD training for youth workers and policies that incorporate PYD principles in all state-funded youth initiatives.

## I. OVERVIEW OF THE ICYD COUNCIL AND THE STATE OF IOWA YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (SIYAC)

This is the annual report from the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) Council to the Governor and General Assembly. The report will provide information on the:

- Purpose, goals, 2016 accomplishments, and emerging activities for 2017,
- Membership of the ICYD Council and the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC);
- Progress on achieving the priority youth goal– ***Increasing Iowa’s graduation rate to 95% by 2020***, with data and information on the progress; and
- Recommendations for action in 2017 to the Governor and General Assembly.

In 2009, legislation passed placing the ICYD Council and SIYAC in Iowa Code Section 216A.140. Prior to becoming “codified councils”, both ICYD and SIYAC operated as non-statutory entities. The ICYD began in 1999 as an informal network of state agencies from 10 departments serving as a forum to foster improvement and coordination of state and local youth policy and programs.

The ICYD Council meets quarterly to receive reports from state agencies and SIYAC, review progress of current activities, review data, and establish priorities and recommended actions on many issues affecting youth. The prioritized goal – ***Increasing Iowa’s Graduation Rate to 95% by 2020*** – was selected due to its summative measure of youth development efforts, and the many cross-agency issues that contribute to youth graduating from high school. Each agency on the ICYD Council has a role in achieving this goal.

ICYD has historically participated in a variety of state and national youth initiatives and has been recognized nationally (e.g. National Conference of State Legislatures, National Governors Association, federal Interagency Working Group for Youth Programs, Forum for Youth Investment, and Children’s Cabinet Network) for its work in coordinating youth development efforts. The ICYD Council provides a venue to enhance information and data sharing, develop strategies across state agencies, and present prioritized recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly that will improve the lives and futures of Iowa youth.

The Department of Human Rights is the lead agency and oversees activities for the ICYD Council.

### **ICYD Council’s Purpose**

The ICYD Council’s vision statement, as stated in the Iowa Code is:

***“All Iowa youth will be safe, healthy, successful, and prepared for adulthood.”***

The purpose of the ICYD Council is to improve the lives and futures of Iowa’s youth by:

- Adopting and applying positive youth development principles and practices at the state and local levels;
- Increasing the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of opportunities and services and other supports for youth;
- Improving and coordinating state youth policy and programs across state agencies.

**ICYD Council’s Membership**

The ICYD Council’s membership includes the director or chief administrator (or their designee) of 11 state agencies and the SIYAC. The ICYD Council has the ability to expand membership to include others that will assist the Council in achieving its purpose. In addition to each agency’s director (or designee) serving on the ICYD Council, many of the agencies have additional staff that actively participate in meetings and complete tasks as directed by the ICYD Council on the ICYD Results Team. Below are the agencies and members of the ICYD Council:

**ICYD COUNCIL MEMBERS – February 2017**

<p><b>Department of Human Rights</b> San Wong, Director  Steve Michael, Division Administrator Chair of ICYD Council</p>	<p><b>Early Childhood Iowa</b> Shanell Wagler, Facilitator</p>
<p><b>Child Advocacy Board</b> Jim Hennessey, Administrator</p>	<p><b>Iowa Workforce Development</b> Beth Townsend, Director *Kristi Judkins, Rapid Response and WIOA Program Coordinator</p>
<p><b>Commission on Volunteer Service</b> Adam Lounsbury, Executive Director *Mary Sheka, Economic Development Specialist</p>	<p><b>ISU Extension and Outreach, 4-H Youth Development</b> John-Paul Chaisson-Cárdenas, State 4-H/K-12 Youth Development Program Leader</p>
<p><b>Department of Education</b> Ryan Wise, Director *Jay Pennington, Public Service Manager</p>	<p><b>Judicial Branch</b> Gary Niles, Chief Juvenile Court Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District</p>
<p><b>Department of Human Services</b> Chuck Palmer, Director *Wendy Rickman, Administrator - Division of Adult, Children, and Family Services</p>	<p><b>Office of Drug Control Policy</b> Steven Lukan, Director</p>
<p><b>Department of Public Health</b> Kathy Stone, Administrator, Division of Behavioral Health</p>	<p><b>State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC)</b> Andrew Dunn, Chair Lexi Konig, SIYAC Coordinator</p>

\*Agency Designee when member is unable to participate

## State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council's (SIYAC) Purpose and Priorities

The purpose of SIYAC, as stated in Iowa Code, Section 216A.140(8), is to “foster communication among a group of engaged youth and the governor, general assembly, and state and local policymakers regarding programs, policies, and practices affecting youth and families; and to advocate for youth on important issues affecting youth.”

The mission statement of SIYAC is: ***“To raise awareness of issues that affect young Iowans by providing civic opportunity and to inspire youth to create a better future for Iowa.”***

SIYAC was established in 2001, and formalized in 2009 in Iowa Code, as a vehicle for youth to inform state leaders and local communities on issues important to young people. SIYAC consists of 21 youth voting members aged 14 to 21 who reside in Iowa. The ICYD Council oversees the activities of SIYAC and seeks input from these youth leaders in the development of more effective policies, practices, and programs.

SIYAC meets at least quarterly to identify issues affecting youth, discuss community needs, form partnerships to meet those needs, draft positions on youth issues, communicate those positions with legislators, and plan and conduct service activities. In addition, SIYAC members participate in ICYD Council meetings.

Each year, SIYAC presents independent information and recommendations on youth issues, as well as other pertinent issues affecting the state’s young people, to the General Assembly and Governor’s Office during the legislative session. SIYAC members also carry out two service projects in their respective communities and statewide.

SIYAC members serve two-year terms that begin in July of each year. In 2015, SIYAC had three focus areas: Education, Health & Wellness, and Mental Health. In addition, as other youth issues arose during the legislative session, SIYAC researched the issues and chose to take positions on a number of them.

Notable SIYAC accomplishments during 2016:

- Partnered with Iowa Youth Congress (IYC) and Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP) to support IYC’s anti-bullying bill and AMP’s legislative agenda.
- Collaborated with One Iowa to petition the Iowa Board of Medicine and Iowa Board of Psychology to ban the practice of gay conversion therapy in Iowa.
- Conducted a group service project in conjunction with the Colfax Parks and Recreation Auxiliary Board to clean up litter along the shoreline of Quarry Springs Park in Jasper County.
- Initiated a woman’s business suit drive in Council Bluffs and Omaha with the goal of addressing the lack of access to professional business attire for homeless, at risk, and impoverished women.
- Conducted youth outreach in communities, facilitated statewide service projects, and completed presentations in schools.

In addition, the following members accomplished individual achievements and received notable recognition:

- Aastha Chandra was selected as one of two 'Nation Senators' from Iowa to attend the annual American Legion Auxiliary's Girls' Nation in Washington, DC.
- Katarina Walther is attending American University and is a recipient of the Hamlin University Presidential Scholarship.
- T.J. Foley, SIYAC Chair (2015-16), is a recipient of the Bryan Cameron Education Foundation Scholarship.
- Ethan Lowder was selected by the Downtown Rotary of Cedar Rapids to be a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards representative at a weeklong leadership conference and was selected as a Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership recipient.
- Mickey Sloat was selected as a Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student, Commended National Merit Scholar, and currently serves as Captain of Davenport Central High School's Mock Trial Team.
- Tara Djukanovic placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at State Speech in Dramatic Interpretation, was selected to participate in the World Food Prize Youth Institute, and is currently in the top 3% of her graduating class at Johnston High School.
- Payton Beaumier was selected to participate in the Youth Volunteer Corps International Youth Advisory Board.
- Aditi Rao received a fellowship to serve as an organizer for the Hillary Clinton campaign in Iowa.
- David Ehmcke serves as an Undergraduate Assistant for the Belin-Blank Center at the University of Iowa.

During 2016-2017, SIYAC is working to strengthen partnerships with other youth-led councils, including IYC and AMP. By involving more youth in discussions of youth issues, SIYAC will be able to more fully represent Iowa's youth. SIYAC has also spread its message beyond Iowa when members spoke with a group of nine Latin American representatives traveling with the Iowa International Center to learn more about youth involvement in the political process and how to implement similar programs at home.

The 2016-2017 SIYAC committees and planned activities are:

- Appropriations Committee:
  - Developing strategies to gain support for the following issues:
    - Expanding voting rights for youth in primaries
    - Increasing recreational land
  - Finding support for increasing recreational land from outside agencies, which currently include Pheasants Forever.
  - Developing statewide awareness on youth voting rights through youth advocacy databases.
- Education Committee:
  - Developing a strategy to gain support for the
    - Online Driver's Education Program.
  - Pairing with AMP in their efforts with Erin's Law.
  - Developing a strong partnership with the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Reading Research Center.

- Identifying key stakeholders in working to increase funding for Iowa schools.
- Health Committee:
  - Developing strategies to gain support for the following issues:
    - Mandatory radon testing in Iowa schools
    - Banning the use of tanning beds for youth under the age of 18
    - Amending the legal tobacco purchasing age to 21 years of age
    - Restricting the sale of energy drinks to minors
    - Increasing laws on synthetic drugs
  - Promoting healthy lifestyle choices among Iowa's young people.
  - Advocating for healthier living choices by providing information on the dangers of the use of tobacco and the excessive use of caffeine.
  - Conducting a service project to aid a women and children's shelter in Sioux City.
- Human Rights Committee:
  - Developing strategies to gain support for the following issues:
    - Amending current Iowa Hate Crime Code to include gender identity
    - Implementing sexual violence education
    - Extending or eliminating the statute of limitations for sexual assault
    - Suicide prevention training for public school faculty for license renewal
  - Partnering with IYC to support mental health professional development for school teachers and faculty.
  - Participating in suicide prevention awareness training and summits.
  - Conducting community service projects concerning mental health initiatives.
  - Assisting in Iowa Safe Schools' Spirit Awards which provided information on LGBTQ youth issues to a diverse audience of community leaders, students, and legislators.
  - Advocating for the inclusion of sexual assault and consent education in Iowa high school health class curriculums.

**2016-2017 SIYAC Members:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Office Held</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>County</b>
Alex Bare		Walcott	Muscatine
Payton Beaumier	<i>Service Chair</i>	Sioux City	Woodbury
Arianna Boyce		Davenport	Scott
Aastha Chandra		Cedar Falls	Blackhawk
Tara Djukanovic	<i>Human Rights Committee Chair</i>	Johnston	Polk
Andrew Dunn	<i>Executive Chair</i>	Milford	Dickinson
David Ehmcke	<i>Secretary</i>	Sioux City	Woodbury
T.J. Foley	<i>Chairperson Emeritus</i>	Clive	Polk
Morgan Fritz		Lake Mills	Winnebago
David Graham		Sioux City	Woodbury
Justin Hu	<i>Legislative Affairs Chair</i>	Johnston	Polk
Nandini Jayaram	<i>Public Relations Chair</i>	Bettendorf	Scott
Bibaswan Khadka		Davenport	Scott
Ethan Lowder	<i>Vice Chair</i>	Cedar Rapids	Linn
Ryan McDaniel		Marshalltown	Marshall
Matt Messer		Burlington	Des Moines
Jade Miller	<i>Health Committee Chair</i>	Des Moines	Polk
Maya Miller		Des Moines	Polk
Emily Miranda		Sioux City	Woodbury
Sibani Ram		Dubuque	Dubuque
Alexis Rivett	<i>Appropriations Committee Chair</i>	Johnston	Polk
Mickey Sloat	<i>Education Committee Chair</i>	Davenport	Scott
Collin Smith		Le Claire	Scott
Olivia Tidwell		Sioux City	Woodbury

## PRIORITIZED ISSUE: INCREASING IOWA'S GRADUATION RATE

**Good is the enemy of great.** And that is one of the reasons that we have so little that becomes great. We don't have great schools, principally because we have good schools.

-Jim Collins in *Good to Great* (2001)

The ICYD Council has prioritized two of the Youth Development Result Areas:

- All Iowa youth are successful in school.
- All youth are prepared for a productive adulthood.

Graduation and dropout rates are included as performance measures for both of these result areas in the first annual report dated February 1, 2010. At that time the ICYD Council agreed that the focal point for collaborative youth development efforts should address a specific and aggressive goal for the state, which is:

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By 2020 Iowa will increase the graduation rate from 89% to 95%. If the cohort enrollment remains approximately 39,000 students, about 2,000 additional youth will graduate each year.

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It is with the understanding that several issues (e.g. substance abuse, family, employment, teen pregnancy, and mental health) prevent many youth from graduating from high school, that the ICYD Council agencies work to address these issues as individual agencies and together as a team to maximize efficiency in state government, make the best use of existing resources, and create substantial and lasting positive changes for Iowa's youth.

The critical performance measures to assist in showing all Iowa youth are on the path to graduate are:

1. The number of students at each high school grade level who are on the trajectory to graduate on time.
2. The gaps for graduation and dropout rates for subpopulations (i.e. race, ethnicity, second language learners, low socioeconomic, and students with disabilities).

Iowa continues to lead the nation in high school graduation rates. Data show that 90.8 percent of Iowa's seniors graduated from high school in the 2014-15 school year, up from 90.5 percent the prior year. That compares to an 82.3 percent national average for the 2013-14 school year.<sup>1</sup>

Data also show that Iowa's education system is making progress in increasing graduation rates among traditionally underserved students, including low-income students, minority students, students with disabilities and English Language Learners.

"Iowa again led the country in high school graduation rates and remained the only state with a four-year graduation rate above 90 percent. All Iowans, and educators in

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<sup>1</sup> Building a Grad Nation Data Brief: Overview of 2013-14 High School Graduation Rates. Everyone Graduates Center, John Hopkins University, Washington, DC. 2016.

particular, should be proud of this achievement”, said Ryan Wise, director of the Iowa Department of Education.<sup>2</sup>

## Graduation and Dropout Data

The information and data on the graduation and dropout rates are from the Department of Education’s Annual *Condition of Education Report 2016*.<sup>3</sup>

Table 1

<b>Iowa Public High School Four-Year Fixed Cohort Graduation Rate by Subgroup</b>						
	<b>Class of 2014</b>			<b>Class of 2015</b>		
	Numerator	Denominator	Graduation Rate	Numerator	Denominator	Graduation Rate
<b>All Students</b>	30,757	33,969	90.5%	30,802	33,932	90.8%
<b>African American</b>	1,190	1,514	78.6%	1,251	1,579	79.2%
<b>American Indian</b>	119	152	78.3%	131	153	85.6%
<b>Asian</b>	670	738	90.8%	727	784	92.7%
<b>Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</b>	28	35	80.0%	38	44	86.4%
<b>Hispanic</b>	2,123	2,599	81.7%	2,250	2,719	82.8%
<b>Two or More</b>	677	789	85.8%	668	796	83.9%
<b>White</b>	25,950	28,142	92.2%	25,737	27,857	92.4%
<b>Disability*</b>	3,416	4,474	76.4%	3,377	4,384	77.0%
<b>ELL**</b>	936	1,126	83.1%	961	1,159	82.9%
<b>Low SES***</b>	11,020	13,110	84.1%	11,098	13,084	84.8%
<b>Migrant+</b>	78	95	82.1%	79	95	83.2%
<b>Female+</b>	15,333	16,605	92.3%	15,399	16,596	92.8%
<b>Male+</b>	15,424	17,364	88.8%	15,403	17,336	88.8%

Source: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis, SRI files.

Notes: \*Disability status is determined by the presence of an individualized education program (IEP).

\*\*ELL indicates English Language learner.

\*\*\*Low SES is determined by the eligibility for free or reduced prices meals.

+ Not required for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report.

- Data are not available.

Table 1 shows the four-year fixed graduation rates for the 2014 and 2015 graduating classes. Iowa’s 2014 and 2015 graduating classes had statewide identification numbers for six years or longer. With this identification system and SRI data, Iowa

<sup>2</sup> Director Wise: Proud of 2016, Psyched for 2017, January 3, 2017.

<https://www.educateiowa.gov/article/2017/01/03/director-wise-proud-2016-psyched-2017>

<sup>3</sup> The Annual Condition of Education Report 2016. Iowa Department of Education, Des Moines, Iowa.

[https://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2016ConditionOfEducation\\_1.pdf](https://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2016ConditionOfEducation_1.pdf)

can follow the same group of students over several years and implement the first-time freshman cohort rates (students who repeated their freshmen year were not included in the cohort). The four-year fixed cohort graduation rate is calculated for the class of 2015 (or class of 2014) by dividing the number of students in the cohort (denominator) who graduate with a regular high school diploma in four years or less by the number of first-time 9th graders enrolled in the fall of 2011 (or first-time 9th graders enrolled in the fall of 2010 for class of 2014) minus the number of students who transferred out plus the total number of students who transferred in.

Iowa Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate =  $(FG + TIG) / (F + TI - TO)$   
for the graduating class of 2015:

- FG = First-time 9th grade students in fall of 2011 and graduated in 2015 or earlier
- TIG = Students who transferred in grades 9 to 12 and graduated in 2015 or sooner
- F = First-time 9th grade student in fall of 2011
- TI = Transferred into the first-time 9th graders' cohort in grades 9 to 12
- TO = Transfer out (including emigrates and deceased)

First-time freshmen and transferred-in students include: resident students attending a public school in the district; non-resident students open-enrolled in, whole-grade sharing in, or tuition in; and foreign students on Visa. Those excluded are: home-schooled and nonpublic schooled students; public school students enrolled in another district but taking courses part time; and foreign exchange students. Students receiving regular diplomas are included as graduates in the numerator. Early graduates are included in the original cohort. All students who take longer to graduate (including students with IEPs) are included in the denominator but not in the numerator for the four-year rate.

The five-year cohort graduation rate is calculated using a similar methodology as the four-year cohort rate. This rate is calculated by dividing the number of students in the cohort (denominator) who graduate with a regular high school diploma in five years or less (by the 2014-2015 school year) by the number of first-time 9th graders enrolled in the fall of 2010 minus the number of students who transferred out plus the total number of students who transferred in. The five-year cohort rate will maintain the same denominator as the previous year's four-year cohort rate, simply adding students who graduate in the fifth year to the numerator.

Table 1 displays the four-year fixed cohort graduation rates for graduating classes of 2014 and 2015. The rates listed are for all students and 13 subgroups. In gender comparison, females had higher graduation rates than males on average. Among the ethnic/race subgroups, White and Asian students had higher graduation rates than other race groups; the students who were eligible for free or reduced price lunch, IEP, and English Language Learners (ELL) had graduation rates lower than the "all students" group on average.

The five-year fixed cohort graduation rates for the graduating class of 2013 and 2014 are displayed in Table 2. The graduation rates are higher than the four-year fixed cohort for all students and for all reported subgroups, with the exception of American Indian, which fell to 82.9% in the 2014 cohort. The overall graduation rate in 2014 is 93.1%. Five of the subgroups exceeded 90% - Asian, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White, Female, and Male. None of the subgroups had graduation rates below 80%.

**Table 2**

**Iowa Public High School Five-Year Fixed Cohort Graduation Rate  
by Subgroup for the Graduation Classes of 2013 and 2014**

	Class of 2013			Class of 2014		
	Numerat or	Denominat or	Graduati on Rate	Numerat or	Denominat or	Graduation Rate
<b>All Students</b>	30,844	33,426	92.3%	31,631	33,969	93.1%
<b>African American</b>	1,133	1,436	78.9%	1,266	1,514	83.6%
<b>American Indian</b>	139	161	86.3%	126	152	82.9%
<b>Asian</b>	644	676	95.3%	699	738	94.7%
<b>Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	32	40	80.0%	32	35	91.4%
<b>Hispanic</b>	1,985	2,371	83.7%	2,250	2,599	86.6%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	594	675	88.0%	703	789	89.1%
<b>White</b>	26,317	28,067	93.8%	26,555	28,142	94.4%
<b>Disability*</b>	3,698	4,515	81.9%	3,800	4,474	84.9%
<b>ELL**</b>	897	1,088	82.4%	992	1,126	88.1%
<b>Low SES***</b>	10,814	12,721	85.0%	11,524	13,110	87.9%
<b>Migrant+</b>	53	63	84.1%	79	95	83.2%
<b>Female+</b>	15,410	16,398	94.0%	15,698	16,605	94.5%
<b>Male+</b>	15,434	17,028	90.6%	15,933	17,364	91.8%

Source: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis, SRI files.

Notes: \*Disability status is determined by the presence of an individualized education program (IEP).

\*\*ELL indicates English Language learner.

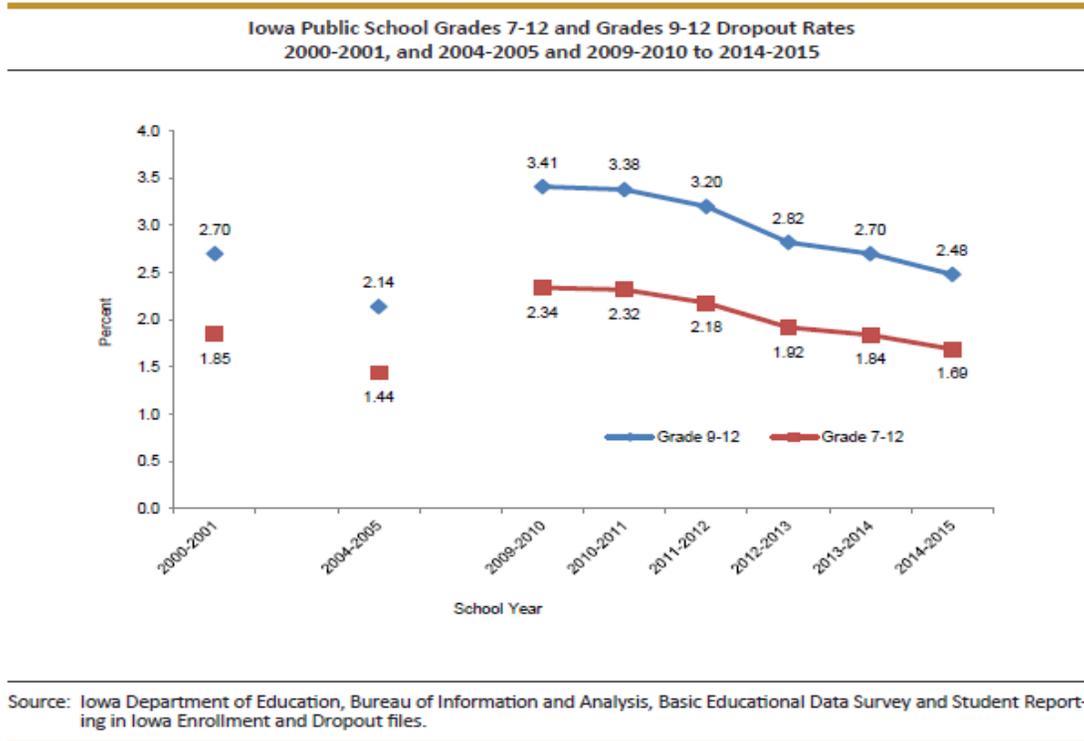
\*\*\*Low SES is determined by the eligibility for free or reduced prices meals.

+ Not required for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report.

- Data are not available.

Figure 1 (below) shows the two statewide public school trends, the lower line is for grades 7-12 and the upper line is for grades 9-12 dropout rates. There are upward dropout trends for both grades 7-12 and grades 9-12 since 2006-2007, but rates have decreased steadily since then.

Figure 1



**Table 3** (below) shows the public school grade 7-12 dropout and enrollment data by race/ethnicity for 2014-2015. With the exception of the Asian group, the dropout rates were higher for minority groups than for the non-minority.

**Table 3**

**2014-15 Iowa Public School Grades 7-12 Dropout and Enrollments by Race / Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnic Group	Dropout Rate	Total Dropouts	% of Total Dropouts	Total Enrollment	% of Total Enrollment
All Minority	3.0	1,3	36.0%	43,943	20.1%
African American	3.8	442	12.0%	11,651	5.3%
American Indian	4.3	40	1.1%	938	.4%
Asian	0.9	44	1.2%	5,062	2.3%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2.3	***	0.2%	393	0.2%
Hispanic	3.1	621	16.8%	19,855	9.1%
Two or More	2.8	170	4.6%	6,044	2.8%
White	1.4	2362	64.1%	174,270	80.0%
State	1.7	3,688	100%	218,192	100%

Source: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis, SRI files. (Not all numbers may add up, due to rounding)

## II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016 AND EMERGING ACTIVITIES IN 2017

The ICYD Council's have listed recommendations in the following categories:

- Assess current state initiatives and maximize existing resources.
- Investigate research-based approaches and effective strategies.
- Coordinate across systems to identify and support vulnerable students.
- Engage additional stakeholders.

Based on the graduation and dropout data, the ICYD Council recognizes that minority youth, migrant youth, youth in poverty, and youth with disabilities are in need of additional and specific supports and services. Engaging these youth and removing barriers so these students are able to stay in school and graduate from high school will be required to reach the goal of a 95% graduation rate. Below are ICYD Council accomplishments and emerging ongoing activities that address the broad recommended actions.

### Assess Current State Initiatives and Maximize Existing Resources

#### SMART ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Youth in the juvenile justice system are in need of services and supports from multiple systems, family, and community. SMART on Juvenile Justice is a new demonstration project awarded to the Department of Human Rights from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to assess the current juvenile justice system and develop a comprehensive strategic plan to improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system, increase public safety, and decrease racial and ethnic disparity.

Several ICYD Council members will participate in this two-year planning initiative that will involve representatives from all three branches of government.

#### JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM AND REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE (JJRRI)

The overall goals of the JJRRI have been to reduce recidivism of juvenile offenders, increase public safety, and lower costs. Additional long term positive effects anticipated were improved family and peer relations, alleviated mental health symptoms, and consistent school attendance by ensuring that ***the right youth receive the right service at the right time.***

The ICYD Council has overseen the implementation of the JJRRI which began as a three-year demonstration award from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) in the Department of Human Rights has coordinated the activities. The federal award ended in September 2016, but the project continues.

First, the JJRRI facilitated Iowa's use of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) to assess the likely effectiveness of services in terms of recidivism reduction. The SPEP diagnostic tool assesses this by examining four domains:

- Classification/Service Type
- Amount of Service
- Quality of Service
- Risk Level of Youth

Each service receives a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) at initial and subsequent scorings with recommendations related to recidivism reduction. Services are intended to be rescored to assess progress at 18-month intervals. However, limited resources may lengthen the time between scorings.

The SPEP was initially completed on a total of 71 services involving 912 youth in three pilot judicial districts (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> – see map below), in the following service-type classifications:

- Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
- Family Counseling
- Job-related Training
- Restitution – Community Service
- Individual Counseling
- Mentoring
- Remedial Academic
- Group Counseling
- Social Skills Training

During the initial demonstration project phase, Iowa was one of three locations participating nationally. Services scored in Iowa far exceeded the number of programs scored by the other two locations which were 13 services involving 338 youth and 11 services involving 196 youth, respectfully.

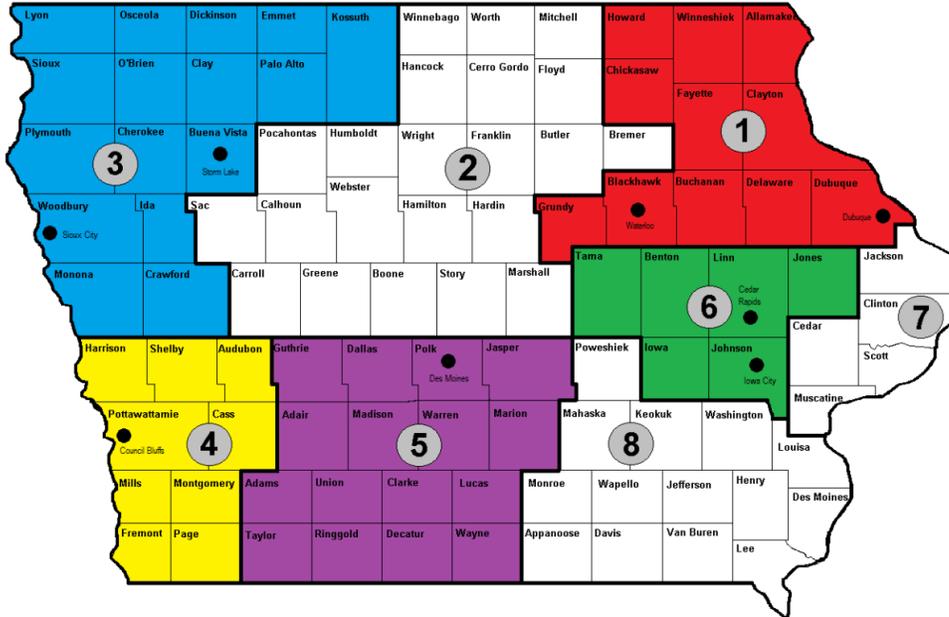
The services in the initial pilot phase of the project have been re-evaluated with the following results:

Twenty-six (26) services were originally evaluated in the pilot (2014), but seven were unable to be re-evaluated. Those not re-evaluated had too few youth in the service to yield valid results. There were 366 youth represented within the services re-evaluated.

- 14 services showed improvement. Average improvement was 9% with a range of 1-22% improvement.
- Two services showed neither improvement nor a decline.
- Three services showed a decline. Average decline was 4% with a range of 2-7% decline.

The remaining 45 services from phase one are in various stages of re-evaluation. Results will be aggregated when completed.

## Map of JJRRI Pilot and Expansion Judicial Districts



Currently, the SPEG tool has expanded into the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts (see map) with the ultimate goal of statewide implementation. At present, it appears that there will be an additional 21 services from these two expansion districts:

- Six services in one residential setting
- Fifteen (15) services in community-based settings

Ultimately, system officials will be able to utilize aggregate and individual results to make more informed decisions about resources and services for justice-involved youth. They will also be better equipped to formalize statewide evidence-based practices and improve the overall functioning of the juvenile justice system.

Additionally, the JJRRI has initiated the construction of a decision matrix. The purpose of this instrument is to act as a structure for juvenile court decision making, weighing youth risk to reoffend (including offense severity) as well as other relevant variables in order to assist system officials with determining the most appropriate level of supervision and type of services for youth, thereby reducing recidivism and improving outcomes (e.g. high school graduation, employment, and safe housing). This instrument is still in development.

## **Investigate Research-Based Approaches and Effective Strategies**

### ADOLESCENT BRAIN RESEARCH and ITS IMPLICATIONS for YOUNG PEOPLE TRANSITIONING from FOSTER CARE

Research by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative<sup>4</sup> found that youth gradually transition to adulthood between 18 and 25 years of age. It was also found that adolescence is a time of “use it or lose it” in brain development: When young people are actively engaged in positive relationships and opportunities to contribute, create, and lead, they develop skills to become successful adults.

There are five recommendations that come from the research:

- Take a positive youth development approach to all opportunities for young people in foster care.
- Engage young people in their own planning and decision-making.
- Provide “interdependent” living services that connect young people with family and caring adults.
- Be trauma-informed to promote healing and emotional security.
- Extend developmentally appropriate foster care to 21.

The ICYD Council continues to apply these recommendations in policy and practice when making decisions affecting youth in foster care and for all youth.

## **Coordinate Across Systems to Identify and Support Vulnerable Students**

### JUVENILE REENTRY SYSTEM (JReS) INITIATIVE

The ICYD Council has been the oversight body for the Juvenile Reentry System Planning initiative to develop a comprehensive statewide juvenile reentry system strategic plan. A sub-committee of the ICYD Council, the Juvenile Reentry Task Force (JRTF), is implementing JReS. JRTF membership includes: the Iowa Aftercare Services Network and other private provider representatives; State Training School (STS); local school district administration; Juvenile Court Services; youth representatives; Departments of Human Services, Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Development, Child Advocacy Board, and Corrections.

In October 2015, Iowa was awarded funds to implement JReS. Once fully implemented, JReS will guide efforts to reduce the historical baseline recidivism rates for youth returning from placement in STS, group care, and Psychiatric Medical Institutes for Children (PMIC’s).

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<sup>4</sup> The Adolescent Brain – New research and its implications for young people transitioning from foster care, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, St. Louis, MO, 2011.

JReS implementation and system reform activities include:

- Improved assessment, case planning, policies, and practices connected to prioritized areas of risk as captured in the Iowa Court Information System (ICIS), the courts' case management system;
- Increased engagement and structured planning of youth with families and local officials related to services and supports (e.g. workforce development, vocational rehabilitation, schools, private provider entities, leisure activities, etc.);
- Expanded implementation of evidence-based practices connected to a youth's case plan risk areas including: youth transition decision making teams (YTDM's), multi-dimensional family therapy (MDFT), functional family therapy (FFY), etc.;
- Enhanced program/policy monitoring, quality assessments, implementation supports, accountability practices, and youth outcome data collection, analysis, reporting, and decision making.

JReS has received a second year of implementation funding.

### ELIMINATE EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Iowa has a 90.8% graduation rate for all students, but many subpopulations (e.g. minority students, students with disabilities, and students living in poverty) are not currently achieving at that level (see Table 1 – page 11). Each of the subpopulations under 90% has specific needs, cultural elements, and demographic considerations. In addition, many students are represented in multiple subgroups and research suggests that the intersectionality of poverty, crime and minority status are at higher risk and these factors substantially impact school performance for youth.

The state and communities need to establish methods to identify students with these multiple risk factors and provide high-quality and effective supports and services to the respective students and their families.

The ICYD Council, led by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, will plan, research, and develop strategies and opportunities for communities to address the needs of these youth that will lead to the elimination of the educational achievement gap for underrepresented students.

A data sharing agreement between the Department of Education and ISU Extension and Outreach, 4-H Youth Development incorporates approximately 23,000 4-H youth who have more than 6 hours in the 4-H program. The purpose is to determine how 4-H youth align with the Department of Education's college/career readiness indicators and use this information to raise graduation rates and reduce the achievement gap. In year two, it is hoped to involve approximately 100,000 youth in the 4-H program. Through the provision of its research-based programming, 4-H can help drive some of the state's success indicators.

## INTERAGENCY DATA SHARING AGREEMENT

The Education Collaborative orchestrated a data sharing agreement between the Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Human Rights – Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, and the Judicial Branch – State Court Administration – Juvenile Court Services.

The purpose of the agreement is to share relevant information on children who are subject to court jurisdiction under Iowa Code chapter 232. The purpose is to improve their outcomes regarding safety, education, family stability, and to reduce the likelihood of further abuse, neglect, delinquency, and criminal conduct.

The Education Collaborative is one method the Department of Education, Juvenile Courts, and the Department of Human Services utilizes to facilitate ongoing conversations about the educational needs of children involved with the Child Welfare System. Children in out-of-home care are particularly vulnerable to school change, gaps in learning, and loss of credits. The Education Collaborative provides an opportunity for students, foster parents, educators, state policy professionals and others to work together to help children in out-of-home care succeed in school.

## COORDINATE, CONSOLIDATE, and CONVENE REQUIRED ADVISORY GROUPS

There is a growing trend of funders (e.g. federal agencies, private foundations) that require advisory groups as part of funded initiatives. Many state agency staff are asked to participate on several multi-agency advisory groups created to address specific youth-related issues. Advisory groups may have similar representation, yet have a different youth focus. In addition, some of the advisory groups may replicate activities, creating additional silos within state agencies.

The ICYD Council is now offering to act as the core membership to new youth-serving advisory groups to allow state agencies to meet advisory group requirements and consolidate multiple advisory groups into the existing infrastructure of the ICYD Council.

The alignment of youth advisory groups will create more effective and efficient services and supports for youth and families. Strategies to reduce the inefficiency and burden of having disconnected youth councils/commissions/coalitions are to:

- Use existing councils.
- Identify and publicize existing councils.
- Compare councils side-by-side.
- Connect related efforts.
- Develop common language and complementary goals.
- Look to broad councils to oversee the coordinating bodies.
- Consolidate existing councils.<sup>5</sup>

The coordination of advisory groups will:

<sup>5</sup> Evennou, Danielle, (January 2011). Don't Stop Collaborating – Just Stop Creating New Collaboratives. Washington, DC: The Forum for Youth Investment.

- Reduce duplication of planning and services.
- Result in cost avoidance with a more efficient use of staff time and agency resources (time, state staff and travel costs).
- Enhance collaborative opportunities, combined trainings, common use of data and information.
- Generate new funding opportunities.<sup>6</sup>

The ICYD Council approach will be a model for cross-agency collaboration and government efficiency.

### IOWA YOUTH SURVEY

The Iowa Youth Survey (IYS) is a collaborative effort led by the Department of Public Health's Division of Behavioral Health with assistance by the following agencies:

- Department of Education,
- Office of Drug Control Policy,
- Department of Human Rights' Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning and Statistical Analysis Center, and
- Department of Human Services.

In the fall of 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016 students in 6th, 8th, and 11th grades across the state of Iowa answered questions about their attitudes and experiences regarding alcohol and other drug use and violence, and their perceptions of their peer, family, school, and neighborhood/community environments. In 2008, the survey was administered online for the first time.

IYS reports list responses to every survey question and provide total percentages and breakdowns by grade and gender. Thirty-four constructs within nine framework domains are included.

Reports are available in the following categories:

- State of Iowa,
- Counties,
- Judicial Districts
- Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Planning Regions,
- Decategorization areas,
- Department of Human Services Regions,
- School Districts\*.

With the exception of School Districts, IYS reports are available online at <http://www.iowayouthsurvey.iowa.gov>. Individual school district reports can be accessed by contacting the district.

Also available is the Iowa Youth Survey Trend Report which contains comparisons across all surveys using the ICYD Council's Youth Development Results Framework.

### **Engage Additional Stakeholders**

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

COORDINATE and ALIGN “YOUTH-FUELED”<sup>7</sup> COUNCILS and INITIATIVES and EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES for YOUTH to PARTICIPATE

Several state agencies have state-level youth initiatives providing leadership opportunities for youth. The multiple initiatives need to be better aligned and coordinated to attract more youth to participate and to specifically seek more diverse youth. The state-level youth-fueled councils and initiatives include:

- Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP),
- Capitol Girls,
- Iowa Youth Congress (IYC),
- ISU Extension and Outreach, 4-H Youth Development,
- State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC),
- Youth Leadership Forum (YLF),
- Youth Empowerment Project (YEP)
- Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention (I-STEP).

Many of these initiatives target underrepresented youth. All of them promote opportunities for youth to engage state leaders, discuss issues affecting youth, and develop leadership skills.

The Department of Human Rights (DHR) is leading the coordination effort of the multiple agencies and organizations that support state-level youth-fueled councils and initiatives. The goal is to effectively remove barriers for historically underrepresented youth by empowering them to realize their leadership capabilities and by challenging adults to recognize and engage youth. The effort will equip youth with the tools to communicate their vision, inspire collaboration, and make significant contributions that result in positive change.

The following strategies are being implemented to create pathways to engage youth:

- Market state-level youth initiatives;
- Identify and recruit underrepresented youth;
- Develop venues to offer leadership training opportunities for youth; and
- Provide adult leaders with information to identify opportunities for quality youth engagement and to value youth voices in their ongoing decision making.

Increasing the number of youth selected to serve on state boards and commissions is another way to engage youth in state government. Agencies and commissions need to articulate the skill sets necessary for youth members. Training should be available to prepare youth to ensure active participation. ICYD will explore additional opportunities for youth engagement.

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<sup>7</sup> Youth-fueled – The participation of youth contributes to achieving the goals of the initiative. Youth participate either as leaders or participants. All of youth-fueled initiatives are conducted “with” youth, not “to” youth.

### III. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS IN 2017

Achieving a 95% graduation rate by 2020 is an ambitious target. The ICYD Council is committed to focus attention and monitor progress toward this goal. Reaching it will require continued coordinated efforts by policymakers, education systems, and multiple state and community partners. The Council's work (see *Section III Accomplishments in 2016 and Emerging Activities in 2017*) will be refined and expanded into specific action steps to accomplish the goal by 2020.

To maintain focus on these efforts, the ICYD Council will continue to address the following five broad areas:

- Focus on underperforming schools and communities.
- Assess current state initiatives and maximize existing resources.
- Investigate research-based approaches and effective strategies.
- Coordinate across systems to identify and support vulnerable students.
- Engage additional stakeholders.

The ICYD Council seeks support from the Iowa Legislature and Governor's Office to continue these activities by modifying laws and policies as necessary, and providing resources needed to achieve this very ambitious goal.

Specific recommendations to support the ICYD Council are to:

- Provide resources to continue and expand evidence-based practices and programs as they are developed and identified, such as:
  - Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (JJRRI);
- Support the ICYD Council in identifying new and better ways to provide services and supports to Iowa's youth by encouraging the development of innovative strategies and initiatives:
  - SMART on Juvenile Justice;
  - Juvenile Reentry System Planning and Implementation;
- Support the ICYD Council's planning, research, and development of strategies to eliminate the educational achievement gap for underrepresented students.
- Support the ICYD Council's approach to consolidate multiple advisory groups into the existing infrastructure of the ICYD Council. The model will result in a reduction of duplication, enhanced coordination and collaboration between state agencies, and a reduction in costs.
- Support the Iowa Youth Survey. The survey is administered every two years to 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The results are valuable to state agencies and communities in assessing self-reported youth behaviors and perceptions.
- Provide resources to support state-level youth opportunities and youth-led initiatives (e.g. State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council, Achieving Maximum Potential).
- Engage youth on state boards and commissions, and provide the training and support necessary for youth members to be active participants. In addition, state agencies should seek new and creative ways to involve youth.

- Continue to develop ways to share information among agencies to address issues affecting youth who receive services and supports from multiple agencies.
- Support the continued use of state agency staff time to implement activities that meet the goals of the ICYD Council.
- Infuse positive youth development (PYD) principles in all youth programming which includes PYD trainings for youth workers and establishing policies to include PYD principles in all state-funded youth initiatives.