

# Iowa delivering remarkable results for students across five key measures

## 1. Overall School Performance Improving

- Overall scores for the 2024-25 school year improved using the **same high expectations** as last year, with nearly 56% of schools performing in the top 3 of 6 rating categories.
  - That's **up 10 percentage points** compared to 46% of schools last year.
- Of 1,276 total schools, **41.9% or 528 schools moved up** one or more rating categories.
  - Only 17.7% of schools moved down one or more rating categories, and the rest did not change.

## 2. Early Literacy Improving

- Following the enactment of landmark early literacy legislation in 2024, students who were in 3rd grade during the 2023-24 school year showed impressive gains as 4th graders in 2024-25, with **proficiency increasing 11 percentage points from last year.**



Rigorous academic **standards**



High-quality instructional **materials**



Early student **identification** and progress monitoring



Strong instructional **interventions**



Evidence-based **professional learning**



Science of Reading-aligned **educator preparation**



**Family-centered** resources

## 3. Attendance Improving

- Iowa's average percent of K-12 public school students who were chronically absent dropped 5.8 percentage points since the 2023-24 school year, **falling to 15.8%** in the 2024-25 school year.
  - Over just the past three years, Iowa had a **9.8 percentage point decrease** in chronic absenteeism.



Chronic absenteeism and attendance growth prioritized in Iowa's school **accountability** system



2024 State Chronic Absenteeism Reduction **Work Group**



Statewide **professional learning**



Intensive supports for student **engagement** in schools in need

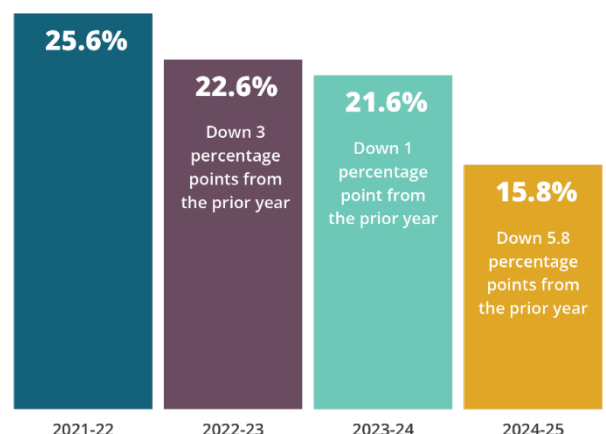


**Early warning system** for students at risk of becoming chronically absent



2024 state **legislation** to support statewide:

- **Notices** to families at risk of chronic absenteeism
- School engagement **meetings** with families
- **Absenteeism Prevention Plans** for students missing school
- Partnership with **county attorneys**



## 4. Work-based Learning Growing

- In the 2024-25 school year, 45% of all seniors or 15,154 students attained a work-based learning experience, a 19.5 percentage point increase and a **76% rate of increase over two years**.

✓ Work-based learning prioritized in Iowa's school **accountability** system

✓ Supporting a strong **CTE educator pipeline** by creating:

- CTE Career Cluster Endorsement
- WBL Authorization

✓ 2024 state **legislation** to:

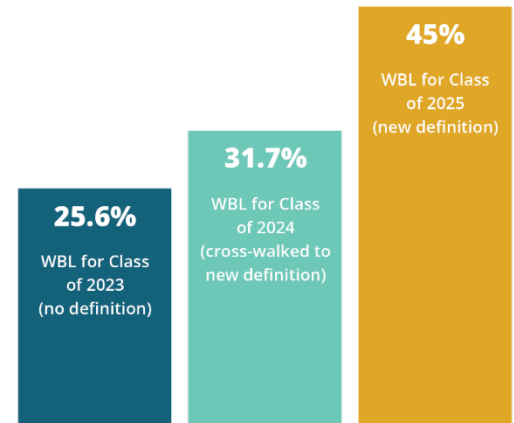
- Recognize qualifying CTE courses for **core credit**
- Create a consistent, high-quality **definition** of work-based learning

✓ 2025 state **legislation** to:

- Require **career exploration** beginning in 5th grade
- Celebrate **industry-recognized credential** attainment with high school diploma seals

✓ School District and **Individual Career Academic Plans** beginning in 8th grade

✓ \$3.5M in Credentials to Careers **grants** and \$2.8M in STEM BEST grants



## 5. Schools in Need of Support Improving

*Comprehensive Schools Improved (identified lowest performing 5% of Title I schools)*

✓ The Iowa Department of Education provided **over 6,000 hours** of school-based expert leadership support and classroom coaching and modeling in Iowa's 35 Comprehensive schools.

- 32 of 35 Comprehensive schools improved, **increasing an average of 5.4 percentage points** in their overall accountability score.
- 8 Comprehensive schools increased **more than 10 percentage points**.

*Targeted Schools Exited (identified based on the achievement gaps experienced by a student group)*

✓ The Iowa Department of Education partnered with Iowa's nine AEAs to provide **over 1,000 hours** of consistent, school-based improvement supports in Iowa's Targeted schools.

- 136 of 377 TSI schools identified in 2024 were able to **exit Targeted status** by ensuring all students are supported in meeting high expectations.
  - 99 Targeted schools were newly identified as Targeted in 2025, and 233 Targeted schools identified in 2024 did not exit status in 2025.
- In total, the **number of Targeted schools dropped by 39 schools, decreasing 10 percent** from 377 in 2024 to 338 in 2025.