

Iowa Core Curriculum

The Iowa Core model (see below) demonstrates that the design and implementation of a strong, viable education system requires not only quality leaders at the top level but, also, must involve the school system and the outside community. Content of the Iowa Core curriculum includes essential concepts and skills in:

- Literacy
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- 21st Century Skills

In this 21st century, students need to develop skills in employability, financial, health, technology and civic (i.e., social studies) literacy. As demonstrated by the Iowa Thinking Model, the central focus (i.e. core) of education revolves around educating students to problem solve and to think critically and creatively so that they can understand themselves and their world.

Higher education institutions need to prepare teachers with the skills to teach diverse learners (students with disabilities, English language learners, students at risk, and the talented and gifted). Teachers must also understand how to use assessment for learning (i.e., formative assessment) during instruction in order to identify potential need for adjustments in the learning process.

Effective learning focuses on understanding and includes both knowledge (rigor) and application (relevance); students have the opportunity to think and work in complex and unscripted settings, using higher order thinking skills to solve real world tasks. Effective learning occurs in student centered classrooms where students are engaged individually and collaboratively in designing and implementing their own learning experience.

