



## Why take a stand to support Iowa public schools?

Iowa's future leaders, innovators and citizens are its children. They are the Promise of Iowa, and their future is created every day by Iowa public schools in each community. A strong system of community-based public schools is the best investment Iowans can make to strengthen our economy, create thriving communities and improve the quality of life for every Iowan.

Iowans have an enduring commitment of support for public education, and our public schools today have many strengths. But we can't rest on our laurels. Iowa public schools are evolving to keep pace with a fast-changing world. We must continue to find ways to close achievement gaps and keep pace with improvements in other states, to ensure Iowa public schools provide our students and state with an advantage.

State policy makers, locally elected school board members, educators and the business community all made a shared commitment in 2013 landmark legislation to ensure the next generation of Iowa students receives a world-class education. But in this era of competing priorities, local school boards believe state policy and support are falling short in reaching that ambitious goal. **Iowa's locally elected school boards are asking Iowans to work with them to:**

**Ensure sustained focus on improvement efforts to ensure all students are college and career ready.** Iowa needs high standards for student learning, an aligned assessment, and a strong system to develop and retain qualified teachers and educators. A focus on early education and literacy will ensure students get a strong start. Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) efforts align with future workforce needs. And we must ensure students with challenges receive extra support to succeed.

**Support more flexibility and autonomy for local community schools.** Even as we pursue statewide initiatives, every school district faces its own unique challenges and each community must set priorities and invest in areas that ensure student success. Our local schools need greater flexibility from burdensome regulations, allowing more innovation, efficiency and responsiveness to parent and community needs. Overly restrictive state and federal policy stifles success.

**Ensure school funding is sufficient, equitable, timely, and sustainable.** To keep our public schools strong, school funding policy needs work as well. We must ensure state and local improvement efforts are funded to implement them well; address inequities in how schools are funded; and ensure that state funding decisions are made in a timely, sustainable way that allows local school boards to plan responsibly.

**It's up to us to fulfill our promise for the next generation of Iowans.**

**Sign and return the Promise of Iowa pledge form to show your support for Iowa public schools.**

[www.promiseiowa.org](http://www.promiseiowa.org)



**Yes!** I want to support the Promise of Iowa Campaign for Public Education. I believe that public schools are vital to the success of our young people, our communities, our economy and our state. I agree that ensuring the success of Iowa public schools must be a priority for our state.

***Sign me up as a supporter of the Promise of Iowa Campaign for Public Education.***

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my name may be listed on the Promise of Iowa website and materials as a supporter.

I am joining as a:

- Business
- Organization
- Individual

Name of Business or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! Sign me up for email updates.

***Thank you for your support of Iowa public schools!***

Please return signed documents to Tammy Votava by email at [promiseiowa@ia-sb.org](mailto:promiseiowa@ia-sb.org), or fax (515) 243-4992, or mail: Iowa Association of School Boards, 6000 Grand Ave. Ste. A, Des Moines, Iowa 50312.