

Iowa Department of Education

# 8th Grade Plan Annual Report

2008-2009 data report

# The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Plan

In 2006, legislation was passed mandating that all 8<sup>th</sup> graders create a career and education plan that included a career interest option, a course plan for high school and post-secondary institutions that correlated with that career option, and a parent signature. In 2007 legislation was passed for every Iowa student to complete the graduation requirements. In 2008, SF 2216 was passed to provide that each Iowa student have a career and education plan that included the local and state graduation requirements, and a course plan based on their interests using the state-designated career information system. In Iowa, that career information system is Iowa Choices®. These requirements begin with the current group of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will graduate in the school year 2012-2013.

To facilitate the transition for every Iowa student to use Iowa Choices career information system, the past school year (2008-2009) focused on the current 8<sup>th</sup> graders who will graduate in the spring of 2013, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade state components for career planning in Iowa Choices®. Next year, the students will continue to build their established career portfolio with other assessments and career research, and revise or revamp their career and course plan. Each succeeding year, the student will add more state components to their student portfolio as well as information on the completion of the local courses that support the Iowa Core Curriculum.

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade these state components are:

- creating an electronic student portfolio (linked to the district and school building)
- a career interest assessment and saved careers of interest
- a Career Cluster inventory or assessment and saved cluster of interest
- a course plan built utilizing their saved career option(s) and their schools course handbook
- a parent approval/signature form (printed or electronic)
- a summary of these steps.

All of these state components are self-contained and a step-by-step process within the “*Iowa Guideways*” of Iowa Choices® to enable a student to complete the state components for this legislation within an electronic portfolio. This section is a self-directed tool for the student and provides the opportunity for the student to complete at different times or at different computers. This tool was created for Iowa’s needs in this legislation by the vendor, Bridges/Xap and the Iowa managing Agency – Iowa Student College Aid Commission. In subsequent years, an “*Iowa Guideway*” for each grade will be created to provide the student a vehicle to complete all the state components before graduation. Students who did not have the opportunity to start or finish their grades’ “Guideway” will be able to complete the following year to complete the requirements before graduation.

In the future, more features will be available to students, parents and educators to assist the student in planning for their future career and education paths. The “ihaveaplaniowa” system will include a cross-walking process to inform the student and family of the Iowa Core Curriculum requirements that are found in their school’s courses, before they graduate, applications and processes for loans and scholarships available for the student’s career field, and workplace learning opportunities for students to apply for internships or workplace learning.

## Data

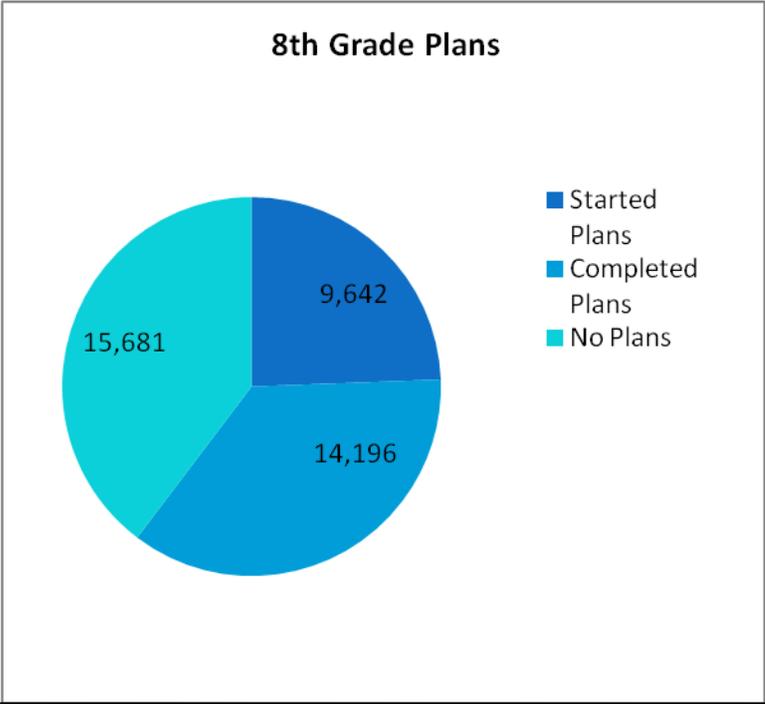
### Data From "Iowa Guideway"/ Iowa Choices®

	Grad 2009 (seniors)	Grad 2010 (juniors)	Grad 2011 (sophomores)	Grad 2012 (freshmen)	Grad 2013 (8 <sup>th</sup> grade)	TOTALS
Total students - NOT STARTED a Portfolio	41,840	37,769	38,952	34,114	<b>18,319</b>	170,994
Total students - STARTED a Portfolio	1,093	781	1,287	1,728	<b>8,051</b>	12,940
<b>Total students - FINISHED Portfolio with State Components</b>	502	421	607	527	<b>13,149</b>	15,206

### School Submitted Data (non-Choices or non-Guideway students)

	Graduation Year 2013
Total Sum of STARTED portfolios by students	1,591
Total Sum of FINISHED portfolios by students	<b>1,047</b>

Data totals	Graduation Year 2013	Percentages
Number of 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Plans started - but not completed	9,642	24 %
Number of 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Plans <b>completed</b> with State Components	14,196	35%
Number of 8 <sup>th</sup> graders with no 8 <sup>th</sup> Plan data	15,681	39.6%



**Summary**

The first year of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Plan, 2008-2009, has resulted in 14,196 completed 8th grade Plans with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade state components. The year has been a learning year for the students, the schools and the educators and counselors to utilize the electronic career planning tools. These tools will assist students as they learn, plan and complete courses to follow their career and educational path. The students who was unable to finish their portfolio this year, will have the opportunity to continue to add, review, and revise their plans and to complete the state components for each grade within their portfolio. The portfolio will include 9<sup>th</sup> grade state components to assist in the developmental process of career planning moving toward post-secondary planning and financial aid options. The data collection of the state components will be automatic with the Guideway completion, and educators will be able to monitor and communicate with the students as they move through the process.