Student Curriculum Plan:
Required State Components

Iowa Code Section 279.61
Iowa Code* specifies that all Iowa students must create a student curriculum plan in grade 8 and complete
the required components of the state-designated career information system in grades 8-12. I Have A Plan
Iowa® contains the current state-designated career information system and should be used with students
when creating the student curriculum plan. An Iowa Guideway has been created for each grade level to
assist students and educators through the process.

Iowa Guideways:
• Provide an easy step-by-step process for students to complete the required components.
• Allow the Iowa Department of Education to receive the required data reports automatically.

8th Grade
• Create an electronic student portfolio
• Complete a career interest assessment
• Complete a career cluster assessment and identify a career cluster of interest
• Build a course plan for high school/postsecondary
• A parent approval and signature form (electronic or printed)

9th Grade
• Complete the Interest Profiler Assessment
• Complete a career assessment linking interests & school subjects
• Complete a skills assessment linking skills and careers
• Revise and rebuild course plan in portfolio
• Complete a student reflection paragraph

10th Grade
• Complete work values/beliefs survey
• Compare career options side by side
• Research careers and programs
• Compare colleges/programs side by side
• Review and revise course plan in portfolio
• Complete a student reflection paragraph

11th Grade
• Complete a skills inventory, checklist or assessment
• Create a resume
• Create a cover letter
• Compare schools and programs side by side
• Note any postsecondary visits (virtual or physical)
• Complete a practice postsecondary application
• Research financial aid and financial aid information
• Research scholarships and scholarship information
• Review and revise course plan in portfolio
• Complete a student reflection paragraph

12th Grade
• Retake Interest Profiler and compare results with 9th grade results
• Retake career assessment linking school subjects and careers and compare results with 9th grade
• Review schools and colleges and indicate choices
• Research job interview information and complete job interview practice
• Review and revise career plan and postsecondary opportunities
• Complete a student reflection paragraph

Optional Activities, Experiences & Awards in Portfolio
• Extra-curricular Activities documented
• Community Service documented
• Workplace Learning Activities documented
• Organizations & Activities documented
• Hobbies & Interests documented
• Certificates & Awards documented

Note: Components completed outside of the Guideway will not be included in Iowa Department of Education Reports.

* Iowa Code Section 279.61 went into effect for the school year beginning July 1, 2008.