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Future Ready Today Newsletter

2024 Iowa School Performance Profile

The state of Iowa has released its latest school performance data as part of the annual Iowa School Performance Profile, which evaluates how schools perform on key educational measures. This annual evaluation helps guide our district's focused efforts to support student achievement and prepare them for a successful future.

This year, Iowa's school rating system changed under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Schools are now assessed on core areas, including proficiency in English, math, and science, as well as attendance, graduation rates, and college readiness. Due to these updates, this year's ratings are not directly comparable to those of previous years. Here's how CRCSD performed on core indicators for the 2023-2024 school year:

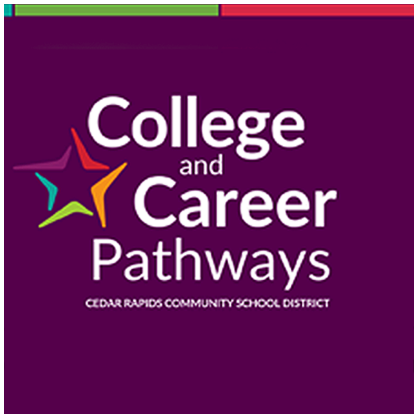
Core Indicator	CRCSD	State Average
Percent Proficient English Language Arts	63.05%	72.72%
Percent Proficient Mathematics	59.07%	69.81%
Percent Proficient Science	52.7%	61.55%
Chronic Absenteeism	35.75%	21.63%
Graduation Rate (4 Years)	77.53%	87.46%
Post Secondary Readiness	36.9%	68.99%

CRCSD's recent ratings include five schools rated as "Commendable," four as "Acceptable," eight needing "Improvement," and sixteen classified as "Priority." These ratings help CRCSD identify focus areas but do not fully reflect the commitment of staff or the district's continuous improvement efforts.

"While these ratings show us where we need to grow, we're already focused on progress in several key areas through our new initiatives like the science-based CKLA literacy curriculum in our elementary schools, an updated science curriculum at our high schools, and the College and Career Pathways program to prepare students for life after high school," shared Dr. Tawana Grover, CRCSD Superintendent. *"The new state attendance laws will also support our efforts in reducing absenteeism. We are dedicated to positive strides for all students in Cedar Rapids."*

For a detailed report on CRCSD's performance, visit www.iaschoolperformance.gov.

Why College and Career Pathways



The Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) is excited to introduce College and Career Pathways across all five high schools - starting with Freshman Academies in the 2025-2026 school year and expanding to upperclassmen in 2026-2027. This innovative program will ensure every student graduates equipped, empowered, and engaged to excel after high school, whether in college, the workforce, or the military.

But why is CRCSD transitioning to this new model? Data from the Iowa School Performance Profile highlights a need for improved academic proficiency, attendance, graduation rates, and college readiness in our district. Research shows that pathway programs like this boost student engagement, reduce chronic absenteeism, improve academic outcomes, and increase graduation rates by connecting learning to students' interests and real-world applications.

This strategic shift isn't just about improving metrics, though, it's about creating opportunities for all students to succeed. College and Career Pathways provide students with personalized, hands-on learning experiences that help build employability and life skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, leadership, and adaptability. These transferable skills build a strong foundation that students need for their future. The pathways will create smaller, supportive communities within the broader high school where students can foster stronger connections with teachers and peers and feel more supported and motivated to succeed. Students will also have access to college credit opportunities and industry-recognized certifications, giving them a competitive edge as they transition into adulthood.

The College and Career Pathways will enhance a student's high school experience by complementing core classes like math, science, and language arts. Students will still have the opportunity to take several elective classes, such as art, music, foreign language, and more. This approach ensures students receive a well-rounded education while still exploring different pathways that align with their interests. This reflects CRCSD's commitment to preparing every student for the future they choose, equipping them to leave high school future-ready!

Stay tuned for more details in the weeks ahead as we prepare to bring this exciting vision to life. Together, we can build a stronger, brighter future for our students and community!

News and Updates

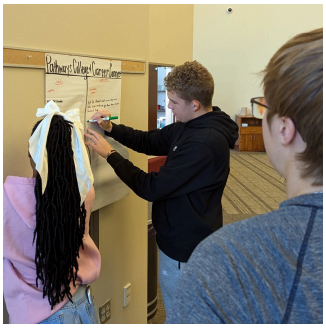
Superintendent Student Cabinet



We're thrilled to introduce our new Superintendent Student Cabinet! This new advisory group is comprised of student leaders from across the district who were chosen by their principals, teachers, and peers. They will serve as a bridge between student dreams and district decisions, ensuring student voices are heard loud and clear. With their unique perspectives and passionate insights, they will help us build stronger, more inclusive schools where everyone is equipped, empowered, and engaged to excel.







Student Teacher Career Fair



Are you a student teacher ready to start your career? Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) invites you to explore your future with us at the upcoming Student Teacher Career Fair! Join us on November 19 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM at the Educational Leadership and Support Center (2500 Edgewood Rd NW) for an event dedicated to current student teachers interested in exploring a future at CRCSD.

You'll have the opportunity to meet with district administrators for on-site interviews, making it easy to take the first step toward a full-time teaching position. You can also get answers on teacher licensure, learn about CRCSD's pay and benefits, explore substitute teaching opportunities, and discover the support offered by the CREA Teachers Union. This is your chance to connect, ask questions, and discover the benefits of a career with CRCSD. Don't miss this opportunity—come see what CRCSD has to offer!

CRCSD 2nd Graders Score Big

Second graders across the Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) scored big thanks to the generosity of the Jensen Foundation. Every 2nd grade student across Iowa is receiving a copy of Just Like Caitlin, a book celebrating basketball icon Caitlin Clark, former Iowa Hawkeye and current Indiana Fever point guard.
This inspiring new book highlights Caitlin's journey and teaches lessons about dreaming big, working hard, and valuing relationships over winning. CRCSD students eagerly dove into the book, learning about Caitlin's achievements both on and off the court. Check out the heartwarming images of students enjoying their new books!



Cleveland Elementary



Erskine Elementary



Van Buren Elementary

National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month, a time to recognize the children and families within our community who are experiencing housing insecurity and its

profound impact. At Cedar Rapids Community School District, we support over 300 students experiencing homelessness or near homelessness each year.



Homelessness creates unique challenges for students, including increased risk of hunger, mental health issues, behavioral struggles, and lower attendance and graduation rates. CRCSD is dedicated to removing barriers so all students have the opportunity to excel, regardless of their circumstances. While the district cannot provide direct financial assistance, we do offer eligible homeless students free transportation to and from school, free school meals, and additional support/services for their academic success. The District also works closely with several community partners to connect families with further resources and assistance. Click here for a list of resources.

If you know a student or family in need, please encourage them to reach out to their school's homeless liaison, who can provide guidance and connect them to vital resources.

Glance Around CRCSD



Sweet generosity! Taft Middle School students and staff held a post-Halloween candy drive, collecting 1,257 pieces of candy to donate to the Willis Dady Shelter.



This week, members of the Kennedy Student Government created cozy blankets to provide warmth for those in our community in need.



On Veteran's Day, November 11th. The Grant Wood Elementary G-Clefs performed for the veterans at the Mt. Vernon Rd Hy-Vee veterans breakfast.



KLA student ambassadors proudly represented KLA and Leader Lunches at the Lil' Drug Store Non-Profit Fair! They shared insights about KLA, our mission, and goal tracking.



Jefferson High School's Asian American and Pacific Islander Club (AAPI) showcased their talent and heritage at Coe College's annual International Club Culture Show! They performed a beautiful hula dance to Ariki Vaine, a song honoring the strength and



"It's hip to be square! Or making the "right angle" to a problem. (Bad math jokes) Washington students in Ms. Maus's Geometry class had a lesson in parallelograms.

beauty of Pacific Island women.

[Jefferson High School Activities Calendar]

[Kennedy High School Activities Calendar]

[Washington High School Activities Calendar]

CRCSD is hiring! [View open positions and apply here.]

[Learn more about breakfast and lunch meals here.]

[View your school's virtual backpack]

Follow us on social media for the latest updates:

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Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District not to discriminate in educational programs and/or activities on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, gender identity, socioeconomic status, national origin, religion, disability, age (except for permitting/prohibiting students to engage in certain activities) or genetic information and in employment opportunities on the basis of age, race, creed, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability or genetic information. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact Darius Ballard, Chief of Human Resources, Educational Leadership and Support Center, 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, (319) 558-2000.

November 15, 2024

Cedar Rapids Community School District | 2500 Edgewood Dr NW | Cedar Rapids, IA 52405 US

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