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DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

Iowa State  
Education Association

December 13, 2007

777 Third Street  
Des Moines, IA  
50309-1301  
tel 515.471 8000  
fax 515 471 8017  
www.isea.org

Kevin Fangman, Administrator  
Division of PK-12 Education  
Iowa Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

An affiliate of the  
National Education  
Association

Dear Kevin:

The Iowa State Education Association endorses Iowa's application to become a member of the 21st Century Skills Partnership as a Leadership State. The National Education Association is a member organization of the Partnership and we support the framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning.

Iowa has many quality initiatives underway to improve education and this is the framework that can tie them all together to offer our students the skills and content necessary for success in the future.

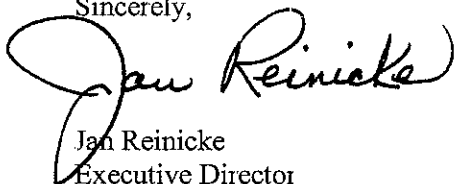
It is no longer adequate to give students an understanding of core subjects and content, we must provide them with the learning and thinking skills necessary for lifelong learning and adaptability in the workplace.

Iowa is in a unique position, without state standards, to put forward a model core curriculum incorporating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century content, technology literacy and life skills called for by the Partnership. The acquisition of these skills will be the foundation of continued economic growth in the state as Iowa focuses on workforce development in the years ahead.

Teachers welcome the emphasis on a broad curriculum incorporating 21st Century skills and appropriate assessments to measure them. The narrow focus, supported by current federal direction, is a concern to many in the teaching profession. We welcome the challenge this opportunity provides and know an important component will be improving professional practice to implement the curriculum.

This is the right direction for Iowa's education system to pursue and will allow us to move to a new level of excellence.

Sincerely,



Jan Reinicke  
Executive Director

JR/jkw

