

FROM PLATFORM TO POLICY

The Iowa Democratic Party [Platform](#) is a roadmap which you can and should expect a Democrat running for and elected to office to be guided by when supporting legislation and policies.

Education

2018 Iowa Democratic Party Platform Principle

Pursuing Our Innovation Agenda: Science, Research, Education, and Technology:

Democrats support ambitious public and private investments in science, technology, and research. This starts with guaranteeing “Universal Preschool and Good Schools for Every Child”: Page 27 of the [2016 Democrat Platform](#). We also support increased investments in afterschool and summer learning programs, which help working families, keep kids safe, and inspire learning at a time when many students are left unsupervised, especially right now during COVID-19.

Policy

This year has been difficult for the Democratic Party to move forward with our Education Forum due to both the Federal and State Governments not appearing to want to do what is needed to assure we meet this crisis with proper Science, Education, and Technology.

The Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) asked for a 4% increase in funds to school districts this year, which have been underfunded for years. Democrats and the ISEA fought for more funding, but with Republicans in control, the Senate and Governor signed for a mere 2.3% increase.

Where We Are Now

Cares Act Funds (Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security) package passed at \$30.75 billion, and Iowa received \$71.6 million, with 90% going to school districts and 10% to the Department of Education. This trickles down to around \$700,000 for Muscatine County. The funds are to be used strictly for preventing and planning for COVID-19. Yet at the same time, paints some broad strokes of how to utilize the money in the most effective way. Since it is a one time allowance, the funds must be used by 9/30/2022. A portion of these funds are expected to be used in private schools.

ISEA understands that there is a gap between the needs of our schools, teachers, and students, and what Governor Kim Reynolds’s responses have been to the pandemic. Therefore, ISEA is giving guidance for K-12, and school administrators and teachers are talking to others throughout the country to understand how they are trying to navigate education.

The Return to Learn (re-entry) Plan uploaded on May 8, 2020:

<https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2020-05-08COVID-19Return-to-LearnGuidance.pdf>