



GOVERNOR OF IOWA  
**Kim Reynolds**

## 2020 VISION FOR IOWA

# Preparing a Future Ready Iowa

Iowa's greatest opportunity for economic growth is to build a workforce that's nimble, highly-skilled and filled with lifelong learners. Today, we are experiencing a shortage of skilled workers across every region of our state and all types of industries — from manufacturing and skilled trades, to health care and information technology. But through dynamic public-private partnerships, we've implemented innovative solutions that start in our schools and continue in the workplace to ensure that opportunity lives here.

### PreK-12 Education

Building Iowa's workforce starts at school. In today's knowledge economy, it is more important than ever that our schools are preparing students for 21st century careers. We can be proud of our focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education and work-based learning experiences, and should continue to build on our foundation.

Following a historic investment in preK-12 education last year, the Governor proposes we again increase education funding:

- \$100+ million in NEW preK-12 education funding, including \$5.5 million in new funding for transportation equity.

### Computer Science

Computer science is a modern-day basic skill that every student must have to be successful in the workplace. We must invest in developing computer science educators and increasing learning opportunities for K-12 students to ensure Iowa's workforce of the future will thrive. The Governor proposes the following:

- Develop and implement a statewide K-12 computer science plan that includes options for classroom and virtual instruction by July 1, 2021.
- Require accredited high schools to offer at least one semester of computer science by July 1, 2021.
- Require accredited elementary and middle schools to provide computer science in at least one grade level each by July 1, 2022.



*Future Ready Iowa is on track to infuse Iowa's workforce with thousands of skilled employees.*

GOV. KIM REYNOLDS

### Work-Based Learning

Hands-on, real-world projects help students explore career possibilities at an early age and discover what interests them. To continue Iowa's progress in integrating work-based learning into the overall education experience, the Governor proposes to:

- Grow the virtual Iowa Clearinghouse for Work-Based Learning by creating more school-business partnerships that engage K-12 students in authentic, professional experiences.
- Add work-based learning coordinators to positions covered by operational sharing to expand opportunities for students to connect the classroom to future careers through face-to-face school-business partnerships.
- Continue the Summer Youth Intern Pilot Program to increase opportunities for students at risk of not graduating from high school to learn employability skills.
- Expand summer dual enrollment funding to \$1 million so more high school students can prepare for high-demand careers by earning college credit.

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## Future Ready Iowa

In 2018, Governor Reynolds signed the Future Ready Iowa Act, launching an aggressive workforce policy initiative to ensure that 70 percent of Iowans in the workforce achieve training or education beyond high school by the year 2025. In 2019, Future Ready Iowa made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Iowans seeking new opportunities.

The Last Dollar Scholarship is providing more than \$13 million to 6,000+ students enrolled in community and private college programs leading to high-demand jobs. Nearly 80 percent of scholarship recipients are adult learners.

Additionally, dozens of Iowa companies, schools and community organizations were awarded \$1.2 million through the new Employer Innovation Fund, a matching grant program to help fund local education and workforce development initiatives. This year, the Governor proposes continuing to build on the success of Future Ready Iowa with additional investment and new initiatives, creating even more pathways to high-demand careers:

### LAST DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Increase funding to \$15.8 million to award scholarships to more students.
- Expand eligibility by allowing more flexibility in enrollment requirements.

### EMPLOYER INNOVATION FUND

- Increase funding to \$4 million to support more community-level education and workforce development initiatives.
- Expand to include the Child Care Challenge Fund to help with the construction, renovation or remodeling of child care facilities.

### EARLY CAREER IA

- Launch a career pathway for new high school graduates wanting to pursue college while working in their professional field of interest.
- Employers recruit talented, highly-motivated student-employees for hard to fill, high-demand positions so they get an early start on careers while earning college degrees and holding down student loan debt.
- Pilot program to start in 2020.

### REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

- Build on the success of the new 15C Registered Apprenticeship program, which provides start-up funding for small- to mid-sized businesses, by expanding it to include ongoing financial support for training for businesses with 20 or fewer Registered Apprentices in high-demand occupations.

