

Written by Johanna Albaugh
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DES MOINES – Thirty-five Iowa high schools, including Davenport Central, will partner with the Iowa Department of Education to work on solutions to eliminate barriers to learning, including bullying and substance abuse.

Iowa is one of 11 states to be chosen for the prestigious federal grant to participate in the Safe and Supportive program. Nearly \$14 million will be spent in Iowa over the next four years to support efforts that will measure and improve statewide conditions for learning, which include school safety, student engagement in school, and the overall school environment.

This spring, the Iowa Department of Education will ask students, parents and faculty at the high schools to simply fill out a **confidential** survey. The survey will focus on issues ranging from student safety, to student relationships with other students and adults and to whether students have adequate resources in their schools.

“We look forward to embarking on this new, groundbreaking program,” said Iowa Department of Education Director Jason Glass. “For the first time, we will measure conditions for learning by surveying the real experts – students, parents and faculty.”

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After the initial survey is taken, 80% of the grant funding will be used for direct support of the schools that show the greatest opportunity for improvement. The Iowa Department of Education will provide resources and work with those schools to implement activities that improve conditions for learning.

Information will be gathered each year for four years. By the fourth year, the final survey will show the nation how much progress Iowa has made in improving conditions for learning.

“It’s our responsibility to offer Iowa students our support and give them the best environment we can for them to learn and succeed,” continued Director Glass. “In doing so, we will once again reclaim our status as the national leader in education.”

High schools were randomly selected across the state and have agreed to participate in this important program. Attached below is a list of the participating schools across the state.

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