



- For FY25, there are currently 58 ISTEP chapters registered on hhs.iowa.gov/istep throughout 32 counties. Ten of the chapters are newly established. For reference, FY24 ended with 77 chapters and FY23 ended with 66.
- The annual ISTEP Summit was successfully held Thursday, October 10th at the Varied Industries Building on the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. In attendance was a record-breaking 334 young Iowans, in grades 7-12, alongside 52 adults. It was free of cost, full of fun and completely youth-led by our amazing ISTEP Executive Council, which consists of 9 high school students. Imagine selfie stations, pep rally fun, tailgate games, ISTEP Bingo, various hands-on activities, classic state fair foods and meeting other young leaders from across Iowa. But, most importantly, gaining the skills and knowledge to bring back to their local communities for talking to peers about tobacco and nicotine use, including vaping. Keynote speaker was motivational speaker and pep assembly fanatic Robb Holla. And, this year the Summit even included a marching band as well as sprint car racer and influencer Chase Randall to greet attendees as they walked in that morning. Evaluation results will be available and shared next Commission meeting.
- Council applications were open the past month, and we received 8. Between last year and this year, we will have had 9 council members graduate so these new applicants will be a great addition! Next steps for the application process includes them attending the Winter virtual Leadership Training late December, which will focus on presentation skills. Once they attend the training, they will be extended invitations to officially join the Council.
- On November 6th at the annual Tobacco Community Partnership Conference, ISTEP had the privilege to host a Program Panel. Three council members, two chapter advisors and one community partnership represented the program. They shared their experience with the program and answered questions from the attendees. This was a great demonstration of youth-adult partnerships.

ISTEP President, Emilie Stewart

Voting Youth Members, Abi Harmison, Mattie Kompsie & Sellah Ambundo

ISTEP Youth Coordinator, Jill Wright