



RSAI Legislative Update March 10, 2016

These updates are posted on the RSAI legislative web page at <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>. The following provides news of this week's statehouse action as committees in the House and Senate prepared for Friday's funnel deadline. Lots of action on little bills impacting education, but very little about priority areas for RSAI. Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa's children! margaret.buckton@isfis.net

RSAI Priorities: Transportation and district cost per pupil equity, both priorities of RSAI, are now included in the Governor's water quality bill and the Education Committee's version of SAVE extension. See below for details. School Funding for FY 2017 is still in conference committee, but we expect movement soon, following consensus on the Federal Tax Coupling, with a bill introduced in the Senate yesterday. RSAI issued a [call to action on school funding](#) last Friday. Also the Education Coalition posted a publication last week to help advocates, stakeholders and legislators better understand inflationary and staff costs of school districts. RSAI is part of the coalition and has posted the issue on the RSAI legislative page: [Education Funding and the Cost of Doing Business](#).

RSAI Advocacy Resources: RSAI has updated the legislative page of our website with sample parent letters on adequate school funding, transportation and district cost per pupil inequities. Instructions for writing to legislators are included in the packet found here [Sample Parent Letters on School Funding](#). Also, the transportation and formula equity toolkit has been updated to include the FY 2015 transportation report from the DE. Find those resources here: <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>

RSAI statement to Press Conference on Water Quality; Reps. Isenhardt and Andersen held a press conference Wednesday of this week, introducing a water quality funding plan that does not divert funds from SAVE/sales tax that would otherwise go to school. RSAI provided a statement linked [here](#) to the Press Conference. The thrust of the statement was that school leaders in rural Iowa care about water quality and appreciate alternatives being discussed that would not divert funding from schools. A significant diversion would only increase property taxes down the road.

The list of bills impacting education that received action this week, some surviving the funnel, some not, as indicated below:

- **[SF 2225 Concussion Management:](#)** this bill requires that the home team in a high school collision sport (defined as football, soccer, wrestling) have a health professional available (athletic trainers, physical therapists, health care professionals). Encourages that the home team make such professionals available in contact sport contests. Requires the professional to report to the athletic director of the visiting team if a player shows signs of brain injury. Requires the DE to develop a waiver process for high schools that show good faith efforts to comply but cannot due to a regional shortage of health care professionals. Requires the DE with the high school athletic associations to develop a way for games to go on when a scheduled contest health care professional isn't available due to unforeseen circumstances. RSAI is registered opposed to this bill. The bill was approved in subcommittee, but the full House Education Committee did not take the bill up, so it's technically dead.
- **[HF 2264 Open Enrollment Athletic Participation:](#)** this bill allows a student who has been subject to a founded case of bullying or harassment, to immediately participate in varsity athletic sports upon open enrollment to a new district. The district of residence determines if the case was founded. The Senate Education Committee approved the bill, so it moves to the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill.
- **[HF 2324 Computer Science Education:](#)** The bill requires the DE to convene a computer science advisory council to make recommendations, which includes consideration of the cost to school districts. The Senate Education Committee amended and approved the bill, so it moves to



the Senate Calendar. RSAI is now registered as undecided since the mandate has been eliminated.

- **[HF 2336 DE Technical Code Provisions](#)**: This bill by the Iowa Department of Education, includes code corrections and clean-up language that is not substantive in policy context. The Senate Education Committee approved the bill, so it moves to the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided since the mandate has been eliminated.
- **[HF 2363 Closed Sessions](#)**: this bill prohibits a governmental body from excluding a member of the body from a closed session. The bill includes an exception if a member has a conflict of interest. The bill requires confidentiality for closed sessions and sets penalties for government officials who break that confidentiality. The Senate State Government Committee approved the bill, so it moves to the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill.
- **[HF 2364 Open Meetings](#)**: this bill allows a governmental body to post an amended notice for a postponed meeting in order to meet public notice requirements and requires that such postponement be for good cause. The Senate State Government Committee approved the bill, so it moves to the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill.
- **[HF 2392 Career and Technical Education Program](#)**: this bill addresses the 8th grade career plan, Career and Technical Regional Planning and includes the following:
 - Requires state board to set standards via rule for approved career information and decision-making systems.
 - Requires annually, beginning July 1, 2016, the school board submits to community and includes in the CSIP, an annual report on student utilization of the system.
 - Requires DE to monitor district compliance via accreditation.
 - Replaces the term “vocational” with “career and technical.”
 - Replaces the terms “school to work program” with “work-based learning opportunity”.
 - Updates references to six career and technical education service areas and the sub-clusters underneath those areas
 - Duties of the state board of education for Division II: Existing authority updated, revise Perkins state plan, adopt rules related to CTE instructors, programs and practitioner prep schools, adopt standards for CTE service areas and adopt standards for Regional CTE Planning Partnerships and regional centers
 - Creates new Regional CTE Planning Partnerships
 - Addresses new Career Academies (must integrate academic coursework, work-based learning, and career and academic planning; state BOE adopts standards; and career academies must meet the standards)
 - Clarifies the role of Senior Year Plus, to prevent PSEO from being used for school-organized classes of students rather than individuals

The bill was approved within a subcommittee meeting and without recommendation, but the Senate Education Committee, so although it moves to the Senate Calendar, there will be more conversation among senators regarding the provisions. RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill.

- **[HF 2413 Early Literacy](#)**: This bill changes the parent notification regarding early literacy and third grade retention. The bill replaces the terminology that a student is “substantially deficient in reading” to instead state a student is at-risk or persistently at-risk of not being a proficient reader. The bill also removes the concept of annual notification, expecting that such conversations with parents are ongoing. The bill also helps school districts struggling to know how to implement, by explicitly stating that alternative tools/assessments in addition to the FAST screening tool on fluency may be used. The Senate Education Committee approved the bill, so it moves to the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered in favor of the bill.



- **[HF 2421 Coaching Requirements](#)**: this bill requires that holders or applicants for a coaching endorsement for schools complete a course in basic CPR, defibrillator use and heat therapy. Gives current coaches until July 2017 to comply. The Senate Education Committee approved the bill, so it moves to the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided.

Governor’s SAVE/Water Quality Bill – no official action this week, but a subcommittee has been assigned to the bill, including Representatives Windschitl, Insenhart, Forristall, Ruff and Vander Linden. Details repeated here from last week’s newsletter.

[HF 2382](#) been amended and approved 13:9 by House Agriculture. It has been assigned to House Ways and Means. Here are the bill details impacting SAVE which begin on page 8 of the bill:

- FY17 amount to SAVE is the same as FY 16
- Beginning July 1, 2017, the 6th penny allocation to SAVE increases \$10 million annually
- Extends the sixth penny until Jan. 1, 2050
- Adds “Water quality” to the list of allowable uses for the 6th penny.
- Application of the PTER fund carve out, currently 2.1% of SAVE fund per Iowa Code 423F.2(3) will no longer apply to the entire SAVE amount, which lowers resources for school property tax inequities.
- The bill allows district flexibility for a per pupil school equity budget adjustment (up to \$175 or however far below the state’s maximum per pupil cost a district is) and transportation equity flexibility for local districts with excessive transportation costs to access SAVE funds (after adding the use to a Revenue Purpose Statement approved by voters.) Additional limitations on use of the flexibility funds are too restrictive. Although RSAI approves of the restriction exempting these funds from collective bargaining, we support use for any general fund purpose.
- The bill requires any SAVE fund purchase or project in excess of \$1 million in cost to have a specific revenue purpose statement, including commencement and conclusion date and maximum amount of funds to be spent on the purpose or project, approved by a 60% super majority of voters. Although RSAI was not excited about the water quality provision prior, this provision alone would be sufficient for RSAI to oppose the bill (and RSAI is registered opposed.)
- Water quality impacts: All additional growth beyond school infrastructure goes to 3 areas:
 - 25% to wastewater and drinking water treatment finance assistance fund
 - 25% to water quality financing program fund
 - 50% to Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for water quality infrastructure cost share program, assisting land owners with implementing water quality practice and water quality demonstration projects
- The bill now requires a 10-year review and reporting requirements for water quality programs.

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