**RSAI Legislative Update   
Jan. 20, 2017**

These updates are posted on the RSAI legislative web page at <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>.

Despite a short second week due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday on Monday and Iowa ice storm on Tuesday, there were still some significant issues of importance discussed this week at the statehouse. Last week’s Call to Action on Assessment is still relevant as SSB 1001 is in the Senate Education Committee. Budget presentations began this week, and House and Senate Education Committees hear about key RSAI priorities. Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa’s children. [margaret.buckton@isfis.net](mailto:margaret.buckton@isfis.net)

**SSA Timing:** The decision to set the state cost per pupil, known as state supplemental assistance, is due to be enacted by Feb. 10 to meet the 30-day deadline in Iowa Code. With January half gone, use this weekend and next week to remind legislators that investing in Iowa public schools pays dividends in the future, with an educated workforce that contributes to our economy.

**Education Appropriations Subcommittee Meeting:** This week, the members of the Subcommittee heard analysis of the Governor’s Budget Recommendation for FY 2018 by the Legislative Services Agency Staff. They work from the detail analysis called the “blue book” which is linked here <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/SCGR/851571.pdf>. Additional detail is always found in looking at the specific numbers. The Governor’s Recommendation, for example, eliminates the $4.02 million allocation for Mentoring and Induction that has been part of the Student Achievement Teacher Quality Act appropriation. This funding has been used to pay stipends and associated IPERS and FICA for mentor teachers. Just a reminder from last week, the Governor’s budget request has no funding for summer school and a $6.1 million appropriation for LEA assessment, but that does not appear until his FY 2019 budget.

**Equity Presentation in Senate:** The Senate Education Committee heard a presentation by IASB staff regarding equity. IASB’s proposal addresses transportation expenditure inequity by creating a supplementary weighting for transportation costs using several variables (route miles per pupil is the key factor that recognizes rural transportation costs). The weighting is phased in over 5 years, eventually covering $150 million in school transportation costs. The second proposal eliminates the difference in the state and district cost per pupil in the formula. There are two methods of funding, one through the formula which includes some property tax (total state cost of $86.2 million which lowers property taxes by $612,000) and the other totally funded by the state (state impact of $98.6 million and lower property taxes by $13.0 million.) Sens. Quirmbach and Chelgren discussed their preference for a local district levy, allowing each district’s patrons to determine if they are willing to support the $175 difference per pupil. Given the lack of capacity in property poor school districts or districts with difficulty in gaining any voter approval for levies, this solution would not guarantee equity. We will notify members when a bill is assigned to subcommittee in the Senate.

**Flexibility:** If RSAI members have ideas about flexibility, please share with us. If there is something that you’d like any categorical fund to pay for (eg., Quality Preschool Program Standards require preschool to offer a snack, but food is excluded from allowable expenditures), let us know so we can advocate accordingly.

**SSB 1001: State Assessment** by Sinclair: This bill did not yet appear on the Senate Education agenda, so information from last week’s update follows. The Call to Action is still relevant, even more so as the federal Peer Review letter regarding ESSA compliance was posted today. The letter requires Iowa’s DE to detail a timeline and changes to state assessment citing several instances of nonalignment, among other things (the Peer Review group analyzed the Iowa Tests), stating our plan partially meets requirements. The bill strikes [Iowa Code 256.7](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/256.7.pdf), subsection 21, paragraph b, subparagraphs (2) and (3). These Code sections authorize the state Board of Education and DE to determine a set of core indicators for Math, Reading and Science and require a state assessment to measure progress. The bill also strikes the Assessment Task Force requirement from Iowa Code. See the Jan. 13 call to action on Assessment Progress found [here](http://nebula.wsimg.com/89f3844e7c216fcbcd1473c165a9222b?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1) for additional explanation, talking points and advocacy actions. RSAI is opposed to this bill.

**Education Committee Members:** Find links to members of the Education Committee for the [Senate here](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?ga=87&groupID=327) and the [House here](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?ga=87&groupID=686)**.**

Senate Switchboard # 515.281.3371

House Switchboard # 515.281.3221

From links above or the legislative page <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators> , find email addresses, home mailing address and home/work phone numbers for you legislators.

**Track Bills introduced and RSAI position below.**

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**Bills Introduced this week:**

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| **Bill** | **Title** | **RSAI Position** |
| HF 8 | **Teacher Demonstration Projects** by Willis. Allows a cluster of schools in the district to be part of a project, eliminates tenure, includes market-based competition, performance-based accountability and a formal mentoring system. Must include an alternative training program to train new hires with BA degree in a content area. | Pending |
| HF 9 | **Low-Achieving Schools/Charters** by Willis: Allow 50% of parents to petition for closure of a low-performing school (identified by USDOE). Requires school boards to reallocate students to other school in the district and if lacking space, to issue vouchers to parents. Prohibits private schools from sharing the vouchers with parents. Also allows parents (50%) to change an existing school into a charter school without requiring support of teachers. | Opposed |
| HF 17 | **High School Collision Sports** by Jones. Requires coaches to have training in CPR and use of defibrillator. Allows current coaches until July 2018 to get training. Requires home team to have a health care professional for collision sports games and encourages for contact sports. Requires parent notification if a child gets a concussion. | Pending |
| HF 20 | **Exploitation by School Employees** by Jones. Includes full and part time employees, substitute employees with a license, and contract employees and volunteer under the definition of school employee, but excludes those less than four years older than the student and not in a direct position of authority over the student. | Undecided |
| HF 21 | **School Budget Adjustments** by Winckler. Allows school board to adopt a school budget equity adjustment resolution, notify DOM, calculates the adjustment and requires it to be funded through unexpended fund balance or cash reserve. | Supports |
| HF 24 | **School Budget Supplement** by Koester et al. Establishes a supplement for schools with increasing enrollment above the prior Oct. 1 enrollment used to calculate the budget. Appropriates $10 million for the supplement and requires proration if necessary. | Undecided |
| HF 25 | **PK Aid** by Koester. If family is below 200% of the federal poverty level, creates an additional 0.5 supplementary weighting. Subtracts carry forward balance of PK aid from the next year’s supplement if unobligated and unexpended. | Undecided |
| HF 26 | **School Board Authority** by Highfill. Allows school boards to exercise any broad or implied power that is not inconsistent with state law for the operation of the schools. Exempts authority to tax. | Supports |
| HF 28 | **Financial Literacy** by Pettengill et al. Requires that schools offer a half-credit course in personal financial literacy and that it be a requirement for graduation. | Opposes |
| HF 29 | **Supplemental School Weighting** by Fisher. Includes principal as one of the positions that generates operational share weightings. Strikes provisions which limit the number of years that the weighting can be received. | Supports |
| HSB 17 | **School Reports on Drugs/Alcohol** by Education. Requires school administrators to report disciplinary action taken against a licensed school employee for consuming, possessing, or being under the influence while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity. | Pending |
| SF 98 | **5-year Old PK**: Makes 5-year olds who haven’t been in a PK program eligible for the SWVPP. | Pending |

**Bills Introduced this week:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bill** | **Title** | **RSAI Position** |
| HF 44 | **State School Aid** by Wolfe. Establishes a state percent of growth for the state cost per pupil at 4% if a state aid growth bill is not enacted with 30 days of the Governor’s release of his budget recommendation. | Support |
| HF 46 | **Per Pupil Inequity Funding** by Winckler: adds a $20 supplement per pupil to state school aid annual from FY 2018 through FY 2025. Finishes phase in with a $15 supplement per pupil in FY 2016. Requires DOM to adjustment for any district below the highest district cost per pupil. | Support |
| HF 48 | **Student Data Collection** by Salmon. Requires DE policy for student data, prohibits DE from collecting any data not authorized by the legislature, requires annual reports beginning in Nov. 2017. Requires plans for data security and data breaches. Makes student data confidential and prohibits data sharing of information except in the aggregate. Prohibits collection of biometrics, psychometrics, health of family status. | Pending |
| HF 49 | **SAVE fund payments** by Fisher. Requires SAVE fund per pupil revenue to follow open enrolled students. | Undecided |
| SSB1013 | **Federal Tax updates** by Feenstra. Updates Iowa tax code to match the federal tax code, makes deduction for sales taxes permanent. Decouples with federal law from the federal bonus depreciation provisions for the 2016 tax year. | Pending |
| SSB1014 | **Federal Tax updates** by Feenstra. Updates Iowa tax code to match the federal tax code, makes deduction for sales taxes permanent. Decouples with federal law from the federal bonus depreciation and Section 179 expensing provisions for the 2016 tax year. | Pending |
| SSB1017 | **School Reports on Drugs/Alcohol** by Education. Requires that school administrators report disciplinary actions taken against a licensed school employee for consuming, possessing or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity. | Pending |
| SSB1018 | **Governor’s Deappropriations**. Deappropriations funds from current FY 2017, including $25.6 million from regents, $8.7 million from community colleges, $20.3 million from DHS, $15 million from Dept. of Corrections, $5.5 million from DE, $3.8 million from Dept. of Safety, $7.7 million from courts. | Undecided |