**RSAI Legislative Update
March 12, 2020**

In this RSAI Report of the 2020 Legislative Session, find information about:

* **SSA Signed by the Governor**
* **New Resources on COVID-19**
* **Bill Action**
* **Next Funnel Deadline**
* **Link to Jan. 23 Report to find Biographical and Contact Information for your Legislators and members of Key Legislative Committees**
* **Advocacy Resources**

Contact us with any questions, feedback or suggestions to better prepare your advocacy work:

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**Find RSAI 2020 Legislative Priorities and Position Papers here:**  <http://www.rsaia.org/2020-legislative-session.html>

**RSAI Priority: State Supplemental Assistance (per pupil cost increase)** Governor Reynolds signed the SSA bill, [SF 2142](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=SF%202142) setting the increase at 2.3% per pupil. It’s still short of the 3.75% that RSAI requested and did not meet RSAI expectations that the House and Governor’s proposal stand strong.

The Compromise sets the new state cost per pupil at $7,038. There is an additional $10 from the equity bill applied to that number, so the new state cost per pupil will be $7,048. The 2.3% per pupil increase will be the second highest increase in 11 years, second only to the 4% set for the 2014-15 school year.

See the Iowa Policy Project blog, Iowa Policy Points, for historical analysis of the per pupil increase, found here <https://iowapolicypoints.org/2020/03>

**Check out the FY 2020** [**ISFIS New Authority Report**](https://www.iowaschoolfinance.com/budget_projections)and consider the final 2.3% proposal with the 3.75% RSAI request. First, determine how much new authority you have at 2.3%. What additional resources would be available to your district? How would your district put those dollars to work for students? Start thinking now about advocacy through the Interim and next election to create a better understanding of school needs.

**COVID-19 Resources:** Iowa Department of Public Health release of new resources for School Leaders regarding COVID-19. Issued March 12 and found here: <https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/61/covid19/K12%20Guidance%20%281%29.pdf>

**RSAI Bill Registrations**

Bill Action follows. If RSAI Legislative Priorities address our registration, you’ll see a registration already declared as in *support, undecided or opposed*. For those issues not addressed in our legislative platform, we encourage your feedback on what our registration should be, but in the meantime, will indicate a monitoring registration. Actually, we encourage your feedback and questions on any of these bills.

**Bill Action**

* [**SF 2009**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2009) **Minor Drivers’ License** by Education; this bill sets the same standard for public school students with minor drivers’ licenses as passed for nonpublic school students last year, allowing a student to drive up to 50 miles to extracurricular activities. The bill was approved 48:0 in the Senate and is assigned to the House Transportation Committee. RSAI is registered as undecided.
* [**SF 2082**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=SF2082) **DE Technical Corrections** by Education: this bill eliminates duplicative language in the Iowa Code, and modernizes language, all technical (nonsubstantive) corrections. The bill updates titles of members of the Child Development Coordinating Council, updates language on school district agency funds to name them custodial funds, updates provisions on special education related to open-enrollment and to shared-time provisions, and updates language on electronic access offered by the State Library. The bill was approved by the House 98:0, sending it to the Governor. RSAI supports the bill.
* [**SF 2153**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2253) **Student Health Screenings** by Education; this bill prohibits school districts or school personnel from administering health screenings to students without parent permission. The bill creates an exception for emerging health issues, defines an emergent care situation as the need to screen students for symptoms during a disease outbreak, and prohibits invasive physical exams. The bill specifically states that it does not apply to an episodic, individual screening done in accordance with professional licensed practice. A Subcommittee of Reps. Shipley, Gaines and Hanusa met to consider the bill and recommended the concept move forward, but it could be amended on to SF 438 which also addresses health screenings and also in the House Education Committee. RSAI is undecided.
* [**SF 2184**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2184) **Carrying on School Grounds** by Public Safety; this bill allows a peace officer or reserve peace officer, whether certified or not, and federal peace officers whose duties include carrying a gun, to carry a gun on school grounds, whether the officer is in the performance of official duties or not. The bill was approved by the Senate, 48-0 and goes to the House Public Safety Committee, where a subcommittee of Reps. Holt, Klein and Wessel-Kroeschell recommended the bill move forward. It was on the House Public Safety Committee agenda for today, but that meeting was cancelled. RSAI is registered as monitoring this bill.
* [**SF 2261**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2261) **Telehealth School Behavioral Services** by Education; this bill authorizes schools and AEAs to offer behavioral health screenings and services through telehealth. Requires insurance or Medicaid to pay the same for such telehealth services as for in-person services. Includes provisions to define appropriate provider/student relationships, communication with the school if there is a threat of danger to others or self, protection of student privacy and communication with parents and the student’s primary care provider. The bill was amended to allow a provider/patient relationship to be established virtually when the standard of care doesn’t require it to be established in person. The bill was amended and approved 49:0 in the Senate and sent to the House. The bill was approved in the House Human Resources Committee with an amendment. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**SF 2298**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2298) **Drivers’ Education Instruction** by Transportation; this bill exempts retired peace office from DOT certification requirements in order to teach drivers’ education courses. The bill was approved in the Senate 48:0 and moves to the House Transportation Committee. RSAI is undecided.
* [**SF 2310**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2310) **Online Learning** by Education; this bill originally resuscitated ILO with a $500,000 annual appropriation and would have mandated that ILO offer Chinese as a course. A strike-after amendment and discussed changes to the amendment in the Education Committee would allow the AEAs to coordinate and offer online learning, require districts that create their own online learning coursework submit that to the DE for confirmation that it aligns to core standards, and corrects a typo in the Iowa Code to allow districts up to two additional offer and teach courses be allowed online under certain conditions. Requires districts to pay the AEAs for costs of online courses accessed through the AEAs. RSAI is still registered as undecided. We believe in local control and think the requirement to submit coursework to the DE for approval is not necessary but expect an amendment to address that concern in the Education Committee. The bill was approved 49:0 in the Senate. The subcommittee of Reps. Moore, T., Gassman and Kurth met this week and recommended it move forward with amendment.
* [**SF 2329**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2329) **Occupational Therapist for Concussions** by Education; this bill adds occupational therapists to the list of providers who can address concussions to detect during a sporting event or treat and release back into participation. The bill was put forward by ChildServe. The bill was approved by the Senate 49:0, and approved this week by the House Education Committee. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**SF 2356**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%202356&ga=88) **Dyslexia Specialists and Board** by Education; this bill requires the State BOE to adopt rules in collaboration with the Iowa Reading Research Center, prescribing standards and procedures for the approval of practitioner prep programs affiliated with the IRRC and that offer prep programs for the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement issued by the BOEE. The bill prohibits the state BOE from approving practitioner prep programs for such an endorsement if the program is not affiliated with the IRRC. Requires the DE to designate one FTE for a dyslexia consultant and specifies duties and qualifications of the consultant. Creates an Iowa Dyslexia Board to guide, facilitate, and oversee implementation of dyslexia instruction in Iowa and make recommendations for continuous improvement. Specifies areas of recommendations and membership of the board and requires an annual report every November. Requires BOEE, in consultation with the IRRC, to establish an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement. Requires AEAs, subject to appropriation, to dedicate at least one full-time equivalent position to maintain a dyslexia specialist by July 1, 2024. Absent the appropriation, each AEA is encouraged to employ such a specialist. Requires by July 1, 2024, all AEA employees with a license, certification, statement of recognition, or authorization other than a coaching authorization, issued by the BOEE, to complete the IRRC dyslexia overview module. After that date, all new hires to the AEAs have one year to complete the module. Defines dyslexia. Requires by July 1, 2024, school boards to require all employees with a teaching license or special education endorsement, or PK-3 levels endorsement, to complete the IRRC dyslexia overview module. All such licensed new hires to school districts after July 1, 2024 have one year to complete the module. The bill was approved 49:0 in the Senate. The subcommittee of Reps. Salmon, Brink and James met and recommended that the bill move forward with amendment. RSAI would likely support the AEA support and clarity of rules, but is concerned about the unfunded mandate surrounding mandated training, thus registered as undecided.
* [**HF 2192**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2192) **Telehealth Payments** by Human Resources; this bill requires health carriers to reimburse health care providers for telehealth services at the same rate an in-person service as of January 2021. The bill was amended to require telehealth services to be in real-time and prohibited health carriers from requiring additional health care professionals to be present. The bill was approved 99:0 in the House and sent to the Senate. The bill is assigned to the Human Resources Committee with a subcommittee of Sens. Edler, Mathis and Segebart assigned. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**HF 2308**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202308&ga=88) **Open Meeting Subjects** by State Government; the bill defines the content subject to open meetings to include budgetary duties: *“Meeting”* means a gathering in person or by electronic means, formal or informal, of a majority of the members of a governmental body where there is deliberation or action upon any matter within the scope of the governmental body’s policy-making or budgetary duties. Meetings shall not include a gathering of members of a governmental body for purely ministerial or social purposes when there is no discussion of policy or budgetary duties or no intent to avoid the purposes of this chapter. The bill also defines “good cause” exemption from the 24-hour requirement of public notice includes a personnel or student matter. The bill was approved by the House, 96;0, approved unanimously by the Senate State Government Committee, and moves to the Senate Calendar. RSAI is undecided.
* [**HF 2359**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202359&ga=88) **Teacher Preparation Reports** by Education (similar to SF 2010): removes the requirement that students applying to the college of education must have a minimum test score on the Praxis I to be admitted, eliminates the mandate for teacher prep programs to administer the test before entrance into the prep program, but requires those teacher prep programs that administer the pretest to report test scores to the DE. The bill was approved in the House 98:0. The subcommittee of Sens Sinclair, Behn and Giddens recommended the bill move forward in the full Education Committee. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**HF 2416**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CJen%5CDownloads%5Clegis.iowa.gov%5Clegislation%5CBillBook%3Fga%3D88%26ba%3Dhf2416) **Complaint Timelines** by State Government; this bill increases the timeline for filing complaints regarding open meetings/public records with the Iowa Public Information Board from 60 to 90 days. The bill was approved 95:0 in the House and was approved by the Senate State Government Committee, moving it to the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided.
* [**HF 2419**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202419&ga=88) **ELL Weighting** by Education**;** this bill establishes two categories for weighting to support students with limited English proficiency based on students’ scores on the state ELL test. The bill defines both categories (intensive and intermediate) and assigns a supplementary weighting of 0.3 to the English-language learners in the intensive category and a supplementary weighting of 0.25 to those in the intermediate category. The current weighting for all ELL students is .22. The bill does not change the 5-year limitation of state aid, but also does not limit the ability of districts to request SBRC authority for excess ELL costs above the weighting or for additional time beyond the 5 years. The bill is now in the House Appropriations Committee. A new [fiscal note](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FN/1130434.pdf) estimates the impact of increased weighting over time, beginning with $6.5 million in FY 2022. The House Appropriations Committee approved the bill unanimously, sending it to the House Calendar. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**HF 2443**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2443) **Senior Year Plus Proficiency** by Education; this bill strikes the requirements for a student to show proficiency in various subjects to participate in the senior year plus program and expands the ability of community colleges to assess the readiness of students. This bill comes from the DE. They are concerned that with new state tests having higher baselines for proficiency, about 14,000 students who would otherwise have qualified as proficient on the state test of the prior year would not on the current test, so would not be allowed access to concurrent enrollment courses. (Note; CTE concurrent enrollment recourses do not require proficiency on state tests, so this would apply to liberal arts courses, higher level math and science, etc.) This bill was approved by the House 98:0. The subcommittee of Sens. Sinclair, Behn and Smith met and discussed an alternative process of another option to determine proficiency based on mutual agreement of the district and community college, recommending it move forward to the full Education Committee. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**HF 2454**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2454) **Community College Instructors:** This bill allows a community college instructor to teach CTE courses if the instructor has a bachelor's degree with 18 credit hours in the CTE field or an associate degree if that is the final degree in the CTE field and 3,000 hours of relevant work experience. This bill was passed by the House 98-0, the Senate approved it 46:0, sending it to the Governor. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**HF 2460**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2460) **PK Eligibility** by Education;this bill allows students who are 5-years old after March 15 (young 5-year-olds) to enroll in preschool and count in the enrollment to generate funding in the subsequent year. The expansion of eligibility is limited to a three-year-period, as a trial run. The bill allows a child who is a young 5 to repeat preschool if they attended as a 4-year-old. The bill requires slots to go to 4-year-olds if there is a waiting list. The bill was approved unanimously by the House Appropriations Committee, moving it to the House Calendar. RSAI is registered in support.

**Funnel Deadline:** The next critical funnel deadline is March 20, by which time, bills must be approved by the opposite committee of the chamber of origin (house bills approved senate committee and senate bills approve by house committee) in order to stay alive for consideration. Ways and Means (tax policy) bills and Appropriations (spending) bills are exempt from the funnel deadline, as are leadership bills.

**Advocacy Resources**

**Connecting with Legislators: See the RSAI Jan. 23, 2020 weekly** [Report](http://nebula.wsimg.com/794dd24bbc0c3bd2c451079c6920a003?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1) **for information about legislator biographies, contact information and committee assignments.**

**Advocacy Resources:**

To find Advocacy Resources such as Position Papers, RSAI Weekly Legislative Reports and video updates, RSAI Calls to Action when immediate advocacy action is required, testimony presented to the State Board of Education, the DE or any legislative committee or public hearing, and links to fiscal information that may inform your work, visit the RSAI legislative web page here: <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>