

News Advisory - for Immediate Release  
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**Monday: Parents and Community Members from across Iowa to gather with Iowa Legislators to discuss 2017 education legislation and priorities.**

**DES MOINES** - Parents and Community members will join with Iowa Legislators in a public forum, organized by Parents for Great Iowa Schools, at the Wellmark YMCA (first floor conference room) on Monday, January 30, 2017 from 7 - 8:15pm. Iowans from all over the state are invited to participate as the public forum will be broadcast live on Facebook at "Parents for Great Iowa Schools."

**WHAT:**

The forum's main focus will be public education legislation and priorities in the 2017 Iowa Legislature. The format will allow for the legislators to talk about specific 2017 legislation. A moderated Q&A session will follow. Questions will be taken from the audience as well as participants watching via Facebook Live. The event will be moderated by one of our parent members, Brian Gentry.

**WHO:**

Confirmed legislators who will attend as panelists:  
-Senator Mark Chelgren (District 41, Ottumwa), Member of the Senate Ed Committee  
-Senator Herman Quirnbach (District 23, Ames), Ranking Member of the Senate Ed Committee  
-Representative Kevin Koester (District 38, Ankeny), Member of the House Ed Committee  
-Representative Sharon Steckman (District 53, Mason City), Ranking Member of the House Ed Committee.

All member of the House and Senate Committees were invited and may be in the audience.

**Parents for Great Iowa Schools**

**Who we are.** We are Iowa parents, grandparents and community members who advocate on behalf of all children in Iowa to receive world-class public education.

**What we believe.** We believe each student's education should prepare him/her for 21st-century challenges. Education should encourage strong problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, creativity, and innovation. We believe world-class schools are a primary contributor to maintaining strong communities and generating the skilled workforce Iowa and the world needs.

**What we do.** We actively monitor Iowa education-related legislation. We advocate at the state legislature for success for all Iowa public school students.

**Our Values**

**Non-partisan.** Public education is an investment all citizen taxpayers make in students to, in turn, generate knowledgeable and well-prepared citizens who become the productive workforce of the coming generations. Public education is an issue that impacts the general welfare of everyone in our state. Public education is not a political issue.

**Student Focused.** Children have no single advocacy group specifically devoted to their very special interest as students and future Iowans. Parents, families and community members can be a voice for them. That is us.

**Informed.** We focus on non-partisan facts based in research. We focus on integrity. We listen first and act second.

**Action Oriented.** We commit to using facts to develop our public education priorities. We pledge to take meaningful action and to advocate on behalf of all Iowa public education students.

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