**RSAI Legislative Update   
Mar. 7, 2019**

In this Mar. 7, 2019 RSAI Report of the 2019 Legislative Session, find information about:

* **Funnel Survivors Subcommittee and Committee Work**
* **Other bills get assigned new bill numbers**
* **Anti-Public Education Bills: Vouchers, Charters and Diversity Plan/Open Enrollment Status**
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**Find this week’s RSAI Capitol Recap Video here:** https://youtu.be/zPQS14ESXaM

**Funnel Deadlines:** March 8 is the funnel deadline by which House files must clear a House committee and Senate files must clear a Senate Committee to survive.  Tax bills, appropriations bills, oversight committee bills and bills sponsored by leadership are exempt from the funnel deadlines. Any bill that died may come back as an amendment to another bill. Several bills on school start date and making up snow days did not survive the funnel deadline. However, bills introduced this year remain in their committees for continued work in the 2020 Session. Expect emphasis on floor work next week since bills have to get out of the other chamber committee by April 5, which is the end of week 12 of the Session. **Funnel survivors:**

**Virtual Snow Days Interim Study Committee:** [SF 480](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%20480&ga=88) (formerly known as [SF 353](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf353)) requires an Interim committee (legislators from House and Senate and from both parties) to study the feasibility of virtual school days held during inclement weather and allowing them to count as instructional days. The study requires a look at Iowa school districts offering virtual school days, other states’ practices, barriers and how to overcome them. The bill requires a report by December, 2019. The Senate Education Committee amended the study to include a look at impact on instruction and different student populations, as well as considering best practice for virtual instruction. With this changed focus, RSAI is registered in support.

[**HF 596**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf596) (formerly [HSB 130](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb130)) **Whole Grade Sharing/Reorganization Incentives** extension for five years. On the House Calendar. Companion SF 138 in on the Senate Calendar. RSAI supports.

[**SCR8**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SCR%208&ga=88) (formerly [**SSB 1214**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/lobbyist/reports/declarations?ga=88&ba=SSB1214)**)** **Fine Arts Study**: this bill would require an interim study committee to review the funding, staffing, professional development, course offerings, including arts integration courses, parental, family and community engagement measure, procurement of and access to instructional materials, and state priorities for fine arts education in broader school improvement efforts. The study encourages appointment of public members to the interim committee and specifies a long list of stakeholders to be included on an advisory group. The bill was approved by the Senate Education Committee. RSAI is registered as undecided. It is on the Senate Calendar.

[**HF 420**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf420) **and** [**SF 139**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf139) **Financial Literacy Implementation**: these identical bills delay the implementation of the financial literacy mandate to apply to graduates in the 2022-23 school year (the incoming freshman class of July 1, 2019.) Both bills are on the House Calendar. RSAI supports.

[**SF 159**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf159) **and** [**HF 513**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf513) **Praxis Test Waiver** and Score setting Process: these bills were approved by their respective Education Committee and are on their respective calendars. RSAI supports.

[**SF 488**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf488) **Concurrent Enrollment STEM**; this bill as approved by the Senate Education Committee allows one math and one science concurrent enrollment course to meet offer and teach requirements. The bill also increases the weighting for liberal arts concurrent enrollment courses from 46 to 50 hundredths. The bill allows the students enrolled in these courses to generate supplementary weighting if the course is counted to meet offer and teach, if there are at least 5 students in the course and the district has 600 or fewer students enrolled. The bill also creates a process for nonpublic schools to work with community colleges to provide such courses at the private school. RSAI supports.

[**SF 394**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf394) **Online Learning**: this bill clarifies that school districts may develop their own online learning course content, may work with other districts, may purchase from a private provider approved by the DE or may use Iowa Learning Online courses to offer and teach a course for accreditation purposes. RSAI supports. The bill was approved by the Senate Education Committee and is on the Senate Calendar.

[**SF 445**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf455) **ELL Weighting**: this bill increases the weighting for students receiving English-language learner funding from .22 to .295. The bill was approved by the Senate Education Committee and is assigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee. RSAI supports.

[**HF 445**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf445) **Foster Care Placement Weighting**: this bill creates a weighting for students placed in residential facilities if the student does not have a special education designation, as if the student required level one special education services. The bill was amended and approved by the House Education Committee and may be assigned to the House Appropriations Committee before moving to the House Calendar. RSAI supports. Thanks to RSAI member Superintendents Scott Williamson from Sioux Central and Joel Pedersen from Cardinal for providing testimony at the Subcommittee meeting this week!

[**HF 349**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf349) **Radon Testing and Mitigation** **Mandate**: this bill as amended requires schools to test for radon by 2024 and if multiple tests confirm an unacceptable level of radon, requires schools to mitigate. The bill includes both testing and mitigation as allowable SAVE or PPEL expenses. The bill requires school districts to use certified radon professionals or school employees trained in radon testing/mitigation. The amendment approved by the House Education Committee is not yet rolled into the bill, which will receive a new bill number and be assigned to the House Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[**SF 479**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf479) **Children’s Mental Health System:** this bill is a priority of the Governor. There is currently no school responsibility or mental health screening of students at school, although that was a recommendation of the Interim task force. The bill does require a school administrator to be appointed to the new Children’s Mental Health State Board. RSAI is registered as undecided. This bill was approved by the Senate Committee on Human Resources and is on the Senate Calendar.

[**HSB 160**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb160) **Open Meetings**; this bill, by the Iowa Public Information Board, requires an advisory committee, or other body formally and directly created by an executive order, motion, amendment, resolution, or ordinance of a political subdivision (including school boards) or by a superintendent of schools if the school board has expressly authorized the superintendent to act on behalf of the school district, to develop and make recommendations on public policy and budget issues to the board. The amendment limits the scope of the committee to recommendations on public policy and budget issues. RSAI is opposed. The bill was approved by the House Local Government Committee and will get a new bill number and be assigned to the House Calendar.

**Committee bills get new Bill Numbers**

[**HF 592**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf592) (formerly [HF 184](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf184)) **Preschool Eligibility,** which changes the statewide preschool program for four-year-old children to the statewide preschool program for young children and allows both four-year-olds and five-year-olds to attend. RSAI supports preschool expansion, but without either on-time funding or another source of start-up funds, little expansion is likely to happen. The fiscal note estimates the cost of at least $50 million. RSAI is undecided. It is assigned to the House Appropriations Committee.

[**HF 598**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf598) (formerly [HF 197](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf197)) **Sibling Assignments:** this bill was amended to require school administrators, prior to assigning siblings who are enrolled in kindergarten through grade five and deemed by the school district to be at the same grade level academically to a classroom, to defer to parents in the placement of siblings in the same classroom. RSAI is opposed. It is on the House Calendar.

[**SF 439**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf439) (formerly [SF 298](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf298)) **DOE Rules**, which RSAI supports. This bill shifts the presumption on rule enforcement to the DE to prove they have explicit authority to require specific action, instead of on the school board to prove the DE rules are unreasonable or capricious. This should help Iowa transition to an operational Home Rule environment. On the Senate Calendar.

[**SF 438**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf438) (formerly [SSB 1190](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=ssb1190)) **Elimination of unfunded mandates**, was amended (Senate Education Committee removed the provisions to repeal the nurse and librarian mandate) and approved by the Senate Education Committee. Other provisions including repeal of green cleaning mandate and removing school districts from the health screenings record keeping responsibilities stayed in the bill. The bill may not progress further given the uproar it received before the committee meeting. RSAI is registered in support. On the Senate Calendar.

**RSAI Call to Action This week: Vouchers, Charters and Diversity Plans/Open Enrollment. Thanks to all who communicated with legislators! Bill Status:**

* **Diversity Plans and Open** **Enrollment**, [**HF 6**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf6), despite subcommittee recommendation to move forward, did not get House Education Committee consideration, so died due to the funnel. It’s companion bill, SF 199, did survive the funnel and is on the Senate Calendar. RSAI is opposed.
* **Charter Schools,** [**HSB 213**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb213) , did not get House Education Subcommittee approval to move forward, so died due to the funnel. RSAI is opposed.
* **Vouchers,** [**SF 372**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf372)**,** was overhauled in the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday. Republican Senators Cournoyer and Lofgren joined with the Democrats in opposition, but the amendment and the bill were both approved on a vote of 8:7. The amendment limited the education savings account to students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan if the student is enrolled in an accredited private school or was denied open enrollment and is paying tuition to a non-resident public school. The ESA is equal to the weighting generated by the student’s special education designation. Look for a new call to action soon after we further analyze the amendment. RSAI is opposed.

**SAVE Extension Bills** [**HF 425**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=HF%20425) **and** [**SF 74**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf74)

* **SAVE in the Senate:** State Penny for School Infrastructure extension, SF 74, is still in the Senate Ways and Means Committee assigned to a Subcommittee of Sen. Feenstra, Dawson and Jochum. If you have a Senator on that committee (see list below), continue to reach out regularly and see how they are coming along.
* **SAVE in the House:** HF 425 is on the House Calendar, awaiting floor action. RSAI is registered in favor of the bill.

**Advocacy Resources**

To find Advocacy Resources such as Calls to Action, 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>

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

Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate

[margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com](mailto:margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com)

515.201.3755 Cell

**Legislator Contact Information follows:** Find out who your legislators are through the interactive map or address search posted on the Legislative Website here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>

You can click on any legislator to find their office phone and email address or search the Iowa Secretary of State’s general election candidate list for all House members and those Senators who were elected in November of 2018 to see their home address, local phone or cell phone number and email address.

That list is found here: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/candidates/generalcandidatelist.pdf>

To call and leave a message at the statehouse during session, the House switchboard operator number is 515.281.3221 and the Senate switchboard operator number is 515.281.3371. You can ask if they are available or leave a message for them to call you back.

**Key Committee Contacts (every name is linked to their legislative email address within the table):**

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| **Senate Education Committee Members:**  [**Amy Sinclair**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=10729)**(R, District**[**14**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925098.pdf)**), Chair**  [**Chris Cournoyer**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=27004)**(R, District**[**49**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925133.pdf)**), Vice Chair**  [**Herman C. Quirmbach**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=161)**(D, District**[**23**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925107.pdf)**), Ranking Member**  [Jerry Behn](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=140) (R, District [24](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925108.pdf))  [Claire Celsi](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=27000) (D, District [21](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925105.pdf))  [Jeff Edler](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18076) (R, District [36](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925120.pdf))  [Craig Johnson](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18075) (R, District [32](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925116.pdf))  [Tim Kraayenbrink](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=14812) (R, District [5](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925089.pdf))  [Mark S. Lofgren](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=9406) (R, District [46](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925130.pdf))  [Amanda Ragan](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=110) (D, District [27](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925111.pdf))  [Ken Rozenboom](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=10731) (R, District [40](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925124.pdf))  [Jackie Smith](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=26998) (D, District [7](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925091.pdf))  [Annette Sweeney](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=6585) (R, District [25](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925109.pdf))  [Zach Wahls](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=27002) (D, District [37](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925121.pdf))  [Brad Zaun](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=788) (R, District [20](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925104.pdf)) | **Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:**  [**Randy Feenstra**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=6565)**(R, District**[**2**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925086.pdf)**), Chair**  [**Dan Dawson**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18072)**(R, District**[**8**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925092.pdf)**), Vice Chair**  [**Pam Jochum**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=35)**(D, District**[**50**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925134.pdf)**), Ranking Member**  [Jerry Behn](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=140) (R, District [24](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925108.pdf))  [Joe Bolkcom](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=123) (D, District [43](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925127.pdf))  [Waylon Brown](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18074) (R, District [26](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925110.pdf))  [Jim Carlin](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18041) (R, District [3](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925087.pdf))  [Jake Chapman](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=10728) (R, District [10](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925094.pdf))  [William A. 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