RSAI 2021

Legislative Digest

**About RSAI**

Visit the RSAI home page to find out more: [www.rsaia.org](http://www.rsaia.org)

The Rural School Advocates of Iowa began our advocacy journey in January, 2013, bringing together school leaders into an organization with the specific charge to collaborate and promote legislation that strengthens rural education for students, by building a voice for students and educators in Iowa. RSAI advocates for students in rural schools to assure a fair, equal and quality education. This group of over 125 member school districts, with all nine Area Agencies as associate members, continues to grow in both size and relevance.

RSAI is comprised of four quadrants of the state, known as the SE, SW, NE and NW regions. Each elects a representative to the RSAI Leadership Group and to the RSAI Legislative Group.

RSAI is recognized as a state affiliate of the National Rural Education Association: [www.nrea.net](http://www.nrea.net)

**RSAI Leadership Group and Terms**

Dennis McClain\*, Chair, At-large Direction, Superintendent Adair-Casey/Guthrie Center, dmcclain@acgcschools.org (Sept. 2022)

SW: Paul Croghan, Vice Chair, Nodaway Valley & CAM Superintendent, paul.croghan@rsaia.org (Sept. 2022)

SE: Laurie Noll, Secretary-Treasurer, Fairfield, Superintendent, laurie.noll@fairfieldsfuture.org (Sept. 2023)

NW: Justin Daggett, Manson NW Webster, Superintendent, jdaggett@manson-nw.k12.ia.us (Sept. 2023)

NE: Nick Trenkamp, Central, Superintendent, nicholas.trenkamp@rsaia.org (Sept. 2021)

Dan Peterson\*, Central Dewitt Superintendent, dan.peterson@cd-csd.org (Sept. 2021)

Scott Williamson\*, Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont, Superintendent (At-large Director Sept. 2024)

**RSAI Legislative Group (one-year term without term limits) supports RSAI’s policy development and advocacy! includes at large members above \* plus:**

SW – Tim Mitchell / Riverside Superintendent reappointed for 2021

NE – Barb Schwamman / Osage and Riceville Superintendent reappointed for 2021

SE – Joel Pedersen / Cardinal Superintendent reappointed for 2021

NW - Brian Johnson, Prairie Valley & Southeast Webster Grand Superintendent reappointed for 2021

**Professional Advocates**

Margaret Buckton, margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com, (515) 251-5970 Ext. 1 (515) 201-3755 cell

Dave Daughton, dave.daughton@rsaia.org, (641) 344-5205

**Additional RSAI Member Benefits**

RSAI offers additional member benefits, such as free licensure checks for prospective or current employees through the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, NASDTEC, Clearinghouse. The Iowa Department of Education [School Leader Update](https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/June%202018%20School%20Leader%20Update.pdf), June 2018, explains the value:

“**Why is the Clearinghouse important?** Since most adverse actions taken against an educator’s certificate are not prosecuted as criminal offenses, the educator's misconduct will not show up in a traditional criminal background check. By including the NASDTEC Clearinghouse in its screening of certified and non-certified applicants, a school district can make fully informed hiring decisions.”

**Collaborations**

RSAI is a member of the Iowa Rural Development Council (IRDC). IRDC’s mission is to advance the interests of rural Iowa through strong partners and collective resources. Learn more at [www.iowardc.org](http://www.iowardc.org).

 **NREA Affiliate:** Rural School Advocates of Iowa, as the state affiliate of the National Rural Education Association, includes Iowa rural school board members, administrators, and teachers in a network of over 3000 nationwide who advocate for rural schools, conduct rural education research, and share successes and challenges.

**Thanks to our RSAI Corporate Sponsors:**

Special thank you to your RSAI Corporate Sponsors for their support of RSAI programs and services. You can find information about how these organizations may help your district on the Corporate Sponsor page of the RSAI website at [www.rsaia.org/corporate-sponsors.html](http://www.rsaia.org/corporate-sponsors.html).

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