**RSAI Legislative Update   
March 5, 2020**

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

* **SSA Compromise**
* **Other RSAI Priority Legislation**
* **Bill Action Including Future Ready Act (Computer Science), Classroom Behavior, Telehealth Counseling, and Others**
* **RSAI Win on the Federal Front: REAP**
* **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)** COMPROMISE ANNOUNCED! The Senate amended [SF 2142](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=SF%202142) from the 2.5% sent to them from the House to the compromise 2.3% position on Wednesday. The House concurred in the 2.3% proposal, sending it the Governor. 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 will be an additional $10 from the equity bill applied to that number, so the new state cost per pupil will be $7,048. The reference to the state’s investment in public schools during floor debate mentioned that this is $106 million increase to schools. That includes a full restoration of the $15 million cut to AEAs which would happen if they did nothing, as a mechanism of the formula. However, during the last decade, the standings appropriations bill at the end of session typically continues the cut of $15 million. Additionally, the property tax replacement total per pupil increases to $131. That’s at a cost of an additional $12.4 million out of the $106 million total. Adjusting for those two things, it’s essentially $78.9 million in new money to AEAs and School Districts. 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.

This 2.3% amount leaves 106 school districts with declining enrollment on budget guarantee, which is a one-year influx of local property tax dollars that will be subtracted from the regular program budget in the following year.

**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 down the road to change this conversation.

**RSAI Priority: Poverty Equity:** this bill requires the Department of Education to convene a poverty study workgroup. See [HF 2490](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2490) below. Also, [HF 2497](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202497&ga=88) DoP Equity would allow school districts with a cap in dropout prevention authority lower than 5% to annual request the additional authority up to 5% from the School Budget Review Committee. RSAI supports this bill too, now in the House Appropriations Committee. A subcommittee of Rep. Kerr, Hall and Wills is assigned but has not yet met on the bill.

**Priority: Flexibility/Teacher Shortage/Online Learning**: [**HF 2384**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2384) **Governor Reynolds’ Future Ready Act** proposals moving through the House and Senate require a half unit of computer science at high school to meet offer and teach requirements. RSAI is supporting an amendment to allow that requirement, the financial literacy half unit and all four sequential units of foreign language, even if offered exclusively online, to meet offer and teach requirements and to eliminate the requirement to seek waivers for those specific courses. That amendment is expected to be added in the appropriations committee discussions soon in both chambers. See bill description of [**HF 2384**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2384) and companion [**SF 2313**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%202313&ga=88) below.

**Federal Advocacy Update: REAP Eligibility Formula**

RSAI is the national affiliate of NREA, which works with AASA on issues critical to rural schools in Washington. We sent a call to action to our RSAI members on Feb. 12 to ask them to contact Sens. Grassley and Ernst. Secretary DeVos had notified schools and states that the federal DOE was going to limit the ability of states to use alternative metrics of poverty to determine REAP Rural low income schools (RLIS) program eligibility. AASA estimated some 800 schools nationwide would lose funding. Even though Iowa does not yet use an alternative metric such as Free and Reduced Price Lunch for REAP eligibility, in conversations with our own DE folks, they want to and are working on that option. The census numbers in the last two years have produced inexplicable swings that heavily impacted Title I distributions and REAP. So today, Sec. DeVos retracted her proposal, said she would allow for a year of alternative measures for eligibility, and would submit legislation to Congress for them to make the determination permanent. This keeps the door open for Iowa to be able to use the alternative measure at some point, especially if Congress passes the legislation to protect that option.

So just to let you know, Iowa Senators Grassley and Ernst both signed on to the letter that was delivered to Sec. DeVos asking for relief, and she responded. So thanks to all who contacted our Congressional Delegation, who listened to rural school needs and added their support to this effort.

**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.

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.

**Bill Action**

* [**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. The bill was amended and approved in the Senate, 49:0 and moves to the House. A Subcommittee of Reps. Shipley, Gaines and Hanusa has been assigned. 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 is assigned. 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 Subcommittee of A. Meyers, Fry and Brown-Powers met and recommend moving it to the full Human Resources Committee with an amendment. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**SF 2268**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2268) **Smoking/Vaping Age** by State Government; this bill raises the age for tobacco, nicotine and vapor products to age 21 and includes then all in the ban on indoor smoking. Federal law passed, requiring states to conform with this minimum age in order to continue to receive funds for substance abuse programs. This sends the bill to the Governor for her signature. RSAI is monitoring this bill.
* [**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. The bill was approved 49:0 in the Senate. Now goes to the House Education Committee where a subcommittee of Reps. Moore, T., Gassman and Kurth has been assigned.
* [**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, assigned to the House Education, where a subcommittee met on Wednesday and recommended passage. 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 and goes over to the House Education Committee where a subcommittee of Reps. Salmon, Brink and James is assigned. 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.
* [**SF 2360**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2360) **Therapeutic Classroom** by Education (companion [HF 2532](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202532&ga=88) by Education); the Senate bill was amended and approved unanimously 50:0 in the Senate last week and has since been referred to the House Appropriations Committee, where the House version is also assigned. The Subcommittee of Reps. Dolecheck, Kerr and Mascher met and discussed the bill this week. Rep. Dolecheck stated his intention to work from the Senate file. (Concerns about an appeal process that ignored the chain of command would have applied to the House version, but are no longer a concern since that process is not included in the Senate bill.) The bill as amended by the Senate requires the following:
  + **Best practice and Training:** Requires the DE to define appropriate and inappropriate responses to behavior, including standards, guidelines and expectations, and requires DE and AEAs to create PD on least restrictive environment and evidence-based interventions, and requires teacher prep programs to include this content in teacher prep.
  + **Therapeutic Classroom Grants:** Creates a grant process to fund creation of therapeutic classroom programs. Uses a formula weighting at the upper range of intended slots (for programs intended to serve 1-5 student, weighting of 1.5 X 5; for programs intended to serve 6-10 students, weighting of 1.5 X 10, and for programs intended to serve 11-15 students, weighting of 1.5 X 15). The bill caps the total amount granted to not exceed 150 students at the 1.5 weighting. Also creates a process to reimburse for transportation costs to the classroom for public and nonpublic students in such classrooms for whom transportation is not included in an IEP, if over 30 miles. The bill requires school districts to submit claims by June 15 and the DE to provide reimbursement by July. The bill requires the DE to prorate reimbursements if claims exceed appropriated amounts.
  + **Defines therapeutic classroom** as a classroom designed for the purpose of providing support for any student whose emotional, social or behavioral needs interfere with the student’s ability to be successful in the current educational environment, with or without supports, until the student is able to return to the current education environment, with or without supports, including but not limited to the general education classrooms.
  + **Softens Least Restrictive Environment Requirements**: changes Iowa code language on LRE to be consistent with federal IDEA law. Iowa Code 256B.2(2)(a) currently requires that to the maximum extent possible, children requiring special education shall attend regular classes and shall be educated with children who do not require special education. The bill strikes “to the maximum extent possible” and replaces it with “consistent with the LRE requirements under IDEA”. The bill also changes the standard from whenever possible to whenever appropriate, that supports for special education students be provided in the inclusive classroom rather than separately.
  + **Regulates Room Clears:** Prohibits IEPs and behavior intervention plans (BIPs) from requiring room clears to calm the student. Allows room clears only if necessary to prevent or terminate an imminent threat of bodily injury to a student or another person in the classroom. Requires IEPs to be consistent with federal law. Requires parents of the classroom be notified but prohibits identification of students either directly or indirectly involved in the event. Requires the principal to request a meeting with the parent of the student causing the room clear, to meet with the principal, the teachers and other appropriate staff. Requires the classroom teacher to call for and be included in a review of the student’s IEP or BIP. Allows AEA staff to inform parents during that IEP review if appropriate, about individual or family counseling services in the area.
  + **Transportation Adjustment:** Requires that reimbursements received for such transportation be removed from district transportation costs for purposes of transportation equity payments (avoid double dipping).
  + **Accountability:** Adds to the professional ethics licensure standards, allowing a claim of ethics violation and BOEE action to sanction, suspend or invalidate a license, the failure of an administrator to protect safety of staff and students or failure to report or respond to reports of violence and adds refusal of a practitioner to implement provisions of an IEP or BIP or habitual absence from PD as possible ethics violations. Thanks also to SAI, UEN, and ISEA for working with us to come to consensus on the process!
  + **Reporting:** Requires a classroom teacher to report any alleged incident of violence or assault to the principal. Requires each school district to report to the DE an annual count of all instances of violence or assault by a student (in a school building, on school grounds or at a school sponsored event) and to report any time a student is referred for the use of or transfer to a therapeutic classroom. Defines “bodily injury” as physical pain, illness or any other impairment of physical condition. Requires reports to comply with FERPA (student records protections). The DE shall require the report include demographic information plus any other data necessary to comply with federal ESSA requirements. The DE is required to submit an annual report to the General Assembly by Nov. 1.
  + **Immunity Provisions/Corporal Punishment:** provides immunity from civil or criminal liability and whistle-blower protections for school staff (teachers and administrators) who report incidents of violence or assault. Grants an employee immunity from any disciplinary action by the employer or the BOEE imposed as a result of the physical contact. Applies the state’s whistle-blower protections to a teacher or administrator who reports. Allows physical contact to relocate a student who is causing a severe distraction impacting the educational experience of other students (but the amendment removed the other expansions of justified physical contact, such as relocating a student who is not responding to verbal or written instructions intended to change the immediate behavior of the student, or relocating the students exhibiting passive resistance behaviors.)
  + **Rules:** requires the state BOE to adopt rules to implement this section and allows for emergency rulemaking, such emergency rules being effective immediately.
  + **Civil Protection Standard**: to prevail in a disciplinary action alleging a violation of this section or related school policy, requires the party bringing the action shall prove the violation by clear and convincing evidence.
  + **Appropriations:** $500,000 to DE to develop standards and PD, $1,582,650 for the therapeutic classroom incentive, and $500,000 for transportation claims.

RSAI is registered in support of this bill and continuing to provide input through the process. SF 2360 was approved 50:0 in the Senate and both bills are now in the House Appropriations Committee.

* [**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 was approved by the House, 96;0, was assigned to Senate State Government Committee where a subcommittee met and recommended the bill move forward with amendment. RSAI is undecided.
* [**HF 2340**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2340) **Education Plan Spending** by Education; this bill adds costs for out of state elementary and secondary schools for children needing special education services as an allowable 539 Savings Plan (tax free) expenditure. The bill was approved by the House 96:0, assigned a subcommittee which met and recommended the bill move forward. RSAI is registered as 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 and is now assigned to the Senate Education Committee, where a subcommittee of Sens Sinclair, Behn and Giddens is assigned. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**HF 2384**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202384&ga=88) **Future Ready Act** by the Governor: this bill makes changes to the Future Ready Iowa Act. A new subcommittee of Reps. Deyoe, Brink, Hall, G. Mohr and Running-Marquardt has been assigned.

**The Division headers in bold impact K-12 education:**

Division I: Future Ready Iowa Apprenticeship Training Program

Division II: Iowa Child Care Challenge Fund

Division III: Workforce Diploma Pilot Project for adults without HS diploma

**Division IV: Computer Science Instruction**

* Requires high schools will offer at least a one-semester computer science course by July 1, 2021 to meet offer and teach requirements. Allows the course to be offered online.
* Requires middle and elementary schools to offer computer science instruction in at least one grade level each by July 1, 2021, but does not require a pull out or separate course, allowing the content to be embedded in the classroom.
* Requires the DE to develop a K-12 state computer science plan by July 1, 2021.
* Requires school districts/nonpublic schools to develop K-12 computer science plans by July 1, 2021.
* Establishes a computer science work group to recommend how to strengthen computer science instruction and develop a statewide campaign to promote computer science to students.
* Appropriates $500,000/Computer Science PD Incentive Fund.
* Other sources of funding will enhance PD for teachers, providing curriculum and virtual instruction for students (Microsoft Settlement funds are estimated to generate $4.0 million).
* Note from the Governor’s Office: Teachers will not be required to earn endorsements to teach computer science, but will be offered training for teaching courses and integrating computer science into other subjects. Computer science is not a graduation requirement for students, but must be offered at the high school.

**Division V: Supplementary Weighting/Shared Operational Functions**

Adds work-based learning coordinators to positions that can be paid for with operational sharing. A fiscal note has not yet been written to estimate the impact of this additional operational sharing position. Those districts already at the 21 student cap would not be able to access this position unless one of their current shared positions changes.

Division VI: Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Last Dollar Scholarship Program

**Division VII: Senior Year Plus Program and Postsecondary Enrollment Options**

Expands opportunities for high school students to earn college credit without families having to pay tuition by lifting the current annual 23-credit cap for concurrent enrollment. RSAI has expressed concerns about this provision as the supplementary weighting generated by concurrent enrollment does not fully cover the cost paid to the community college, and expects an amendment to limit the full-time option to programs authorized by districts in partnership with community colleges and private industry.

Both bills are in their respective Appropriations Committees with subcommittees having met and working on amendments. RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill, but working with legislators and the Governor’s office to amend the offer and teach requirements regarding online learning to obtain additional flexibility in fully implementing the intentions of this bill and the Senior Year Plus provisions mentioned above. If such amendment is approved as we expect during Appropriations Committee consideration, RSAI will change registration to support.

* [**HF 2416**](file:///C:\Users\Jen\Downloads\legis.iowa.gov\legislation\BillBook%3fga=88&ba=hf2416) **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 is now assigned to the Senate State Government Committee, with a new subcommittee of Sens. Whiting, Schultz and Jochum assigned. RSAI is registered as undecided.
* [**HF 2418**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202418&ga=88) **School BEDS Error Correction**s by Education; this bill allows a district to request the DE director to recognize and certify that an error made during BEDS reporting was an error, then requires the DE to submit certification to the BOEE regarding what the correct reporting should have been, requiring the BOEE to make any necessary licensure adjustments based on the correct information. The bill was approved by the House 95:0 and approved this week by the Senate Education Committee, sending it to the Senate Calendar. RSAI supports it.
* [**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) was assigned, showing the impact of increased weighting over time, beginning with $6.5 million in FY 2022. The subcommittee of Reps. Dolecheck, Brink and Winckler met and recommend passage. 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, and is now in the Senate Education Committee, with a subcommittee of Sens. Sinclair, Behn and Smith assigned. 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, sending it to the Senate where it is attached to companion SF 2154 on the Senate Calendar. 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 in House Education Committee and assigned to House Appropriations Committee. A subcommittee of Reps. Dolecheck, Brink and Mascher decided to send the bill forward to the full committee. We are awaiting a fiscal note. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**HF 2490**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2490) **Poverty Supplemental Aid Study** by Education**;** this bill requires the DE to establish a workgroup to study the creation of a poverty weighing supplement for K-12 education. Specifies membership of the committee, requires the DE to staff the workgroup and requires a report to the General Assembly by Jan. 2021. The bill follows the recommendation of the School Finance Interim Committee which suggested such a study committee. RSAI is included to invite a representative to be on the work group. RSAI supports this bill, now assigned to the House Appropriations Committee. A new subcommittee of Reps. Kerr, Hall and Wills met this week and recommended the bill move forward to the full Appropriations committee.
* [**HF 2539**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202539&ga=88) **Deaf Language Acquisition** by Education; this bill requires the DE to hire an Early Language Development Coordinator and requires the development of tools to assess the language and literacy acquisition skills of young deaf children. Establishes duties of the coordinator, including the development of language milestones. Requires the development of a resources for parents and dissemination of information to parents. Creates an advisory committee. Requires recommendation by July 2021 and annual reports. RSAI is registered as undecided. The bill was approved 98:0 in the House and is now in the Senate Education Committee.

**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>