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

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

* **Lobby Days kudos to participants**
* **SSA and Equity Funding Package**
* **SAVE through Senate Education Committee**
* **Other bills**
* **Links to members of Key Legislative Committees**
* **Advocacy Resources**

**Find this week’s RSAI Capitol Recap video** [**HERE**](https://youtu.be/ljqnO_ww69E)**:**

Thanks to all who came to AEA or IASB lobby days or those of you connecting your legislators from home! Relationship building is a long-term investment in better understanding, better representation, better state policy. Keep at it!!! Ask if you need help. Send a thank you note to any legislators you were able to visit and a “sorry we missed you” note to those you did not connect with. If you have any future plans to be in the Des Moines area and want to visit the Capitol, call Margaret’s cell or email and we’ll show you around and hook you up with legislators or committees of interest.

**State School Aid:** The House and Senate put school funding on the fast track this week, with companion bills in both chambers setting the per pupil rate increase of 2.06%, slightly before the Governor’s recommendation of ***2.3% increase***. Details of HF 306 (also SF 172):

* State cost per pupil of $6,875, which is an increase of $139 per pupil for FY 2020. (This does not include $5 per pupil from the formula equity bill, which is noted below, which will bring the SCPP up to $6,880.)
* Total cost to the state of this 2.06% increase is $81.8 million, slightly below the Governor’s $89.6 million. (The difference is seen in the Transportation/Formula equity bill below)
* The 2.06% is above the REC estimate of state general fund revenue growth of 1.9% for FY 2020. (This would be a great benchmark for them to use going forward, that exceeding the revenue estimate is a reflection of priority.)
* In the current fiscal year, 178 school districts were on the Budget Guarantee (SSA was 1.0%). With the 2.06% increase, 116 school districts will be on the Budget Guarantee.
* Check out ISFIS New Authority Calculator here to determine what 2.06% will mean for your district. There is now a specific dropdown choice of 2.06%. Access the New Authority Calculator on the ISFIS home page [here](http://www.iowaschoolfinance.com/system/files/members/Excel/New%20Authority%20Report%20FY%202020.xlsx). The 30-day statutory deadline for the enactment of the new state cost per pupil is Feb. 14, which Sen. Sinclair and Rep. Dolecheck both expect to meet given this week’s progress.

**Transportation/Formula Equity Bills** [**HF 307**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf307) **and** [**SF 171**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf171)

The House Appropriations Committee approved HF 307 on Wednesday and the Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to do so on Thursday afternoon. These bills set a standing limited appropriation of $19 million for transportation, which is an increase of $8 million compared to the FY 2019 grants. The SSA rate will be applied to the standing limited appropriation beginning in FY 2019 and future years. The current expenditure gap in transportation costs shows a low of $19 per pupil enrolled to a high of $1,197 per pupil enrolled. The $19 million will benefit 190 school districts and buy all districts with expenditures per pupil exceeding $381 down to that amount. The average transportation expenditure per pupil enrolled in the state for the 2017-18 school year was $330 per pupil (DE Annual Transportation Report.) The bills also increase the state cost per pupil by $5 to further reduce the gap between state and district cost per pupil. The $5 added in FY 2020 will close the gap to $165. At this pace ($5 per pupil per year) it would take 33 more years to get to equity. RSAI is registered in support.

**SAVE Extension Bills** [**HSB 18**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb18) **and** [**SF 74**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf74)

The SAVE extension was approved by the Senate Education Committee (State Penny for School Infrastructure SF 74) with a near unanimous vote (only Sen. Zaun voted no.) SF 74 was then referred to 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), this weekend is a great time to reach out. HSB 18 is in the House Education Committee. The bills were described in last week’s report, but in short, extend the SAVE state penny sales tax for school infrastructure through Jan 1, 2051. The bills make some slight changes regarding bonding and athletic facility uses, dedicate an eventual total of 12% of the revenues for property tax relief, and create a CTE academy fund. RSAI is one of 68 lobbying entities registered in favor of the bill. Another 48 lobbyists are registered as undecided and not a single entity is registered as opposed. Take a look at the lobbyist registration list for [SF 74](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/lobbyist/reports/declarations?ga=88&ba=HSB18) to see if anyone in your local area with a similar affiliation might be encouraged to advocate.

Advocacy Actions: Explain that SAVE extension is a UEN priority, encourage support of the compromise bill, especially to Senators and new Representatives who weren’t in the House last year to get the full background. Check to see if your Senator is on the Education Committee (Senators and email address links are listed at the conclusion of this report.)

**Other Bills Introduced or Moving through the Process:** 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 an undecided registration. This week had a large number of bills. This is not a complete list, so watch for updates of registrations next week.

[SJR 2](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sjr2), by Zaun, **Constitutional Spending Limitation**: this bill would start the process of amending the constitution to include a 99% expenditure limitation. The limitation would not include surplus balances from the prior year. The Fiscal Note estimates that, had this limitation been in place for the last five years, over $500 million of expenditures would not have been allowed. A subcommittee of Costello, Bolkcom and Koelker recommended passage with Bolkcom refusing to sign. The resolution is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. *Registered opposed.*

[SF 199](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=ssb1034), by Sinclair, **Voluntary Diversity Plan/Open Enrollment** (also HF 6 by Fisher): these bills would prohibit districts with voluntary diversity plans from regulating open enrollment in and out of the district based on the criteria in the plans. Currently, only five districts have voluntary diversity plans, including Des Moines, Davenport, Waterloo, Postville and West Liberty. The Senate Education Committee approved the bill with Sen. Lofgren joining the Democrats in voting no, on Feb. 4. HF 6 had a subcommittee meeting, with Reps. Shipley and Kerr signing the report to move the bill forward, although Rep. Kerr had some reservations, and Rep. Matson did not sign the report. *Registered opposed.*

[SF 209](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=SF209), by Sinclair, **INS Citizenship Test**: this bill would require school districts to offer high school students the opportunity to take the United States citizenship and immigration services naturalization civics test. The bill requires the DE to find an alternative test for students needing special education or English-language learner accommodation. The bill applies to school years beginning and after July 1, 2020.  *Registered opposed*. The bill was approved by the Senate Education Committee with Sen. J Smith joining the Republicans in support. The bill moves to the Senate Calendar.

[HF 78](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf78) by Gassman, **School Start Date**: this bill would allow schools to start school on the Monday after the conclusion of the Iowa State Fair. Other similar bills are expected to be released soon. This bill was assigned a subcommittee of Reps. Fry, Brink and Donahue. [HF 185](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf185) by Mitchell, **School Start Date**: This bill would allow schools to start no earlier than the Monday following the last day of the Iowa State Fair. Assigned a subcommittee of Fry, Brink and Donahue. See also SF 129 and SF 130 both assigned to subcommittees of Sinclair, Quirmbach and Zaun. *Registered in support.*

[HF 145](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf145) by Hinson, **School Misconduct Reports**: this bill requires that certain employee misconduct resulting in a disciplinary action, resignation or termination by reported to the BOEE within 30 days of the finding. (Currently there is no time requirement for reporting.) *Registered undecided.*

[HF 183](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf183) by Shipley, **School Lunch Changes**: this bill requires school lunches include at least one vegetarian option and phases in the requirements that ingredients be certified organic. Includes an unfunded mandate clause that since school receive state foundation aid, this is not an unfunded mandate. Does not give schools authority to pay for the increase costs with state foundation aid/general fund. Assigned a subcommittee of Fry, Gaines and Gassman. *Registered opposed.*

[HF 184](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf184) by Brink, **P-K Eligibility**: This bill would allow 4-year-olds with birthdays before March 15 of a base year (rather than Sept. 15 of the base year) to enroll in the statewide voluntary preschool program. This would allow more students not yet 4-year-olds in the fall to enroll in preschool and be counted for funding purposes. *Registered undecided*. Assigned to subcommittee of Reps. Brink, Ehlert, and Hanusa.

[HF 231](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf231) by Wheeler and Fisher, **Biblical Literacy Courses**: this bill requires that a school district that offers biblical literacy courses do so in a religiously-neutral manner that accommodates diverse viewpoints and does not endorse any religion. *Registered undecided.*

[HF 237](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf237) by Gassman, **School License Mileage**: this bill increases the miles a nonpublic school teen driver on a school license can drive for an activity to 50 miles. See SF 140. *Registered undecided.*

[HF 238](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf238) by Jacoby, **Tax Credit Review Committee**: this bill creates a legislative tax credit review committee in the legislative council to review specified tax credits over a 2-year period. Requires the committee to hold public meetings to ensure public and expert comments. Sets the membership at ten legislators. Assigned a subcommittee of Windschitl, Hein and Jacoby in the House Ways and Means Committee. *Registered undecided.*

[HF 242](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf242) by Mascher, **P-K eligibility for 5-year olds**: This bill would allow 5-year-olds who have not previously enrolled in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for 4-year olds to enroll. *Registered undecided.*

[HF 268](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf268) by Hinson, **Searchable School Database:** This bill requires Department of Management to put up on the internet a searchable database of school spending information by 2021 and includes requirements to schools to provide data. The bill requires schools to report the school district certified budget, all state audits or reports of the school district, school districts quarterly financial statements and other information including but not limited to accounts payable check registers and credit, debit, and purchase card statements, and any other information required as specified by the DOM director. The bill is assigned to the House Appropriations Committee. *Registered opposed*.

[HF 274](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf274) by Hinson, **PE Reports**: This bill requires school districts to report many different things about PE, including the number of students taking PE classes by attendance center, average class size by attendance center, number of days per school year students take PE, number of class periods, blocks, or other applicable measurement per week of PE classes by attendance center, total minutes of PE individual receive each week, whether district has sufficient equipment and facilities per attendance center and per student (including frequency of inspection), whether district has a policy to withhold physical activity from students as a punishment, whether students can opt out of PE to prepared for other classes or standardized tests, whether the district allows student exemptions or substitutions for PE, and whether the district has applied for a waiver of state-mandated PE requirements. *Registered opposed*.

[HSB 128](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb128) by Dolecheck **, Financial Literacy**: this bill is similar to SF 139 on the Senate Calendar and delays application of the ½ unit of financial literacy graduation requirement to the class graduating in the 2022-23 school year. *Registered in support*. Subcommittee of Reps. A Meyer, Gassman, and Staed.

[HSB 129](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb129) by Dolecheck**, School Citizenship Tests**: this bill requires high schools to offer students opportunities to take the US Citizenship test. Requires the DE to identify alternatives for LEP students and students with IEPs. See SF 209 on the Senate Calendar. *Registered opposed.* Assigned a subcommittee of Reps. Hanusa, Gaines, and A Meyer.

[HSB 130](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=HSB130) by Dolecheck, **WGS/Reorg Incentives:** this bill extends the incentives for five years until 2024. Assigned a subcommittee of Dolecheck, Mascher, Shipley. *Registered in support.*

[SSB 1094](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=ssb1094) by Edler, **Contract Thresholds**: This bill would raise the conflict of interest threshold for school board members from $2,500 to $6,000. It is assigned to the Senate Local Government Committee with a subcommittee of Sens. Edler, Garrett and Hogg. *Registered in support*.

[SF 161](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=sf161) by Greene, **Open Enrollment Payments**: this bill requires district of residence to withhold the local $5.40 uniform levy portion of the regular program district cost per pupil from tuition paid to the receiving district but must send to the receiving district PD supplement, Early Intervention supplement, AEA categorical flow-throughs, special education weighting, ELL weighting and any per pupil federal funding received by the district of residence. *Registered opposed as this formula would exacerbate differences between property poor and property rich districts.*

[SF 177](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf177) by Mathis, **Teacher Retention Task Force**: this bill requires the DE to convene a task force to student teacher retention and recruitment. Specifies areas for the task force to consider and specifies membership of the task force (including an RSAI representative.) Requires a report by Nov. 2019. *Registered undecided.*

[SF 206](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf206) by Carlin, **Special Education Study:** this bill requests an interim study on special education. Deems the study committee will receive information from various stakeholders and includes reporting requirements. *Registered undecided.*

[SF 207](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf207) by Schneider, **Police Officer Driving Instruction**: this bill strikes the requirement that a retired police or peach officer need to be authorized by the BOEE in order to teach street or highway driving. *Registered undecided.*

[SF 197](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf197) by Committee on Transportation, **School Bus Exception II:** This bill required DE to adopt rules allow the using of 9-passenger pick-ups by schools and includes requirements. It excludes certain 12-passenger vehicles as school buses. Limits the use of such vehicles to transporting students to events or home from school due to illness in an emergency. Requires the driver to be specifically approved for the event. This bill is on the Senate Calendar. SF 186 School Bus exceptions is similar. HF 136 school bus exception III is also similar. *Registered undecided.*

**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>

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

Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate

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515.201.3755 Cell

**Legislator Contact Information follows:** Find biographical information about legislators gleaned from their election web sites on the ISFIS site here: <http://www.iowaschoolfinance.com/legislative_bios> Learn about your new representatives and senators or find out something you don’t know about incumbents.

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. 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