**RSAI Legislative Update
Feb. 14, 2019**

In this Feb. 14, 2019 RSAI Report of the fifth week of the 2019 Legislative Session, find information about:

* **SSA and Equity Funding Package to the Governor**
* **SAVE through House Education Committee**
* **Other bills of interest**
* **Links to members of Key Legislative Committees**
* **Advocacy Resources**

**Find this week’s RSAI Capitol Recap Video here:** [**HERE**](https://youtu.be/ssFp4GLcE14)**:**

First, before we get into the week’s activity, thanks to all of you connecting with your legislators through phone calls, emails, and catching up with them at their Saturday forums. Keep at it!!! Ask if you need help. Send a thank you note to legislators who supported HF 307 Transportation and Formula Equity. That would include all Senators and all Representatives but for Rep. Shipley. 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.

**Funnel Deadlines:** Feb. 15 is the last day for individual legislators to request bill drafts. March 8 i s the deadlines by which House files must clear a House committee and Senate files must clear a Senate Committee to move further.  Expect emphasis on subcommittee and committee work over the next two weeks.

**Rural Advocacy in the News:** Monday’s Iowa Public Radio River to River centered on proposed changes to education funding, with guests Sen. Tim Kraayenbrink, Rep. Ras Smith, Rose Green from Parents for Great Iowa Schools, and Margaret Buckton RSAI/UEN. Listen to a recording of the show [here](https://www.iowapublicradio.org/post/proposed-changes-education-funding-fall-short-bipartisan-support#stream/0):

**State School Aid:** The Senate approved HF 306 setting the per pupil rate increase of 2.06%, sending it to the Governor, who is expected to sign the bill as soon as possible. Details of HF 306:

* 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).

**Transportation/Formula Equity Bills** [**HF 307**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf307) **:** The Senate also approved HF 307, sending it to the Governor. The bill sets 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 $19 million is estimated to benefit 190 districts and buy all districts with expenditures per pupil enrolled 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 bill also increases 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. The Governor is expected to sign this bill as soon as possible.

**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)

**SAVE in the Senate:** The SAVE extension was approved by the Senate Education Committee last week (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.

**SAVE in the House:** HSB 18 was approved this week in the House Education Committee. A strong bi-partisan group of 21 committee members approved the bill, with only Reps. Wheeler and Shipley voting no. It will be assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee.

In short, these bills 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 an RSAI 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 legislators are on their respective Education Committees (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.

[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 with a subcommittee of Reps. Hinson, Deyoe and Mascher. *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. The Subcommittee of Reps. Meyer, Gassman and Matson signed the report to move this bill forward to committee. We suggested they make the reporting requirement voluntary as a starting point rather than an unfunded mandate with compliance required. *Registered opposed*.

[HSB 128](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb128) by Dolecheck **, Financial Literacy**: this bill is identical 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 (this Fall’s incoming freshman). The bill was approved by the House Education Committee, with Rep. Moore as the only vote in opposition. The bill moves to the House Calendar. *Registered in support*.

[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. Assigned a subcommittee of Reps. Hanusa, Gaines, and A Meyer. The Subcommittee met and heard testimony. They suggested needing more information. It is unclear if this bill will move further. *Registered opposed.*

[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. This bill is on the Senate Local Government Committee for this afternoon, likely to move forward. *Registered in support*.

[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. The Subcommittee of Senators Cournoyer, Celsi and Kraayenbrink recommended to move the bill forward. *Registered in support.*

**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

margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com

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. 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 Danielson](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=785) (D, District [30](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925114.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))[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))[Jeff Danielson](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=785) (D, District [30](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925114.pdf))[William A. Dotzler Jr.](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=157) (D, District [31](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925115.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))[Zach Nunn](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=14803) (R, District [15](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925099.pdf))[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))[Jason Schultz](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=6588) (R, District [9](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925093.pdf))[Roby Smith](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=9386) (R, District [47](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925131.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)) | **Senate Appropriations Committee Members:** [**Michael Breitbach**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=10730)**(R, District**[**28**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925112.pdf)**), Chair**[**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)**), Vice Chair**[**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)**), Ranking Member**[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))[Mark Costello](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=10749) (R, District [12](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925096.pdf))[William A. 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