**RSAI Legislative Update
Mar. 30, 2018**

These updates are posted on the RSAI web page <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>. This week’s RSAI Capitol Recap video is posted here\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

April 17 is the 100th day of Session, after which there is no per diem payment for legislators. Yet, with only 18 days left and no budget targets for each of the budget bills announced, there is much work left to do. This week’s report provides the list of bills receiving work this week, many signed by the Governor, plans for SAVE extension in House Ways and Means Committee coming up and still no action from the Senate Appropriations Committee to extend Operational Sharing, HF 633. There has been no further action on the voucher bill in the Senate or HF 2369, Bonding Elections in November, which is still on the Senate Unfinished Business Calendar. This weekend, thank your legislators for forward progress on many RSAI priorities, and specifically mention SAVE extension and operational sharing. Let us know if you need assistance with any of your advocacy work. Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa’s children. margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com

[**HF 633**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=hf633) **Operational Sharing Incentives Extension,** a priority for RSAI, is STILL sitting in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Thanks to all who contacted Senators since Wednesday’s Operational Sharing call to action!!! Keep those contacts coming through the weekend and into next week. [**Call to Action: Extension of Operational Sharing Incentives is Critical to Rural Schools (3.28.18)**](http://nebula.wsimg.com/c3faa2fc1471c9cbce894285866febb7?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1)The good news is that HF 633 has very little impact on the FY 2019 budget, so remind senators to take a look at the [fiscal note](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FN/961237.pdf) to confirm. Call your senator, especially if on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and explain its importance. This action is a priority for RSAI. A position paper with talking points, background and fiscal impact is found [here](http://nebula.wsimg.com/6a2c1097022a45a9a169ec2796f226a4?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1). Find members of the Senate Appropriations Committee [here](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?ga=87&groupID=324).

[**HF 2438**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202438&ga=87) **and** [**SF 2393**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%202393&ga=87) **SAVE Extension:** HF 2438 is now scheduled for action in the House Ways and Means Committee on Monday, April 3. The Senate Committee moved the bill with unanimous support on March 21, but work with Senators for successful floor passage is still needed. RSAI supports the extension of the state penny for another 20 years and appreciates the collaborative process underway. Continue to contact your legislators, both House and Senate, encouraging their support of the extension. The RSAI position paper with talking points about school security and property tax relief is posted on the RSAI web site [here](http://nebula.wsimg.com/05618c1a553cb9c963e254aba92cffbb?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1). RSAI is registered in favor of this bill, a priority for RSAI members.

[**SSB 3206**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=ssb3206) **Vouchers:** No further action has been taken on this bill, still in the Senate Appropriations Committee. See last week’s report for a full analysis of the bill. Find background an talking points on RSAI website [here](http://nebula.wsimg.com/449e52af3ba9f64925184531c7fb2291?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1). RSAI is opposed to this bill

**Bills Signed by the Governor:**

[**SF 2117:**](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMzI4Ljg3NjM1NTUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDMyOC44NzYzNTU1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTA0NDM1JmVtYWlsaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/SF2117.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) this bill is the deappropriations bill, cutting expenditures in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017**.** This bill passed the House, 59-41, the Senate, 28-21. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[**SF 2131**](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMzI4Ljg3NjM1NTUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDMyOC44NzYzNTU1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTA0NDM1JmVtYWlsaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&102&&&https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/SF2131.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery): this bill expands the **Iowa learning online initiative** to include students receiving independent private instruction, competent private instruction, or private instruction (all variations of home school) and requires that parents pay the fee associated with the class. The bill also directs the AEAS to convene an online learning working group. This bill passed the House on Feb. 27, 60-39 and the Senate, 50-0. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[**HF 2235**](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMzI4Ljg3NjM1NTUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDMyOC44NzYzNTU1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTA0NDM1JmVtYWlsaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&110&&&https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/HF2235.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery): this bill requires the DE and State BOE to work with Iowa Testing for our **statewide assessments** of student progress for purposes of core academic indicators. The bill was amended to require the tests be aligned to the Iowa Core standards and other requirements from SF 240 regarding the RFP that was submitted to the DE. This bill passed the Senate, 39-10 and the House on March 21, 86-13. RSAI was registered opposed.

[**HF 2343**](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMzI4Ljg3NjM1NTUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDMyOC44NzYzNTU1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTA0NDM1JmVtYWlsaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&113&&&https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/HF2343.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery): this bill prohibits state agencies from implementing or enforcing any standard, requirement, or threshold without clear authorization (**Rules Limitation**). This bill passed the House, 95-2 and the Senate, 46-3. RSAI was registered in support.

[**HF 2354**](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMzI4Ljg3NjM1NTUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDMyOC44NzYzNTU1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTA0NDM1JmVtYWlsaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&115&&&https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/HF2354.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**:** this bill prohibits vendors form using student information for any purposes other than educational, such as targeted marketing. This bill passed the House, 95-0 and the Senate, 49-0. RSAI was registered as undecided.

[**HF 2456**](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMzI4Ljg3NjQwOTgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDMyOC44NzY0MDk4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTA0NDYyJmVtYWlsaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&100&&&https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/HF2456.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**:**this bill relates to **mental health services** including behavior health, including involuntary commitments and hospitalizations provisions, the disclosure of mental health information to law enforcement professionals and mental health and disability services. The bill changes procedures involving involuntary commitments, including on dismissal of actions, on disclosures of MH information by MH professionals to law enforcement to prevent or lessen threats to health and safety, and on Mental Health and Disability Services region reporting. Includes provisions on oral and injectable drugs and on the use of video conferences. The bill requires the state MH/DS Commission to have rules on assertive community treatment teams, access centers and intensive residential services. It requires any matching federal funds under the Iowa Health & Wellness Plan to be made available, with service requirements across the state. The bill requires DHS to work with other agencies and stakeholders to review ways to increase the efficiency and utility of MH/DS services and requires a report by November 30, 2018. The fiscal note projects that the bill will increase the use of crisis and subacute services and the utilization of intensive residential services and estimates the cost at $876,000 in FY 2019 and $6 million in FY 2020 from the state General Fund and an estimated cost to the regions of $4.3 million in FY 2019 and $10 million in FY 2020. This bill was approved unanimously in both the House and the Senate. RSAI was not registered on this bill but RSAI members are very interested in the expansion of mental health services across the state.

[**SF 2113**](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMzI4Ljg3NjQwOTgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDMyOC44NzY0MDk4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTA0NDYyJmVtYWlsaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/SF2113.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**:** this bill requires school employee training and protocols relating to **suicide prevention** and the identification of adverse childhood experiences and strategies to mitigate toxic stress response. The bill requires the state board of education to adopt rules requiring school boards to require such training for K-12 school personnel having contact with students. It includes requirements for evidence-based, best practices and one hour of training annually. The training requirements are effective July 1, 2019.This bill was approved unanimously in both the House and the Senate. RSAI was registered in favor of the bill.

**Bills Receiving House or Senate Action still pending completion:**

[**SF 475**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=sf475) **Education Omnibus** amended by House and Sent back to Senate: The House amended the bill to add completion of a financial literacy course as a ½ unit of high school graduation requirement. Prior to this amendment, RSAI was registered in support of this bill, but has changed our registration to opposition given this new twist.

The fiscal note estimates a $2 million school cost to implement, but with no appropriation, is an unfunded mandate. The financial literacy content is the most prescriptive writing of any course content in the Code and does not provide for any local flexibility (content of financial literacy is required in IA standards (256.7 subsection 26). The graduation requirement is effective July 1, 2019, meaning that high school seniors in the 2019-20 school year will have an additional graduation requirement put on their schedule that may compete with other requirements or courses they have in the graduation plan or are passionate about, without their ability and their high school's ability to structure that transition smoothly. The fiscal note does not assume the additional cost of students coming back for a fifth year because they didn't successfully complete that graduation requirement in the one attempt that was available to them. The Senate is likely to concur with the amendment and send the bill to the Governor, with plans to fix the financial literacy piece in the Standings at the end of Session. RSAI will work with the Senate and other education groups to make sure the fix is workable for rural schools. Additionally, the bill includes the following:

* Online learning issues: lifts the open enrollment cap on the online academies, but allows local school districts the authority to offer online coursework locally. Requires DE to approved private vendors. The House amendment prohibits online providers from offering any payment to parents.
* Concurrent enrollment CTE exemption allows small districts (<600) to work with community colleges in offering CTE courses to students and have those courses meet offer and teach requirements, only if there is difficulty in finding a qualified teacher.  (RSAI requested this provision)
* Limits DE guidance to specifics in Iowa Code and federal law.
* Health screenings work group to examine and report on the impact of vision and dental screenings to schools, with recommendations to minimize the administrative burden on schools of providing the screenings.

[**HF 2441**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF2441) **Education Flexibility**: this bill allows the early intervention class size supplement per pupil to be used for any general fund purpose, removes DE from DoP application approval, and allows reconditioning of athletic equipment from a general fund transfer to the student activities fund. The bill also allows materials purchased for HSAP to be used elsewhere in the district as long as HSAP students still have access. The bill allows excess afterschool funding to be transferred to the flexibility fund after a public hearing. The bill prohibits DE and the State BOE from issuing guidance that imposes a legal obligation unless that obligation is required or implied by law. The Senate amended the bill to better align the DoP process timing of the district request of and SBRC approval of MSA with SBRC meetings, which RSAI requested. The bill moves back to the House and RSAI supports it.

[**SF 2360**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=SF2360)**Dyslexia Task Force;** this bill requires DE to convene a task force and specifies the membership of the task force The bill requires the task force to study an overview of the symptoms and effects of dyslexia, the current practices in Iowa schools, description of current concerns, recommendation of any proposed legislation or rulemaking, additional personnel or funding needed, recommendations related to dyslexia response for stakeholder groups, and suggested timeline for implementation. The report is required by November of 2019. The House passed the bill as amended, 97-0 and sent it back to the Senate. RSAI is undecided on the bill.

[**SF 2155**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=SF%202155) **Local Operating Funds**: this bill allows a local government to invest operating funds which are 33% in excess of what is needed, in CDs that mature in 63 months and meet interest guidelines. Back to the Senate. RSAI is undecided on the bill.

[**SF 2318**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=SF2318) **High School Credits:** after several attempts at getting the right language in an amendment, this bill winds up requiring that a student who receives high school credit in an accredited Iowa school be granted that credit in a new school they attend, unless the course does not meet the requirements of the school of enrollment or the student does not show proficiency in the coursework. Requires the school denying the credits to notify the parents in writing why the credit was denied. Returns to the Senate. With the amendment, RSAI supports.

[**SF 2364**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=sf2364) **School Security Plans:** theSenate replaced the House amendment, which was fairly prescriptive about an annual drill, with the requirement that local school boards determine the school personnel involved in the drill, whether students and law enforcement are involved and other details related to the drill. The House concurred with the Senate amendment, sending it to the Governor. RSAI is undecided on the bill.

[**HF 2253**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF2253) **Lease Purchase Bids**: this bill requires construction projects and improvements that are built by a private contractor under a lease or lease-purchase contract with state or local governments (including schools, regents universities, cities, counties and community colleges) be subject to competitive bidding requirements. The bill defines a public improvement as one that has been paid for by a government or there is a government commitment to pay. This bill is to the Governor. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[**HF 2390**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF2390) **World Languages**: this bill changes references from “foreign language” to “world language” in the Iowa Code and includes American Sign Language as a world language. The House passed it bill 98-0. The Senate passed the bill 47-0, sending it to the Governor. RSAI supports it.

**Other bills of interest still in the mix:**

Commercial and Industrial Property Tax Backfill phase out bills haven’t moved since subcommittee action. SF 2081 is in Senate Ways and Means Committee and HSB 678 in House Ways and Means Committee. There has been no action on either side since initial subcommittee approval.

Tax reform SF 2383 and HSB 671 (Governor’s tax proposal) are both still in the House Ways and Means Committee. See March 8 report for details. There is still no Fiscal Note written describing the impact of HSB 671. RSAI is opposed to SF 2383 and will register on HSB 671 once we see fiscal impact.

[**HF 2369**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=hf2369)School Bond Elections in Senate on the Unfinished Business Calendar. See March 21 weekly report for details and talking points. RSAI is opposed.

**Data Update on Teacher Salary Ranking:**

The Des Moines Register published a story this week reporting on teacher salary ranking adjusting for cost of living. Find that story [here](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/education/2018/03/26/iowa-teacher-pay-ranked-near-top-when-compared-across-us/459047002/). In his blog, Peter Fisher of the Iowa Policy Project, explains why th e cost of living index used in that original report is not valid and used the Bureau of Economic Analysis cost of living index, which is designed for wage comparisons across states. Find his indictment of the study and more accurate ranking of Iowa teacher ay, controlling for cost of living, [here](https://iowapolicypoints.org/2018/03/28/reality-on-iowa-teacher-pay/).

**Advocacy Actions this week:**

* Thank all senators, representatives and the governor for addressing the transportation and formula inequalities for school districts through SF 455. Include a thank you for setting 1% SSA at a time when the state budget is challenging.

Senate Switchboard # 515.281.3371

House Switchboard # 515.281.3221

From links above or the legislative page <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators> , find email addresses, home mailing address and home/work phone numbers for you legislators.

* Thank representatives and senators for passing SF 475, allowing all districts to offer online learning programs and especially allowing small school districts to work with community college CTE programs to meet offer and teach requirements when they cannot find a teacher to fill the CTE position and under other circumstances. Let them know RSAI supports a fix to the financial literacy mandate in the Standings Appropriations bill.
* Contact senators stressing the need to extend the operational sharing incentives, an RSAI priority, by moving HF 633 out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and getting approved and sent to the governor. This is an RSAI priority. Share this week’s RSAI [**Call to Action: Extension of Operational Sharing Incentives is Critical to Rural Schools (3.28.18)**](http://nebula.wsimg.com/c3faa2fc1471c9cbce894285866febb7?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1)with your senator.
* Continue State penny extension advocacy. Remind all legislators that extending the penny is critical to solve your infrastructure, school safety, equipment and technology needs without raising property taxes. An updated position paper has been posted on the RSAI web site [here](http://nebula.wsimg.com/05618c1a553cb9c963e254aba92cffbb?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1).

**RSAI Contacts**

RSAI Professional Advocate, margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com 515.201.3755

Robert Olson, Chair, Clarion-Goldfield/Dows, Superintendent, robert.olson@rsaia.org ,

Paul Croghan, East Mills and Essex Superintendent, pcroghan@emschools.org ,

Lee Ann Grimley, Springville, Board President, leeann.grimley@rsaia.org ,

Dennis McClain, Clay Central Everly, Superintendent, dmcclain@claycentraleverly.org

Laurie Noll, Fairfield, Superintendent, laurie.noll@fairfieldsfuture.org

Dan Smith, Harmony, Board President, dan.smith@rsaia.org

Duane Willhite, Superintendent, North Fayette Valley, dwillhite@nfv.k12.ia.us