



RSAI legislative priorities: RSAI Legislative Priorities are set by a truly grassroots process, beginning with regional meetings in the Summer, refined by the Legislative group which is a group of representatives from each of the RSAI regions and three at-large members of the RSAI Leadership Group. Memberships is also surveyed to get additional input. A draft of priorities is discussed, amended and debated at the annual meeting in October. See the [RSAI brochure](#) for recent accomplishments.

Advocacy Supports: RSAI has a position paper associated with each priority. It can be shared with legislators, used to explain issues to your new school board members, shared with parents' groups or an advocacy group, or shared with other organizations that may have issues in common. Video and PPT resources for advocacy are posted before session and weekly legislative updates both written and video to explain legislative action, the impact on your district, and give short advocacy action steps which can make a difference. Message support and editing; whether you need help with drafting letters to the editor or to your policy makers, or just want to think through a plan for a legislative forum or meeting with your senator, RSAI can help. See [RSAI's legislative web page](#) to see these supports.

Testimony: RSAI provides written and/or verbal testimony at the state Board of Education meetings, the Administrative Rules Review Committee, public hearings and legislative subcommittees.

Representation: RSAI Professional Advocate, Margaret Buckton, represents RSAI member schools at the statehouse during the Legislative Session, works with the executive branch/Department of Education during the Interim, and often, policy makers seek representatives from rural schools, asking RSAI for participants.

Media: RSAI works to tell the story of rural school successes and challenges. RSAI engages media to connect with rural school leaders and help inform the public and policy makers of the needs of rural schools, creative approaches needed to be efficient and effective, and the amazing education rural schools deliver to Iowa students.

Networking: RSAI Web site includes postings of media stories about rural schools across the nation and in Iowa, shares best practice, and serves as the Iowa state affiliate of the National Rural Education Association (NREA) and is a member of the Iowa Rural Development Council. NREA newsletter includes information of federal action important to rural schools, notices of grants and funding opportunities, and shared best practice in many topics of interest to rural school leaders, everything from recruiting and retaining teachers to finding engaging online learning or creative answers to connecting students to learning opportunities.

NASDTEC licensure checks: RSAI members receive free licensure checks through the National Association of State Departments of Teacher Education and Credentials which could otherwise cost 100s of dollars.

ISFIS Support: Larry Sigel provides school finance and legislative support. ISFIS Staff run the association management functions, maintain the website, communications, membership database and staff RSAI meetings. ISFIS also provides a \$100 reduction to RSAI membership if the district uses ISFIS Supplemental Policy Services.

Dues: RSAI memberships dues are \$750 annually. There are discounts for districts that are in whole grade sharing agreements, districts with financial hardship, and districts that subscribe to ISFIS policy supplemental services.