**RSAI Legislative Update
Apr. 27, 2018**

These updates are posted on the RSAI web page <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>. (No video this week)

A flurry of budget work ends the week and the House passes a bill on utility regulation by debating through the night Thursday. The Education Appropriations bill is out of Senate Committee, SF 2415. The SAVE extension and Operational Sharing bills (HF 633 Extension and HF 2406 Adding Social Workers) are still on the Senate Debate Calendar. The Governor signs the concussions and CTE technical corrections bills. No agreement on tax cuts has been announced. See the [April 20 report](http://nebula.wsimg.com/d132899e284e42a9d6ed21e6446846e7?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1) for suggested advocacy actions from last week that are still relevant. Let us know if you need assistance with your advocacy work. Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa’s children. margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com

**Appropriations**

Budget bills were approved in appropriations committees this week, and the House engaged in floor debate. The 4.26.18 IALNS newsletter quotes Sen. Schneider, Senate Appropriations Chair, saying the House and Senate are still $5 million apart in their overall budget and working out the details. They expect to see the Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, which, next to Education, is the second largest expenditure of state government, to be introduced on Monday. The following table includes spending bills that typically are approved before adjourning.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget Area** | **Bill #** | **Initial Chamber Action** | **Second Chamber** | **Status** | **Done** |
| Education | SF 2415 | On Senate Calendar |  |  |  |
| Standings | HSB 690 | H Approps Committee |  |  |  |
| Admin & Regulation | SF 2416 | On Senate Calendar |  |  |  |
| Agriculture & DNR | HF 2491 | Amended and passed 4.25 | On Senate Calendar |  |  |
| Economic Develop | HF 2493 | Amended and passed 4.25 | On Senate Calendar |  |  |
| Health and Human Services |  |  |  |  |  |
| Judicial Branch | HF 2495SF 2411 | House CalendarSenate Calendar |  |  |  |
| Justice Systems | HF 2492SF 2412 | House CalendarSenate Calendar |  |  |  |
| RIIF Infrastructure Fund | SF 2414 | Senate Calendar |  |  |  |
| Transportation/Capitals | HF2494SF 2413 | Amended and passed 4.25Senate Calendar |  |  |  |

[**SF 2415**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=sf2415) **Education Appropriations:** this bill was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee and is on the Senate Calendar. The bill appropriates a total of $912.6 million from the General Fund and 11,940.3 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for FY 2019 to the Department for the Blind, the College Student Aid Commission, the DE, and the Board of Regents. This is an increase of $16.5 million and 6.8 FTE positions compared to estimated net FY 2018.The Notes on Bills and Amendments [NOBA](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/NOBA/963356.pdf) provides details of all of the appropriations of the bill. RSAI is registered undecided. The following appropriations to the DE are of particular interest to rural schools:

* A new appropriation of $2.7 million to be distributed to school districts for the statewide student assessment. This is lower than the Governor’s recommendation, which was based on the RFP award to the American Institutes of Research, AIR. House File 2235 required the DE to adopt administrative rules setting the statewide assessment for students as the assessment created by the Iowa Testing Program and administered by the Iowa Testing Program's designee.
* A new appropriation of $250,000 for the creation of a statewide clearinghouse regarding work-based learning.
* A new appropriation of $600,000 for a Summer Joint Enrollment Program to allow high school students to enroll in community college classes during the summer months under an agreement between the school district and the community college.
* A new appropriation of $500,000 for the Computer Science Professional Development Incentive Fund. SF 274 Computer Science Act created this program last year. The funds will be used for professional development and compensation for teachers seeking a new computer science endorsement. Senate File 274 was approved by the General Assembly on April 18, 2017, and signed by the Governor on April 28, 2017.
* An increase of $1.0 million for Jobs for America’s Graduates, JAG, and language allowing JAG to work with middle school students in addition to high school students.
* An increase of $1.9 million for an Early Warning System. The bill requires the DE to provide reading assessments for PK-6 to detect students not proficient in reading. Local school districts use universal screening and progress monitoring assessments, and store student performance data on a statewide database. Currently, the DE provides the assessments at no cost to schools. This language allows the DE to charge school districts for the cost of the assessment, which school districts may pay out of Early Intervention funds.
* Continues the $7.8 million appropriation for the Successful Progression for Early Readers.
* An increase of $345,000 compared to estimated net FY 2018 to support the Reading Research Center's programming, which is disseminated to school districts.
* An increase of $2.0 million for Community Colleges
* An appropriation of $5.0 million to the UNI for the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Collaborative Initiative. This is the current level of funding and FTE positions compared to estimated net FY 2018.
* Modifies provisions enacted under Division VII of Senate File 475 (FY 2018 Education Omnibus Act), allowing the personal finance literacy credit required for graduation to count as a half unit of social studies or other combination of coursework otherwise required in Iowa Code 256.11. The financial literacy mandate is effective July 1, 2019.
* Modifies provisions regarding online education enacted under Senate File 475 (FY 2018 Education Omnibus Act). Specifies that the online course subject to the offer and teach waiver must be developed either by the school district or accredited nonpublic school staff or through a private provider that meets the standards of the Iowa Online Learning Initiative.

[**SF 2311**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=sf2311) **Utility Regulation:** this bill was debated through the night Thursday, as the House finished up work after 5:00 AM this morning. We will provide a thorough analysis of the impact on schools when the final amended version is introduced in the Senate. RSAI is opposed to the bill.

**Bills signed by the Governor:**

[**HF 648**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=hf648) **CTE Technical Correction:** this bill restores a deleted reference to the Career and Technical Education Opportunities and Partnerships, adds a reference to private schools and deems certain income received by schools under the Career & Technical education planning as miscellaneous income. Most importantly, the bill changes the current requirement that funds must reimburse expenditures and instead allows a partnership to purchase certain consumable school supplies and is effective on enactment. House passed it 98-0, the Senate passed it 47-0 and now the Governor has signed it. RSAI supports the bill.

[**HF 2442**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=hf2442) **High School Collision Sports:** RSAI registered undecided on this bill, which passed the House 96-2, the Senate 46-0, and is signed by the Governor, and includes the following:

* **Training and Information:** requires the DPH and the HS associations to develop training materials on concussions/BI. Requires coaches and referees to complete such training every two years. Requires the extracurricular contest officials to have registered with the HS associations. Requires districts to provide concussion information sheets to the parents of all 7-12 students and a signed form must be returned for participation in certain activities.
* **Policy: r**equires school boards to adopt policy regarding removal from a contest for concussion/BI incidence and a Return-to-Learn plan based on guidance by the Brain Injury Association of America, in cooperation with the student’s parents and health care provider, by July 1, 2019. Adds Emergency Medical Services workers as allowable for being at the game. Effective for the 2018 school year. Requires the development of return to play/return to learn protocols. Includes provisions on required protective gear.
* **Action required:** requires a student to be removed from an extracurricular contest if the student shows any sign of brain injury. Defines the extracurricular contests as those sponsored by the HS associations and identified as contact/limited contact by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Requires districts to have a licensed healthcare provider at athletic contests, including EMS workers, and includes provisions for continuing the contest if the provider cannot be there. students with concussion are excluded from all defined activities, not just the one in which they were injured, until they are cleared by a health care professional, and prohibits a student from participating in a new activity until cleared
* **Liability:** providesliability protections for schools that have a licensed health care provider at contests and for the HC provider. Clarifies that liability protection continues if the district follows protocols, even if the healthcare professional does not make it to the game, as long as there is a prearranged agreement with the school district that the healthcare professional was supposed to be there and the reason they missed the game is documentable.

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