**RSAI Legislative Update
Jan. 27, 2017**

These updates are posted on the RSAI legislative web page at <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>.

Work on FY 2017 Deappropriations was completed in the Senate on Thursday. Bills on RSAI priorities of extended operational sharing incentives and home rule begin the process. School Funding/SSA, bill stating intent is introduced and assigned a subcommittee in House Appropriations Committee. Some policy bills progress through the system. Last week’s Call to Action on Assessment remains active as SSB 1001 is still in the Senate Education Committee. A parent organization is looking for rural school parents to lead as steering committee members, join the group, sign a petition and/or lend their advocacy voice to support public schools. Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa’s children. margaret.buckton@isfis.net

**Deappropriations:** [SF 130](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/NOBA/851913.pdf) is approved in the Senate reducing state general fund spending in FY 2017 by $113 million. There were no cuts to PK-12 education funding, however, the community colleges were reduced $3 million, regent universities were cut $18 million and DE must apply $4.5 million in reductions to their budget with only five months left in the fiscal year. House debate is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 30. Leaders in both chambers have stated this action had to be completed before meaningful budget work can be done for the FY2018 fiscal year.

**School Funding:** The decision to set the state cost per pupil is due to be enacted by Feb. 10 to meet the 30-day deadline in Iowa Code for FY 2019. With January half gone, use this weekend and next week to remind legislators that investing in Iowa public schools pays dividends in the future, with an educated workforce that contributes to our economy. [HSB55](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=hsb55) was introduced late Thursday afternoon and assigned a subcommittee of Reps. Rogers, chair, Dolecheck and Winckler. They are scheduled to meet at noon on Monday, Jan. 30. An identical bill in the Senate, SSB 1028 has also been just added to the Senate Education Committee agenda for Monday’s meeting at 3:00. These bills state the intent of the General Assembly to set the increase in the state cost per pupil for FY 2018 during this session, does not include a specific percentage increase for FY 2018 and does not address FY 2019. The next few days may provide the final advocacy window for contacting legislators regarding adequate and timely public school funding. The Governor’s budget recommendation included a 2% increase in the state cost per pupil for FY 2018 and FY 2019.

**RSAI Priority Issues Introduced:**

**HF 26 Home Rule** by Highfill. This bill was introduced, assigned a subcommittee of Reps. Forristall, Carlin and Neilsen. A subcommittee meeting for Thursday was delayed until Monday. This bill would allow school districts to exercise any board and implied powers not inconsistent with the laws of the General Assembly, related to the operation, control and supervision of their public schools. The bill excludes from the expansion of authority the power to levy a tax unless expressly authorized by the legislature. The bill states, “This chapter (274), chapter 257, Chapter 257B, and chapters 275 through 301, and other statutes relating to the boards of districts of school districts and to school districts shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes of subsection 1.” RSAI is registered in support.

**SF 120 Shared Weighting** by Bowman. This bill extends the sunset of the operational sharing incentives until 2029 and eliminates the five-year cap on each sharing experience. The bill was assigned a subcommittee of Sens. Sinclair, Bowman and Kraayenbrink. RSAI supports this bill.

**Parent for Great Iowa Schools:** This new organization is working to generate parent understanding regarding the needs of public schools and encourage parent advocacy. A public forum is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 30 from 7-8:15 PM in Des Moines. People who cannot attend in person may participate via Facebook live video. See their web site <http://parentsforgreatiowaschools.com/> for possible advocacy actions, including a petition to sign. The group is interested in recruiting parents from all over Iowa, especially rural districts, as steering committee members.

**Education Committee Members:** Find links to members of the Education Committee for the [Senate here](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?ga=87&groupID=327) and the [House here](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?ga=87&groupID=686)**.**

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.

**Track Bills and RSAI position below.**

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**Bills Advanced this week:**

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| **Bill** | **Title** | **RSAI Position** |
| SF130 | **Deappropriations**. Deappropriations funds from current FY 2017, including $18 million from regents, $3 million from community colleges, $35.9 million from DHS, $5.5 million from Dept. of Corrections, $4.5 million from DE, $1.0 million from Dept. of Safety, $3.0 million from courts. There is an additional discretionary reduction of $11.5 million from Dept. of Management. The bill was approved by the Senate. | Undecided |
| HF 7 | **Vaccination Exemption** by Rizer.This bill allows parents to waive vaccination requirement on the basis of personal conviction.Subcommittee Holt, Salmon, Wessel-Kroschell | Pending |
| HF 17 | **High School Collision Sports** by Jones. Requires coaches to have training in CPR and use of defibrillator. Allows current coaches until July 2018 to get training. Requires home team to have a health care professional for collision sports games and encourages for contact sports. Requires parent notification if a child gets a concussion. Subcommittee met. Rep. Jones will consider amendments and schedule another subcommittee. | Opposed |
| HF 20 and SF 83 | **Exploitation by School Employees** by Jones and by Zaun. Includes full and part time employees, substitute employees with a license, and contract employees and volunteers under the definition of school employee, but excludes those less than four years older than the student and not in a direct position of authority over the student. Subcommittees in both chambers met and moved the bill forward to Committee with amendment. | Undecided |
| HF 26 | **School Board Authority** by Highfill. Allows school boards to exercise any broad or implied power that is not inconsistent with state law for the operation of the schools. Exempts authority to tax. Subcommittee was cancelled and rescheduled for Monday, Jan. 30. | Supports |
| HSB 17 | **School Reports on Drugs/Alcohol** by Education. Requires school administrators to report disciplinary action taken against a licensed school employee for consuming, possessing, or being under the influence while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity. Subcommittee met and moved the bill forward to Committee.  | Pending |
| HSB 33 | **School Supply Donations** (Judiciary Committee)This bill prohibits a school district or teacher from giving academic credit to a student contributing school supplies to the classroom.*The Subcommittee met, but may agree to not move the bill forward based on IASB providing some board policy alternative to handle locally.* | Pending |
| HF 48 | **Student Data Collection** by Salmon. Requires DE policy for student data, prohibits DE from collecting any data not authorized by the legislature, requires annual reports beginning in Nov. 2017. Requires plans for data security and data breaches. Makes student data confidential and prohibits data sharing of information except in the aggregate. Prohibits collection of biometrics, psychometrics, health of family status. The subcommittee met and heard testimony.  | Pending |
| SSB1017 | **School Reports on Drugs/Alcohol** by Education. Requires that school administrators report disciplinary actions taken against a licensed school employee for consuming, possessing or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity. The subcommittee was cancelled and will be rescheduled. | Pending  |

**Bills Introduced this week:**

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| **Bill** | **Title** | **RSAI Position** |
| HSB55 | **School Funding Intent** by Grassley. This bill states the intent of the General Assembly to set SSA for FY 2018 during this session. Does not include a percentage increase or reference FY 2019. Subcommittee of Rogers, Dolecheck and Winckler is scheduled for noon on Mon, Jan. 30. | Undecided |
| HF 26 | **Home Rule** by Highfill. This bill gives school boards broad authority that is not in conflict with Iowa Code. Subcommittee Forristall, Carlin, Nielsen | Supports |
| HF 49 | **SAVE Open Enrollment** by Fisher. This bill requires SAVE funds to follow students that open enroll out of the district.Subcommittee Moore, Hager, Mascher | Pending |
| HF 110 | **Student Activity Funds** by Brown-Powers. This bill allows school districts to transfer general funds to student activity funds to pay for safety equipment. Subcommittee of Hager, Jones and Brown-Powers. | Supports |
| SF 135 | **School Age of 18** by Quirmbach. This bill increases the mandatory attendance age to 18. Subcommittee of Behn, Chelgren, Quirmbach. | Pending |
| SF 136 | **Preschool Incentives** by Quimbach et al. This bill provides an additional state aid incentive for increased PK enrollment for 3 years beginning July 1, 2017, requires districts to have a plan to expand PK to eliminate waiting lists, and increase from 5% to 10% the amount of funds that may be used for administrative costs. Subcommittee of Behn, Chelgren, Quirmbach | Pending |
| SF 137 | **Fine Arts Curriculum** by Quirmbach. et al. This bill requires the state Board of Education to set standards for fine arts and requires DE to hire a consultant to assist districts with implementation. Allows the DE to provide model assessments, but specifies that selection of assessment remains a local decision. (State BOE rules process for setting fine arts standards is already underway.) Subcommittee of Behn, Chelgren, Quirmbach | Pending |
| SF 138 | **Home Visits** by McCoy. This bill requires parents with students in Independent Private Instruction to report to school districts with a similar process that is required for Competent Private Instruction, including results of an annual assessment of progress. The bill requires the school board to conduct quarterly home visits (the superintendent designates an individual who is a mandatory reporter) and requires the DHS to provide guidance in conducting home visits. Subcommittee of Behn, Chelgren, Quirmbach | Pending |
| SF 120 | **Operational Sharing Extension** by Bowman. This bill extends the sunset of the operational sharing incentives until 2029 and eliminates the five-year cap on each sharing experience. The bill was assigned a subcommittee of Sens. Sinclair, Bowman and Kraayenbrink.  | Support |
| SF 121 | **PK ELL Weighting** by Petersen. This bill adds ELL weighting for preschool students but does not include the preschool year toward the years of ELL service eligibility. Subcommittee Behn, Chelgren, Hart | Support |
| SF 128 | **Teacher Praxis Test Requirements** by Feenstra. This bill requires the BOEE to waive the Praxis minimum score requirements for a teacher who otherwise meets all criteria for one year.  | Pending |

**Bills Introduced this week:**

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| **Bill** | **Title** | **RSAI Position** |
| HF 124 | **School Budget Adjustments** by Thede et al. This bill allows school boards to adopt a budget equity adjustment equal to the difference of the district cost per pupil and the highest DCPP in the state for the next three years. Requires the adjustment to be funded with cash reserve or unexpended fund balance. | Supports |
| SF 146 | **Carry on School Grounds** by Chapman. This bill allows a person with a carry permit to carry a gun on school parking lots. (Judiciary Committee) Subcommittee of Edler, Petersen, Schneider | Pending |
| SF 150 | **ELL Supplemental** by Zaun. This bill increases the weighting for ELL students to 0.3 (currently 0.22), and extends the eligibility from five years to seven years gradually through July 1, 2018.  | Supports |
| SF 152 | **Property Tax Freeze** by Zaun. This bill freezes the assessed value of a home owned by a senior if the home is worth $150,000 or less. | Pending |
| SF 154 | **State cost per pupil** by Taylor. Sets a 4% increase for FY 2018.  | Supports |
| SF 155 | **Categorical cost per pupil** by Taylor. Sets a 4% increase for FY 2018.  | Supports |
| SSB1021 | **School Pension Mergers** by Smith (State Government Committee) this bill allows school districts to merge a pension and annuity retirement system with IPERS but does not require IPERS to accept the merger.  | Pending |
| HSB45 | **Public Employment Restrictions** (State Government Committee). Prohibits public employees from using public resources for union-related or political activities. Excludes statewide elected officials, legislators and caucus staff. Subcommittee of Kaufmann, Bergan and Winckler. | Pending |
| HSB47 | **Education Lobbying Restrictions** (State Government). This bill prohibits state and local employees from using public resources to lobby on education-related legislation. Creates an exception for school superintendents and AEA directors testifying before a legislative committee. | Opposed |
| HF 104 | **Open Enrollment** by Salmon. This bill requires that open enrollment be accompanied by a property tax equalization fee/refund for the receiving district if the parent owns a home in the district of residence.  | Pending |