



## RSAI Legislative Update March 24, 2016

These updates are posted on the RSAI legislative web page at <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>. Big news this week was compromise (finally) on FY 2017 state cost per pupil and categorical funds. Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa's children! [margaret.buckton@isfis.net](mailto:margaret.buckton@isfis.net)

**School Funding:** SF 174 and SF 175 conference committee met and approved a compromise increase in the state cost per pupil of 2.25% approved for FY 2017 yesterday. Thank legislators for getting it done, but encourage more timely action in the future. School budgets are being published right now to meet the April 15 budget deadline. The bill has not yet been signed by the Governor. Next Step: **Set the FY 2018 state cost per pupil this year before adjourning.** Senate passed bills at 4% (SF2092/SF 2093). Ask House members to act. See coverage of RSAI position in the Des Moines Register Article, March 22, found [here](#).

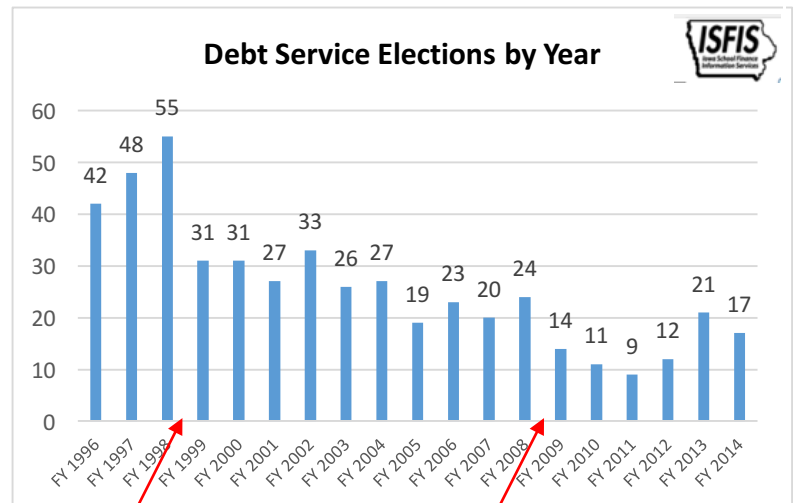
For FY 2017, 2.25% increase per pupil results in an *average* regular program budget increase of 1.9% to districts due to declining enrollment. Typical cost increases for a school district average 3-3.5%, without hiring additional teachers or buying textbooks for new students. If new state assessments aren't funded, \$29 of the \$145 per pupil increase will be spent there. Continue to ask for funding of assessments in education appropriations.

**Compromise Tax Code Changes HF 2433:** This bill was signed by the Governor this week. The impact on the state General Fund shows a reduction in the current fiscal year, but an increase in revenue every year down the road. The Legislative Services Agency's Fiscal Note shows the impact; increase of \$23.6 million in FY 2017 and increase of \$29.7 million in FY 2018. This revenue is not yet considered in the FY 2018 REC estimate. RSAI is registered as undecided.

**REC March Estimate:** The Revenue Estimating Conference met on Wed., March 16, and set their [estimate](#) which maintains the FY 2016 revenue estimate, increases the FY 2017 estimate by a net \$30 million, and sets a new out-year estimate of 4.1% growth for FY 2018. In the last several years, House Republicans have shown unwillingness to set the out-year state cost per pupil as required by Iowa law, since they didn't have a picture of out-year revenues. They changed the law in SF 510, 2015 Session, to have the REC set an out-year estimate. Since its set at 4.1%, with no other significant built-in expenditures, school aid ought to be set at least at 4% for the 2017-18 school year (some would arguably say more to make up for lost revenues over time.) The Governor's Budget recommendation fills the economic emergency fund and cash reserve funds, at over \$737 million, to protect against any uncertainty or economic downturn.

**State Penny for School Infrastructure:** four bills that extend the state penny, along with other policies, are in the House Ways and Means Committee.

A joint subcommittee was held last week. Rep. Windschitl, chair of the subcommittees, first stated that they were working with the Governor to find another source of funding for water quality without diverting funds from school infrastructure/SAVE. This chart shows the impact on reduced property taxes. School Infrastructure Local Option Taxes were first available to districts in FY 1999. The State Penny was passed in the 2008 Session.





**Key issues for schools in extending the penny:**

New process for 60% voter approval, based on above average property tax rates is overly restrictive. Voter approval of the revenue purpose statement, in current law, has worked to reduce property taxes otherwise needed for school construction while solving inequities in infrastructure funding. This differential process turns the clock back on equity gains.

Additional flexibility for districts to pay for excessive transportation or cost per pupil inequities is of benefit, but allow for true flexibility; we are asking legislators to avoid overly restrict fund use or process for accessing this flexibility.

**Bills signed by the Governor:**

[HF 2268](#) **PERB Records:** this bill makes PERB records regarding certification or decertification of the association confidential records. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[HF 2364](#) **Open Meetings Notice:** this bill allows a notice of postponed meeting due to emergency circumstances to comply with open meetings notice requirements. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[SF 2170](#) **Sealed Bids:** this bill allows districts to post call for bids on an internet web site prescribed in the bill rather than publishing in the newspaper, under certain circumstances. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[SF 2200](#) **On-Line Course Waiver:** this bill allows districts to use on-line courses to meet offer and teach requirements in the event they've been unable to fill a teaching position and the Iowa Learning on-line program does not offer the course or the course is full. RSAI is registered in favor.

**Bills on the Move:**

[HF 228](#) **Young Coach Temporary Authorization and Training:** this bill requires the BOEE to issue a non-renewable, one-year transitional coaching authorization to a person who is at least 21, has a verified offer of a coaching job but who has not yet completed the required course work. Gives priority to teachers and persons with coaching authorization first. The Senate amendment added some training requirements for concussions, mandatory abuse reporting, professional responsibilities and requires a background check. The amendment also requires supervision for the transitional coach for the first two weeks by a certified coach. The House concurred in the Senate amendment, sending this bill to the Governor. RSAI is registered as undecided on this bill.

[HF 2264](#) **Open Enrollment Participation in Athletics:** this bill allows a student subject to a founded bullying or harassment incident, confirmed by the resident district, to immediately participate in varsity athletics. House concurred in the Senate amendment and send this bill to the Governor. RSAI is registered as undecided on this bill.

[HF 2363](#) **Closed Sessions:** this bill prohibits a board from excluding a board member form a closed session unless their participation would create a conflict of interest. The House concurred with the Senate, sending this bill to the Governor. RSAI is monitoring this bill.

[SF 2196](#) **Reading Prep Programs:** this bill requires teacher preparation programs to include content on teaching reading to all students, including those with disabilities, dyslexia, non-English speaking students. The House passed the bill, sending it to the Governor. RSAI is registered in favor of the bill.

[SF 2205](#) **Open Enrollment Timeline:** this bill allows a calculation of hours as an alternative to the 90-day wait period an open-enrolled student must endure to participate in varsity athletics. The House amended to include a provision identifying students participating in certain league sports as resident students for purposes of Iowa school funding. The House approved the bill as amended and sends it back to the Senate. RSAI is registered as in support of this bill.



**SF 2296 PK Expansion Incentives:** this bill creates an expansion incentive to increase enrollment in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) for four-year-olds. Districts that have an increase in Program enrollment above the base incentive enrollment (defined as the average actual enrollments for fall 2013, fall 2014, and fall 2015) will receive incentive state aid equal to the increase in enrollment times 10.0% of the state cost per pupil for FY 2018, FY 2019, and FY 2020. The bill also allows districts to keep 10% of the PK cost per pupil for administrative costs and send 90% to community partners (outreach and rent of facilities not owned by the district are already allowable expenses of administrative funds.) RSAI is registered in favor of this bill. It was approved the Senate and now goes to the House.

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