



## RSAI Member Benefits

**RSAI Legislative Priorities:** RSAI Legislative Priorities are set by a truly grassroots process, beginning with Regional Meetings in the Summer, refined by the Legislative Committee which is a group of representatives from each of the RSAI regions and three at-large members of the RSAI Leadership Group. Membership 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 posts a position paper for each priority to share with legislators, explain issues to new school board members, share with parents' groups or an advocacy group, or share with other organizations that may have issues in common. Video and PPT advocacy resources and weekly legislative updates both written and video explain legislative action, the impact on your district, and give short advocacy action steps which can make a difference. Whether you need help with drafting letters to the editor or to your legislators, or just want to think through a plan for a legislative forum or meeting with your senator, RSAI can help. See [RSAI's legislative webpage](#) to see these supports.

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

**Representation:** RSAI Professional Advocate, Margaret Buckton, and Grassroots Advocate, Dave Daughton, represent RSAI member schools at the statehouse during the Legislative Session, work with legislators and the executive branch/Department of Education during the Interim. Policymakers come to RSAI to seek rural school 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 and shares best practices. RSAI serves as the Iowa state affiliate of the National Rural Education Association (NREA) and is a member of the Iowa Rural Development Council. The NREA newsletter details federal action important to rural schools, notices of grants and funding opportunities, and shares many topics of interest to rural school leaders; e.g., recruiting and retaining teachers, finding engaging online learning or creative answers to connecting students to learning opportunities. RSAI works with other education advocacy groups to collectively advocate for policy impacting all students.

**NASDTEC licensure checks:** RSAI members receive free licensure checks from the National Association of State Departments of Teacher Education and Credentials which otherwise cost hundreds of dollars. Corporate Sponsors support RSAI financially and often provide discounts to RSAI members unreachable without the collective power of the RSAI brand.

**ISFIS Support:** Larry Sigel provides school finance and legislative support. ISFIS staff run the association management functions, maintain the website, communications, membership database and administer RSAI meetings. ISFIS also provides a \$100 discount off RSAI membership if the district uses ISFIS Board/Policy Hosting Service.

**Dues:** RSAI memberships dues are \$750 annually. There are discounts for districts that are in whole grade sharing agreements and districts with financial hardship. RSAI members have reaped legislative wins many, many times the annual dues amount through RSAI advocacy.