



RSAI 2026 Legislative Priority: Operational Sharing Incentives & Efficiencies

Background: Operational function sharing is an incentive for districts and AEAs to reduce costs and expand services by sharing specified personnel. The weighting is equal to the regular program district cost multiplied by the number of students assigned to each position. The maximum number of additional weighting allowed, regardless of the number of positions shared, was increased to 25 students in 2025, [SF 167](#) TSS Plus, although the college and career transition coordinator weighting is exempt from the cap (a district could effectively generate 27 students' worth of supplementary weighting if sharing that position). The legislature gave districts authority to share additional positions but also reduced the associated weighting (funding) for all positions in place in 2023, except for the superintendent position, which was increased by one student weighting. In HF 68 School Choice and Education Policies, enacted in the 2023 Session, extended the sunset of the operational sharing incentives statute to the end of the 2034-35 school year. The last year schools would receive funding would be FY 2036 unless a future General Assembly acts to extend the weighting. The most recent [DE guidance](#) is dated September 2025.

Current Reality: For positions to be funded in the 2026-27 budget, the sharing agreements must have been in place and reported on the Oct. 1, 2025 BEDS enrollment.

Financial Impact: For FY 2026, a total weighting equivalent to 4,310 students, or \$34.4 million, was generated through operational sharing for 301 school districts. Seven of Iowa's AEAs generated funding in the FY 2026 school year, but have limited revenue based on statute. (AEA operational funding generates a minimum of \$30,000 and a maximum of \$200,000 per AEA.)

The positions and corresponding weightings are included in the following table:

Position Qualifying for Operational Sharing	FY 2026 Weighting in pupils
Superintendent management	9
Business management, human resources management, transportation management, operations and maintenance management	4
Curriculum director, master social worker, independent social worker, school counselor, special education director, mental health professional w/statement of professional recognition by BOEE, school resources officer (SRO)	2
Total of weighting for all positions:	43
Weighting Cap (Maximum a district can receive for all of the above combined sharing arrangements): \$7,988 per student X 21 students = cap of \$199,700 funding	25
College and career transition counselor/coordinator (weighting is exempt from 21-student cap) \$7,988 per student X 2 students = \$15,976 above the cap	2

Sharing Requirements: Positions must be shared for at least 20% of the normal, full-time contract hours for the position in the school year in each district or AEA requesting the supplementary weighting for sharing. The final year in which a supplementary weighting may be requested through the October 1 enrollment count (Fall BEDS) for this purpose is no later than the school year that begins July 1, 2035, unless extended by a future legislature. The Iowa Legislature sets the state cost per pupil and the Iowa Dept. of Management (DOM) includes the per pupil costs and weightings in the districts' Aid and Levy worksheets. DOM also includes the amounts in budgets for participating AEAs.

Other Sharing Partners: Districts and AEAs may share personnel with any Iowa governmental subdivision in addition to other districts and AEAs. If the district shares with a city or community college, for example, and the district meets the minimum time of operational sharing (at least 20% FTE), then the district may include the related enrollment weighting in its Fall BEDS enrollment report to generate supplementary weighting. Other political subdivisions do not generate weighting for their part of the sharing. Only schools and AEAs qualify for the supplementary weighting. "Political subdivision" is defined in Iowa Code [257.11 subsection 5](#): as "a city, township, county, school corporation, merged area, area education agency, institution governed by the state board of regents, or any other governmental subdivision."

Funds generated through operational sharing are not required to be reported distinctly or expenditures accounted for in a separate fund. The DE rules specify that "additional funds provided through supplementary weighting for operational function sharing shall be used to increase student opportunities."

Operational Sharing Incentives: Operational Sharing Incentives should continue and be increased. Weightings should be sufficient to encourage and support sharing opportunities, with a 3-student weighting at a minimum per position. With recent significant pressures on schools for technology data protection and cybersecurity, an additional position of technology director should generate supplementary weighting within this program. Some positions, such as those to address mental health or school safety, including school resource officers, and expanded sharing options with AEA staff to replace services stressed by economies of scale and AEA restructuring, should be exempted from the cap.