



## RSAI Legislative Update April 14, 2016

These updates are posted on the RSAI legislative web page at <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>. Educations Appropriations and Standings Appropriations bills emerge and Senate moves Career and Technical Education updates and Early Literacy bills. Legislature hopes to finish up soon, leaving little time for RSAI priorities of State Penny extension, formula and transportation equality, or funding for FY 2018. See details below. Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa's children.  
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**SSA - The Numbers:** The cost to the State of SSA, signed by the Governor last week, is \$153.8 million, which funds the state portion of 2.25% increase in the state cost per pupil for regular program and categorical funds. Here are some details about the numbers for FY 2017:

- Categorical funds for the per pupil supplements total \$62 million of the \$153.8 million cost
  - TSS is a total of \$274.9 million, which is an increase of \$7.1 million
  - TLC is a total of \$103.4 million, which is an increase of \$53.3 million
  - Class size is a total of \$33.9 million, which is an increase of \$0.9 million
  - PD is a total of \$31.2 million, which is an increase of \$0.8 million.
- Special Ed increase is \$15.9 million and supplementary weighting is an increase of \$7.3 million
- Property Tax Replacement Payments cost a total of \$41.4 million, which is an increase of \$10.3 million (replaces property taxes which used to fund the increase in the cost per pupil)
- The total of \$153.8 million assumes an increase of \$15 million to restore cuts previously made to the AEAs. The Standings bill below cuts the AEAs \$20 million, reducing the total to \$133.8 million.
- The increase to the regular program district cost is a total of \$87.4 million to fund the increased costs of doing the business of school. The balance of funds is required to be spent according to strict categorical requirements.

**Closing down the Session:** with appropriations bills now in the drafting process and predictions of the last day of Session, many RSAI priorities remain unaddressed: Timely funding for FY 2018, extension of the state penny for school infrastructure, formula equality per pupil and transportation equity, funding to support education for at-risk students. Many of these priorities received much attention and many bill drafts. These conversations are only the start, with additional advocacy necessary to build urgency prior to the election and in preparation for the next Session.

**Education Appropriations:** the subcommittee met and discussed priorities early in the week, then the Chairs agreed to a compromised framework. The subcommittee met this morning and discussed the proposed budget. RSAI is registered undecided on this bill, but has advocated for many of the provisions in the bill, specifically the first three policy language changes below. Policy language includes:

- Delay of summer school and mandatory 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention until the summer of 2018.
- Preschool categorical funding flexibility to pay for transportation of PK students (and proration if other students are transported simultaneously).
- No language on state assessment (allows Smarter Balanced Assessments to move forward as the Iowa state test, first required to be implemented in spring 2017.)
- Head start teaching experience will count toward licensure.
- Creates a new Fine Arts mentoring program.

**The joint Education Budget agreement appropriates a total of \$1,009,736,682, which is an increase of \$4,894,121, or 0.5%. Appropriation changes of significance compared to last year include:**

- An appropriation of \$2.1 million to the College Student Aid Commission, which is a reduction of \$3 million for National Guard Benefits Program (Sen. Schoenjahn explained in Subcommittee this



morning that the program had a significant carry over this year) and an appropriation of \$50.7 million to the College Student Aid Commission, which is an increase of \$276,233 for the Tuition Grant Program and an increase of \$36,938 for Tuition Grant – for Profit.

- An appropriation of \$6.1 million to the Department of Education, which is a reduction of \$250,000.
- An elimination of a prior appropriation of \$25,000 to the DE for commission and council support.
- A new appropriation of \$25,000 for a new Fine Arts Mentoring program.
- An appropriation of \$250,000 to Iowa Learning Online Initiative which is a reduction of \$1.25 million. The original Ed Reform bill in 2013 planned on a sunset of the appropriation this year. Sen. Schoenjahn explained the FY 2017 appropriation is to support development of on-line content in K-8 grades. They anticipate school districts using these courses will be charged a fee in the coming year.
- An appropriation of \$204.3 million to the Community Colleges General Aid, which is an increase of \$3.0 million (1.5% increase compared to FY 2016).
- Appropriations to the Regents Universities; an increase of \$1.3 million for U of I, \$2.2 million for ISU, and \$2.8 million to UNI. The Board of Regents Office was cut by \$300,000. The Iowa School for the Deaf and the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School each received 2.2% increases.
- The bill includes level funding of the Student Achievement Teacher Quality line item of \$57.4 million, which funds the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of TLC grants. The bill requires the DE to prorate funds if the appropriation is not sufficient to pay the full amount of per pupil supplements for TLC.

**Standings Appropriations Bill [HSB 656](#):** first subcommittee meeting was held Thursday morning. The bill continues the AEA cut from state foundation aid, previously at \$15 million, and cuts by another \$5 million, for a total reduction of \$20 million. The bill requires the Department of Management to prorate the additional cut as prior cuts were appropriated. In context of the SF 174, SSA increase, the AEAs were restored by the \$15 million and received an increase of \$4.5 million for special education services. This action wipes out both of those items from SF 174. When legislators stated last week that education received \$153.8 million, 87% of the new revenue available, that calculation included this \$20 million. The action in this bill lowers that total to \$133.8 million. RSAI is registered opposed.

#### Senate Action this week:

- **[HF 2413 Early Literacy](#):** Senate approved 42:7, now goes to the Governor. This bill changes terms in the early literacy/mandatory retention policy from “student deficient in reading” to student who may not be proficient or is persistently at-risk in reading. The bill specifies that districts consider more than one test score to determine retention possibilities. RSAI is registered in favor. The language specifically states (underlines are addition to Iowa Code, strikethroughs are deletions, regular print already exists in present law):
  3. Promotion to grade four. In determining whether to promote a student in grade three to grade four, a school district shall place significant weight on any area in which the student is persistently at risk in reading deficiency identified pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph “a”, that is not yet remediated. The school district shall also weigh the student’s progress in other subject areas, as well as the student’s overall intellectual, physical, emotional, and social development. A decision to retain a student in grade three shall be made only after direct personal consultation with the student’s parent or guardian and after the formulation of a specific plan of action to remedy increase the student’s reading deficiency skills until the student is reading at grade level.
- **[HF 2392 Career and Technical Education](#):** The Senate amended the bill to require DE to initiate rules to approve vendor systems for career planning, but doesn’t mandate that school use them. It requires AEA and Community Colleges convening regional groups to include membership from all member school districts, includes representation of CTE teachers and professors on the regional planning groups, and adds specific references to content areas such as family and consumer sciences that were not evident in the new definition clusters of career and technical education. The Senate amended the bill based on some education stakeholder input, passed 50:0, which now goes back to the House. The RSAI is undecided on the bill.





**Signed by the Governor:**

- **[HF 228](#) Transitional Coaching Authorizations:** this bill requires the Board of Educational Examiners 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. Includes training requirements for concussions, mandatory abuse reporting, professional responsibilities and requires a background check. The bill requires supervision for the transitional coach for the first two weeks of coaching. RSAI is registered as undecided.
- **[HF 2363](#) Member Attendance at Closed Session of a Body:** this bill prohibits a governmental body from excluding a member of the body from a closed session. The bill includes an exception if a member has a conflict of interest. The bill requires confidentiality for closed sessions. RSAI is registered as undecided.
- **[HF 2364](#) Public Notice and Accessibility of Meetings:** this bill allows a governmental body to post an amended notice for a postponed meeting in order to meet public notice requirements and requires that such postponement be for good cause. RSAI is registered as undecided.
- **[SF 2196](#) Reading and Literacy Requirements of Teacher Prep Programs:** this bill requires practitioner preparation programs must include reading and literacy content and instruction to meet needs of all students (dyslexia, ELL, students with disabilities). RSAI is registered in support.

**Education Coalition Fact:** The Facts about Education Funding Aug. 8, 2016. This publication responds to various legislative newsletter and opinion editorials recently seen across the state which suggest 2.25% increase in the cost per pupil is significant and a demonstration of the priority of public education. This publication provides some data, pictures and talking points to engage with legislators and stakeholders to demonstrate that funding for schools has not kept pace with other economic indicators. Find a link to this publication on the RSAI legislative page here: <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html> Share with legislators, stakeholders and parents to generate additional advocacy before the session adjourns. RSAI is part of the Education Coalition, comprised of AEAs, ISEA, SAI, RSAI and UEN. Also, the prior week's Education Coalition Fact, Set the State Cost per Pupil for FY 2018 before Adjournment, is still relevant. It's posted on the same page.

**Save the Date:** RSAI Reception, FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny, Wednesday, 6-8 p.m., June 15<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. ISFIS Annual Conference, same place, Thursday June 16.

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