

## RSAI news to share at AEA Superintendents Meetings June 2025

**2025 Session is Done: What Next?** Governor Reynolds has 30 days to complete her action of signing or vetoing legislation sent to her in the final week of the 2025 Session, so June 15. She has signed quite a few bills already, but many impacting schools (such as HF 787 TSS and Education Omnibus, Standings Appropriations bill (includes school aid), and the new Sports Wagering Appropriations bill, which includes the \$14 million for education support personnel supplemental pay) are still pending. We will keep you posted along the way with bill signing information, administrative rules implementation, sharing of DE guidance, and other resources through the summer. Watch for the RSAI 2025 Legislative Digest after the Governor has completed her action.

In the meantime, ISFIS has two webinars planned for June to help school leaders get a handle on legislation passed this Session impacting schools, some of which require you to change local policies or engage in some compliance work. If you are not an ISFIS subscriber and would like access to the Webinars, please reach out to [Margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com](mailto:Margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com).

<a href="#">Register Here</a>	<b>ISFIS SPECIAL TOPIC WEBINAR - 2025 SESSION ACTIONS IMPACTING SCHOOLS: APPROPRIATIONS/FUNDING</b>  <b>Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 2pm</b>
<a href="#">Register Here</a>	<b>ISFIS SPECIAL TOPIC WEBINAR - 2025 SESSION ACTIONS IMPACTING SCHOOLS: OTHER POLICY BILLS</b>  <b>Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 2pm</b>

**RSAI Legislative Policy Development:** Regional Meetings, the first step in the process, have concluded, with members electing representatives to the RSAI Legislative Committee and the Leadership Group. Thanks to AEAs that hosted and for the partnership throughout the year. Thanks also to all who attended the meetings, followed along during this year's Session, and contacted your legislators! RSAI Staff will distribute an advocacy survey to members this summer to get additional input on priorities and services. The Regional Meeting recommendations and survey results are analyzed and refined by the Legislative Committee, sent to the Leadership Group, and then go before members at the October RSAI Annual Meeting, where every district gets one vote and all voices are welcome.

**Session Ending Advocacy:** Legislators are back at home and getting back to normal life. This summer is a good time to reach out, thank them for the positive things they have done to support schools (RSAI will have a list posted soon), remind them of what your students need, and help set the stage for advocacy in the 2026 Session. Reach out to RSAI staff for help in planning advocacy meetings or for information to share with them. If you are new to advocacy, review the RSAI Advocacy Handbook for strategies and action steps to voice your district's needs for students with state-level policymakers.

- [2025 RSAI Advocacy Handbook](#) – includes committee membership, contacts and committee assignments. Also has a worksheet to plan your best outreach.
- Show & Tell With Legislators - Planning Resource (a joint effort of RSAI & SAI) includes [Samples](#) and [Reporting Form](#).

Contact us with any questions, feedback or suggestions to better prepare your advocacy work.  
**Thanks to all of you for your energy and voice on behalf of the students in your schools!**

This summary of RSAI 2025 Legislative Priorities, approved at the RSAI annual meeting, emphasizes the need for sustainable investment in Iowa's education system to meet rural school challenges of staffing, student needs, and equitable funding:

1. **Adequate Resources:** Increased State Supplemental Aid (SSA) is essential for Iowa schools to provide quality education that meets community expectations. The funding must be predictable, exceed inflation, and support effective budget planning.
  - **World-Class Education:** A 10% SSA increase (\$783 per pupil) is necessary to enhance education quality, reduce class sizes, and support staff retention.
  - **Sustain Current Status:** A 5% increase (\$392 per pupil) would help maintain competitiveness and address inflation.
  - **Continued Erosion:** A 2.5% increase (\$196 per pupil) would only partially cover rising costs, leading to potential cutbacks in services and staffing.
2. **Staff Shortages:** Policies must prioritize trust and improved compensation to attract and retain educators. Strategies include:
  - **Recruitment:** Flexibility for hiring incentives, grow-your-own programs, and continuation of apprenticeship grants which must be easier to administer.
  - **Retention:** Increased funding for salary supplements, flexibility and licensure simplification, continued IPERS improvements and support for mentoring and training.
  - **Competitive Compensation:** Addressing salary compaction issues and TSS inequities to ensure fair pay for all staff.
3. **Public School Prioritization:** Public schools should be adequately funded, and changes to Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) should ensure fair treatment between public and private schools.
4. **Addressing Student Needs:** All districts should be able to access 5% dropout prevention funding, and resources must focus on at-risk needs, with additional support for mental health services and poverty-related educational challenges.
5. **Quality Preschool Funding:** State funding for PK should be increased to 1.0 weighting for full time PK or half-time PK with wrap around services to ensure access and quality for all students, especially low-income families, and to empower parents of young children to enter the workforce.
6. **Incentives for Collaboration:** Extend incentives for whole-grade sharing, reorganization and operational sharing to enhance educational opportunities.
7. **Local Control:** Support local school boards in decision-making and provide flexibility to meet community needs.
8. **Equity in Funding Formula:** Address historical inequities in funding to ensure all students receive adequate resources.
9. **Bond Issue Simplification:** Require a simple majority to approve bond issues, offer additional special election dates, and remove the requirement for two votes to approve the total bond levy.
10. **Area Education Agencies (AEAs):** AEAs play a crucial role in supporting rural schools, and their funding and structure must be adequate to ensure continued support for essential services.