**RSAI Legislative Update
January 31, 2020**

In this Jan. 31, 2020 RSAI Report of the 2020 Legislative Session, find information about:

* **Reflections on the Iowa Economy and State Budget**
* **Comparing House, Senate and Governor’s Proposal’s on SSA**
* **RSAI Talking Points for 3.75%**
* **Bill Action**
* **New Bills Introduced**
* **Link to Jan 23 Report to find Biographical and Contact Information for your Legislators and members of Key Legislative Committees**
* **Advocacy Resources**

Contact us with any questions, feedback or suggestions to better prepare your advocacy work:

Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com 515.201.3755 Cell

**Find RSAI 2020 Legislative Priorities and Position Papers here:**  <http://www.rsaia.org/2020-legislative-session.html>

**Reflections on the Iowa Economy:**

* REC estimate for FY 2020 is 2.1%. Revenues are up 6.7% year to date. REC estimate for FY 2020 is 2.9%.
* State reserve funds are full and surpluses are growing.
* In the Governor’s Budget Recommendation:
	+ the Taxpayer Relief Fund would be the recipient of the largest line-item dollar amount increase for FY 2021 if there wasn’t an automatic transfer of additional surplus into the fund (as opposed to being available for the state’s general fund priorities ($175.5 million transfer)
	+ Medicaid appropriations are the second largest dollar increase, at $167 million.
	+ School aid and transportation equity are third, at $101.2 million.
* The 2018 tax cuts are still being phased in and the SAVE extension provides additional property tax relief for the next 30 years.

This sets the stage for adequately funding schools. he Governor’s Recommendation (and House’s amount) of 2.5% increase in the state cost per pupil would be the second largest increase in 11 years. Iowa’s economy and school budgets have been constrained, but now that growth is positive, it’s time for schools to be funded.

With the SSA bills moving out of subcommittees on Thursday this week, rural school advocates have this weekend, Monday and Tuesday to contact legislators, especially Senators, to encourage them to at least match the House and Governor’s 2.5%. Thank all of them for working on this quickly and meeting the 30-day deadline. And also thank them for working on the transportation and formula equity pieces of the school funding puzzle. See details of the subcommittee action and a comparison of the proposals below.

**State Supplemental Assistance (per pupil cost increase):** House and Senate bills were introduced this week to start the conversation on the state cost per pupil increase for FY 2021. The House sets the high bar, agreeing with the Governor’s 2.5%, adding another $1.8 million to transportation equity above the Governor’s number, including $5.8 million for formula equity and $2.5 million for therapeutic classrooms/student behavior. The Senate agrees with all of the House’s numbers except sets a lower SSA percentage increase, at 2.1%.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Governor Recommendation** | **House HSB 587 & HSB 594** | **Senate** **SSB 3096 & SSB 3097** |
| SSA % for FY 2021 | 2.50% | 2.50% | 2.10% |
|  |  |  |  |
| SCPP $ increase | $172 per pupil | $172 per pupil | $144 per pupil |
| State Aid Increase | $94.7 million | $94.7 million | $75.7 million |
|  |  |  |  |
| Categorical Fund $ Increase | $15.9 million | $15.9 million | $14.0 million |
|  |  |  |  |
| PTRP per pupil | $131 per pupil | $131 per pupil | $128 per pupil |
| PTRP $ total | $75.1 million | $75.1 million | $73.3 million |
|   |   |   |   |
| Transportation  | $5.5 million | $7.3 million | $7.3 million |
|   |   |   |   |
| Formula Equity per Pupil | $0  | $10 per pupil | $10 per pupil |
| Formula Equity Total $ | $0  | $5.8 million | $5.8 million |
|   |   |   |   |
| Work-based Learning coordinator Operational Sharing | $1.0 million |   |   |
| Therapeutic Classrooms/Student Behavior |   | $2.5 million | $2.5 million |
| Total Dollars:  | $101.2 million | $109.5 million | $91.3 million |
|   |   |   |   |
| Continued Total AEA reduction | $22.5 million | $22.5 million | $22.5 million |

RSAI requests that both priorities be accomplished with the current state revenue picture; 3.75% increase in SSA, fully fund the transportation equity payments, and accelerate closing the $165 gap in the district cost per pupil.

**Check out the FY 2020** [**ISFIS New Authority Report**](https://www.iowaschoolfinance.com/budget_projections)and compare the various proposals at 2.1% and 2.5% with the 3.75% RSAI request. What additional resources would be available to your district? How would your district put those dollars to work for students?

**Adequate Funding Talking Points:** RSAI’s priority for adequate funding calls for 3.75% increase in SSA for FY 2021.

* THANK YOU to all legislators for working on SSA quickly to meet the 30-day deadline.
* 2.5% SSA does not allow schools to keep pace with cost increases or compete with the private sector for labor, let alone lower class sizes and increase educational opportunities for students.
* Iowa’s schools statewide spend 62.6% of their General Funds on salaries, 19.6% on employee benefits and the remaining 18% on everything else (utilities, training, textbooks, bus fuel, educational software, assessments, etc.) There is little left to reduce expenditures after 11 years of low increases, but staffing.
* The Consumer Price Index, CPI, based on a market basket of goods, doesn’t measure what schools buy, primarily people. Having said that, SSA hasn’t even kept pace with CPI, as Sen. Quirmbach pointed out in the Senate Subcommittee discussion.
* Iowa’s economy has strong Per Capita Personal income and Gross Domestic Product growth, both of which are good benchmarks to demonstrate why SSA has been short in the last decade. Iowa’s full coffers and growing surpluses are a good indication the state can afford to adequately fund schools.
* Iowa’s 2.6% unemployment rate, one of the best in the nation, puts pressure on all employers to hire qualified staff. Schools are no exception and will not be able to compete with private sector employers if we don’t have adequate SSA. All across the state, it is harder to find bus drivers, support staff, special education teachers, STEM and ELL teachers, demonstrating that our schools do not have the resources to be competitive.

**RSAI Bill Registrations**

Two lists follow: **Bill Action and New Bills**. If RSAI Legislative Priorities address our registration, you’ll see a registration already declared as in *support, undecided or opposed*. For those issues not addressed in our legislative platform (such as SF 2009 School License Driving), we encourage your feedback on what our registration should be, but in the meantime, will indicate an undecided registration. Actually, we encourage your feedback and questions on any of these bills. In the first weeks of session, there is a flurry of new bills. We no doubt missed some, but will add those in next week’s report.

**Bill Action**

* [**SSB 3096**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGI/88/SSB3096.pdf) **SSA** at 2.1%, sponsored by Sinclair: this is $144 per pupil, or 80 cents a day for 180 days of instruction. See the chart above for details. We requested 3.75% increase and believe that state reasonably can afford that amount. The Subcommittee moved the bill forward to the Senate Education Committee. RSAI is registered opposed.
* [**SSB 3097**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGI/88/SSB3097.pdf) **Transportation and Equity Payments** by Sinclair: funds transportation to the state average with $7.3 million new dollars, closes the foundation formula equity gap by $10 with $5.8 million. RSAI supports this bill. The Subcommittee moved the bill forward to the Senate Education Committee.
* [**HF 2060**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2060) **School Bond Elections** by Salmon**:** limits bond elections to the November regular school/city election. The bill failed to get the 2 votes in subcommittee necessary to move forward. Thanks to Audubon School Leaders for attending the subcommittee and explaining the impact of this bill on school districts! RSAI is registered opposed.
* [**HF 2088**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2088) **PD Spending** by Jones**:** prohibits PD credits for licensure if the venue is an amusement park, unless it’s delivered in the conference room and prohibits school PD funds from using PD funds unless the activity is held at the conference room or meeting room at the amusement park. The bill was approved in the subcommittee 2:1 and moves forward to the full Education Committee with an amendment likely to expand to any entertainment venue. RSAI is registered as undecided.
* [**SF 2065**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2065) **School Resource Officer Funding** by Sinclair: this bill moved out of subcommittee and was on the Senate Education Committee agenda, but is awaiting an amendment. The bill allows ISL funding above the current limit to be used for SROs, either property or income surtax. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**SF 316**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf316) **Special Education Study** by Education: would require an Interim Study Committee to learn about special education state and federal requirements, IEPs, inclusion and least restrictive alternative, teacher training, practices and strategies to best accommodate students with severe emotional, social and behavioral problems, among other things. A report will be due December 18, 2020. The bill was approved in the subcommittee 3:0 and moves forward to the full Education Committee with an amendment to expand those from whom the committee must seek input and add special education finance to the topics to be studied. Approved in Subcommittee on Wednesday. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**SSB 3080**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=ssb3080) **Room Clears** by Sinclair (companion [**HSB 598**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb598) by Dolecheck). Details of the bill:
	+ It sets up a process to define appropriate and inappropriate responses to behavior, including standards, guidelines and expectations
	+ Creates a grant process to fund creation of therapeutic classroom programs and includes a weighting for transportation costs to the classroom if over 30 miles (includes $500,000 appropriation).
	+ Softens the Iowa code language on Least Restrictive Environment consistent with federal IDEA law.
	+ Prohibits IEPs from including a provision requiring room clears to calm the student.
	+ Allows a room clear only if necessary to prevent or terminate an imminent threat of bodily injury, requires parents of the classroom be notified, and requires the principal to request a meeting with the parent of the student causing the room clear with appropriate staff and prohibits the student from returning to the regular classroom until the meeting takes place.
	+ It provides immunity from liability for school staff under certain conditions.
	+ Requires personal student information in the report to comply with student records protections.
	+ Defines bodily injury
	+ Excludes physical contact from the definition of "corporal punishment" if used to protect self, others or property and requires the state BOE to adopt rules to implement this section.

Sen. Sinclair explained a long list of amendments that will improve the bill and diminish some of the concerns we have heard from schools. RSAI is registered in support of this bill. The Subcommittee supported it moving forward to the full Senate Education Committee with amendment.

* [**SF 2044**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2044) **Nonpublic School Athletic Classification** by Sinclair: this bill requires the athletic associations to study whether nonpublic schools should be weighted differently for purposes of classification and submit a report to the General Assembly by Jan. 1, 2021. The goal is to promote the most equitable outcomes achievable for nonpublic and public school high school athletics. The subcommittee met and heard testimony from the athletic associations and from the DE that they are already undergoing a study to consider nonpublic schools and poverty among factors that would influence classification, so the bill did not move out of Subcommittee. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**SSB 3067**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=ssb3067) **School Health Screenings** by Sinclair: this bill prohibits schools from conducting health screenings of students that are not required under state or federal law unless the school has the written permission of the parent. The Subcommittee approved the bill to move forward with 2 senators in support, with a few amendments. We expect the amendments to define “health screening” and allow for health screening under emergent conditions, among others. RSAI is registered as undecided.
* [**SSB 3075**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=ssb3075) **School Immunity** by Zaun: this bill adds volunteers to the school immunity statute allowing physical contact if reasonable to prevent injury to self or others. The bill provides immunity for the volunteer, school employees, and school board pursuant to the action. The bill places the burden of proof on the claimant and requires monetary damages including attorney fees be paid to the volunteer by the claimant if it is determined that the volunteer was wrongfully accused. The Subcommittee recommend the bill moves forward to the full Senate Judiciary Committee. RSAI is registered as undecided.
* [**SF 2057**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=SF2057) **Appealing Grades** by Kraayenbrink**:** thisbill would require schools, including community colleges and universities, to have a process for a student to appeal a grade because the teacher had a political bias that affected the student’s grade. Most of the concern expressed in subcommittee by supporters was targeted at higher education. Concerns from those opposed included vagueness of the definition of “political bias” and that most schools, colleges and universities already have complaint, appeal or chain of command processes. The subcommittee moved the bill forward on a 2:1 vote. RSAI is registered in opposition.
* [**SF 2065**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2065) **School Resources Officers** by Sinclair: this bill allows school districts to use funding from the Instructional Support Program for school resource officers beginning with the 2020-21 school year and allows districts to exceed their maximum authority for instructional support if the excess funding is spent on SROs. This bill strikes a nice balance, with local funds (property tax or property and income surtax) subject to board approval for five years by resolution which includes a reverse referendum process if the public challenges the board decision or a vote of the public for ten-year authorization. The bill was approved by the subcommittee and is in the Senate Education Committee. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**HSB 559**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb559) **Teacher Preparation Reports** by Dolecheck: Directs the State BOE to require colleges and universities with teacher preparation programs to report annually on Praxis test scores. Effective on enactment and allows for the implementation through emergency rules. The Subcommittee discussed their intention to amend the bill to remove the requirement that students applying to the college of education have a minimum text score on the Praxis I to be admitted. SF 2100 in the Senate is a companion bill. RSAI is registered as undecided, but will likely move to supportive with the addition of the amendment in the full Education Committee.
* [**HF 2088**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2088) **Professional Development Spending** by Jones:this bill prohibits school PD money from being spent for activities at an amusement park. The bill requires the BOEE to adopt rules to prohibit professional development activities at an amusement park from being used for license renewals. The bill makes an exception for conference or meetings rooms on amusements park property. The bill is in the House State Government Committee. The Subcommittee voted to move the bill forward 2:1, and suggested they will amend it to include any entertainment venue. RSAI is undecided.
* [**HF 2192**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf2192) **Telehealth Payments** by Human Services: this bill requires health carriers to reimburse health care providers for telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services as of January 2021. Approved unanimously in the House Human Services Committee. RSAI supports this bill.
* [**HSB 587**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hsb587) **State School Aid** by Dolecheck: this bill includes a 2.5% growth rate for SSA (supplemental state aid) and categorical aid, continues the property tax replacement (PTER) calculations for FY 2021. The bill was approved by the subcommittee. RSAI is registered as undecided. The bill matches the Governor’s recommendation for 2.5% growth, well above the Senate’s 2.1%, yet falls short of RSAI’s priority of 3.75%. Rep. Dolecheck announced his intentions to consider the bill in the House Education Committee as early as Tuesday.

**New Bills**

[**HSB 576**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hsb576) **English Proficiency Weighting** by Dolecheck: This bill establishes two categories for weighting to support students with limited English proficiency into emerging and progressing categories. The bill defines both categories and assigns a supplementary weighting of 0.3 to emergency English-language learners and a supplementary weighting of 0.25 is assigned to progressing English-language learners. The current weighting for all ELL students is .22. The bill does not change the 5-year limit, but also does not limit the ability of districts to request SBRC authority for excess ELL costs above the weighting or for additional time beyond the 5 years. RSAI is registered in support.

[**HSB 594**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=HSB%20594) **Transportation and Equity Payments** by Mohr: funds transportation to the state average with $26.3 million, which is an increase of $7.3 million, provide transportation equity payments to districts with transportation costs per pupil enrolled above the state average and an appropriation of $5.8 million to close the foundation formula equity gap by $10 per pupil, bringing the gap down to $155. RSAI supports this bill. The bill is assigned to the House Appropriations Committee, with a subcommittee of Dolecheck, Kerr and McKean.

[**HF 663**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf663) **Education Savings Grants** by Gassman: this bill was assigned a new subcommittee of Gassman (C), Shipley, and Staed. This bill was in the House Education Subcommittee last year but did not get approval of the Committee. The bill establishes an Education Savings Grant Program, phasing in a $2,000 grant for students in Kindergarten in nonpublic schools or for students who previously received an Education Savings Grant. This phases in the program over 13 years. The bill is in the House Education Committee. RSAI is registered opposed.

[**HF 2139**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf2139) **Immunization Exemption Information** by Shipley: this bill requires any communications from schools about immunizations include information about the exemptions from immunizations. RSAI is undecided. The bill is in the House Education Committee.

[**HF 2142**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf2142) **Local Government Election Costs** by Jones: this bill requires the county supervisors to assess the costs of local elections against the local governments holding the election, including assessing a share of the costs for elections with ballot items covering multiple jurisdictions. The bill establishes a formula for election costs. RSAI is leaning in support, but still gathering information about election costs associated with the last November 2019 combined school and city election to determine impact. The bill is assigned to the House Local Government Committee.

[**HF 2147**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf2147) **School Budget Calculations** by A Meyer: this bill allows a school or AEA to apply to the School Budget Review Committee for permission to revise reports submitted by the school in the previous three years. The bill does not allow the revisions to change budget calculations in previous years. RSAI is in support of this bill, now in the House Education Committee.

[**HF 2148**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf2148) **Dyslexia Instruction, Licensure and Definition** by Konfrst and James: this bill requires the State BOE to adopt rules on an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement for teachers, in consultation with the Iowa Reading Research Center and the BOEE. Directs the DE to work with AEAs on recommendations on a professional framework from the Iowa Dyslexia Task Force. Establishes criteria for the endorsement. Requires schools to assess students who are persistently at risk for reading for dyslexia and, although that requirement is contingent on an appropriation to the DE to develop the assessment, there is no appropriation to cover the costs of schools to administer it. Requires appropriate services be provided based on the assessment results. Requires all ELA, math, science and social studies content K-12 classroom teachers to complete the Reading Research Center module on dyslexia before school starts annually but allows new teachers their first year to complete the module. Redefines dyslexia. Specifies that this is not an unfunded mandate since schools receive state foundation aid. RSAI appreciates the work of the Dyslexia Task Force but is leaning opposed based on several unfunded mandates. The bill is in the House Education Committee.

[**HF 2149**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf2149) **Water Safety Teaching** by Hanusa: the bill allows swimming safety instruction in schools to be done by an instructor certified by the YMCA/YWCA, the Red Cross or other national certification group. See SF 2052 companion. RSAI supports the bill.

[**HF 2150**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf2150) **Bus Driver Hiring** by Staed and 15 fellow democrats: the bill requires DE to convene a workgroup to study the hiring practices, recruitment and background checks for school bus drivers. Specifies membership of the group. Requires recommendations by November 2020. RSAI, currently is registered as undecided, would support this bill with a few language additions.

[**HF 2153**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2153) **Texting in School Zones** by Mohr: this bill makes the fine for texting while driving in a school zone $60. The bill is in the Public Safety Committee. RSAI is monitoring the bill.

[**HF 2154**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2154) **Child Abuse Education Content** by Mohr: this bill allows continuing education for teachers to include programs on child sex abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention. Requires schools to give age-appropriate, research-based information in K-12 Human Development (sex education) classes. The bill is in the Public Safety Committee. RSAI is monitoring the bill.

[**HF 2169**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGI/88/HF2169.pdf) **Bleeding Control Course Requirement** by A. Meyer:this adds a new course requirement that students must take before graduation, which must be a certification course for bleeding control developed or endorsed by the American college of surgeons committee on trauma or the Department of Public Health. The bill allows an administrator to waive the requirement if the student is not physically able to take the course or if the student submits evidence of certification of the course. The bill includes language that this is not an unfunded mandate since schools receive school foundation aid. RSAI is opposed. The bill is in the House Education Committee.

[**HF 2184**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2184) **Teaching Advocacy** by Salmon and 8 fellow republicans:this bill requires the State BOE to adopt rules prohibiting teachers from engaging in political or ideological advocacy while teaching. Includes activities such as endorsing or supporting candidates or legislation or introducing controversial subjects that are not germane to the topic being taught. There is a long list of actions that would be prohibited. The school board is mandated to provide 3 hours of training to teachers annually on these prohibitions. RSAI is opposed to this last piece in particular, since it is an unfunded mandate. This bill is in the House Education Committee.

[**HF 2186**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2186) **Student Behavior** by Donahue: this bill requires the DE to offer guidance and technical assistance on the best practices for service-learning projects and for student behavior. Requires school boards to develop programs for students in specified grades to teach the students about expected behavior and other matters. This bill includes some supports, such as DE identifying and sharing best practices, which RSAI supports, and some unfunded mandates, such as mandatory training and required forums and small group time for students, which RSAI opposes, so we are registered as undecided.

[**HF 2194**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2194) **Minor Driving Licenses** by Landon: this bill increases the minimum age for special minor driving licenses to 15 and is assigned to the House Transportation Committee. RSAI is monitoring the bill.

[**HSB 607**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb607) **Future Ready Act** by the Governor: this bill makes changes to the Future Ready Iowa Act. Apprenticeships: Creates an expanded Apprenticeship Opportunities Program to encourage the sponsors of programs with fewer than 20 apprenticeships to maintain the program. Contingent on appropriation. Childcare: Creates the Iowa Child Care Challenge Fund under the DWD to encourage businesses and others to build and increase the availability of childcare. Includes requirements for matching grants. Scoops money from the Employer Innovation Fund, in amounts determined by the DWD, for the fund. Workforce Diplomas: Requires the DWD to develop a pilot program to assist older students in obtaining a HS diploma while developing technical skills. Defines eligible providers. Includes requirements for the program. Computer Science: Establishes requirements for K-12 computer science education, including instruction in one grade each in elementary/middle school and requires ½ unit of computer science to meet offer and teach requirements and allows online learning to meet the requirement. Weighting: Makes a work-based learning coordinator eligible for supplementary weighting for shared operational funding. Last Dollar Scholarships: Expands the definition of eligible students and requires the State BOE to adopt rules on the approval of educational and training programs. Includes provisions on expansion. Senior Year: Eliminates part-time references in regard to attending concurrent enrollment courses (would allow full time college while in high school). See companion bill SSB 3077. RSAI is currently monitoring the bill. The bill is in the House Commerce Committee.

[**SF 2071**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2071) **School Mental Health Grants** by Mathis and 9 democrats: this bill extends a current reduction of $15 million in state aid to area education agencies for FY 2021 and subsequent fiscal years, requires the DE to establish a mental health service providers competitive grant program to use mental health service providers in high-need school districts or in high-need attendance centers operated by school districts, and provides for a general fund standing appropriation of $15 million to the DE for purposes of the program. The bill allows a school district or AEA or any combination thereof to apply to the DE for a grant to employ a mental health service provider to design and implement a program that provides counseling and support services for children enrolled in a school district who have a serious emotional disturbance, and such counseling and support services, as well as training, to adults employed by or served by the school district. RSAI is registered undecided on this bill. The bill is in the Senate Education Committee.

[**HF 2090**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2090) **Seizure Disorders** by A. Meyer: this bill requires schools to have an individual health plan, including a seizure action plan, if the school has a student with a seizure disorder/epilepsy. The bill requires schools to have at least one employee trained to treat seizures, including administering medications or other treatments. Includes other training requirements and requirements for parents to work with schools on individual health plans. The bill includes good faith liability protections. RSAI is concerned about an unfunded mandate but sympathetic to the needs of these students, so is registered as undecided on the bill. The bill is in the House Education Committee.

[**SF 2100**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2100) **Telehealth School Behavioral Services** by Miller-Meeks; this bill authorizes schools and AEAs to offer behavioral health screenings and services through telehealth. Requires insurance or Medicaid to pay the same for such telehealth services as for in-person services. Includes provisions to define appropriate provider/student relationships, communication with the school if there is a threat of danger to others or self, protection of student privacy and communication with parents and the student’s primary care provider. The bill is in the Senate Education Committee. RSAI is registered in support.

[**SF 2102**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2102) **Iowa Scholars Grants** by Carlin; this bill gives minorities the first priority in the Teach Iowa Scholars Grant program. Raises the grant limits to 7,500 annually and a maximum of $37,500. A subcommittee of Kraayenbrink (C), Cournoyer, Giddens is assigned. RSAI is undecided on this bill. The bill is in the Senate Education Committee.

[**SF 2104**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGI/88/SF2104.pdf) **Property Tax Limitations** by Zaun: Requires spending by counties over 101% of the budget limit rules effective in July 2020 to be approved by 2/3 of the supervisors and then by a vote of 60% of the electors. Amends the process for a city to amend their budget. Establishes a property tax freeze for homesteads if the SS or pensions make up 50% of the owner’s income. RSAI is opposed. The bill is in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

[**SF 2123**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2123) **Education Aid Adjustment** by Nunn; this bill makes a school eligible for an adjustment in state foundation aid if a property value adjustment made on appeal is at least $100,000 (2% of the property value in the district). Requires the property to originally be assessed at more than $5 million. The bill is in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. RSAI supports it. See Companion bill HF 2176

[**SF 2078**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=SF2078) **Nonpartisan Election Contributions** by Nunn; this bill prohibits a county statutory political committee, national political party, or state statutory political committee from making an expenditure for or contribution to a candidate running for a county, city, or school board office that is selected by a nonpartisan election. By operation of law, a person who willfully violates a provision of the bill is guilty of a serious misdemeanor. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than one year and a fine of at least $315 but not more than $1,875. The bill is in the Senate State Government Committee. RSAI is monitoring this bill.

**Connecting with Legislators: See the RSAI Jan. 23, 2020 weekly** [Report](http://nebula.wsimg.com/794dd24bbc0c3bd2c451079c6920a003?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1) **for information about legislator biographies, contact information and committee assignments.**

**Advocacy Resources:**

To find Advocacy Resources such as Position Papers, RSAI Weekly Legislative Reports and video updates, RSAI Calls to Action when immediate advocacy action is required, testimony presented to the State Board of Education, the DE or any legislative committee or public hearing, and links to fiscal information that may inform your work, visit the RSAI legislative web page here: <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>

To call and leave a message at the statehouse during session, the House switchboard operator number is 515.281.3221 and the Senate switchboard operator number is 515.281.3371. You can ask if they are available or leave a message for them to call you back.