



2022 List of Successes

Despite the overall funding and school choice policy challenges of the 2022 Legislative Session, there are some notable successes for rural schools and students worthy of mention and significant enough to include when thanking Legislators and the Governor for their service:

- **Equity:** An additional reduction of \$5 per pupil in the formula equity gap was accomplished and transportation equity payments for above-average transportation costs were continued ([HF 2316](#)). The bill also appropriated an increase of \$2 million, total of \$29.5 million, for transportation equity payments to districts with above-average transportation costs.
- **Operational Sharing:** Increased superintendent supplementary weighting to 9 students and created several new positions that would qualify for sharing incentives (SROs at 3 students, also adds college and career transition counselor or coordinator from [SF 2589](#) at 3 students, and allows one individual to serve in different roles when shared between districts. [HF 2080](#))
- **Student Mental Health:** \$3.4 million appropriation to AEAs for mental health training and student supports and services ([HF 2575](#)), which is an increase of \$200,000. See also Mental Health Professionals Loan Repayment Program above.
- **Radon Testing Local Control:** although otherwise a state mandate, the bill expanded flexibility to use SAVE/State Penny for School Infrastructure funds for Radon Testing/ Mitigation and allowed districts to train local staff to conduct the testing and implement mitigation. ([HF 2412](#))
- **SF 2366 Wind Energy Conversion:** corrected a law allowing wind turbine repair to reset the valuation schedule, which has the effect of postponing valuation growth that impacts local levy capacity and increases the cost of state aid to account for it. The Bill is generally effective upon enactment and applies to assessment year 2022 (property taxes due during FY 2024). A portion of the change made to Iowa Code section 427B.26(3) applies to wind energy conversion property assessment schedules commenced on or after the effective date of the Bill.

Teacher/Staff Shortage Policies:

- **HF 2081 PRAXIS:** eliminated the need for college graduates to pass the PRAXIS test to obtain an Iowa teaching license. This is especially helpful for districts hiring foreign language teachers for whom English is not their primary language or teachers that represent disadvantaged student groups who also struggle in the testing environment, but have demonstrated portfolios and skills for teaching.
- **HF 2165 Future Ready Workforce Scholarships:** allows part-time students to qualify for scholarship support. Educators are included in shortage areas. This flexibility pairs with the Governor's Teacher and Para-educator registered apprenticeship program to recruit and prepare individuals to teach in our schools.
- **HF 2549 Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program:** establishes a College Student Aid Commission fund for loan forgiveness. Requires mental health professionals to work in Iowa for at least 5 years if full-time and 7 years if part-time to qualify for loan repayment grants. \$520,000 was appropriated in the Education Appropriations bill HF 2575 to get the program started.
- **SF 2266 IPERS Earnings Limits:** increases the income threshold of an IPERS benefits recipient under age 65 employed by an IPERS employer from \$30,000 to \$50,000 without loss of IPERS income. Also increases the conflict of interest threshold for a school board member who receives income from their school district from \$6,000 to \$20,000. (*Note: IPERS retirees still need to fulfill the bona fide retirement period of four months.*)
- **SF 2383 Licensure Reciprocity in Governor's Workforce Omnibus Bill:** eliminates the requirement for a person with a license from another state to have at least one year of experience before receiving licensure reciprocity in Iowa.



- **Teacher and Paraeducator Registered Apprenticeship Program:** Governor Reynolds dedicated over \$45.6 million in awards across the state impacting 134 districts, paid for with American Rescue Plan Act funds –Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. RSAI worked with Cherokee CSD as lead school district to create an opportunity for over 30 rural districts which individually lacked the minimum number of participants to qualify. Find out more on the [RSAI website](#).