

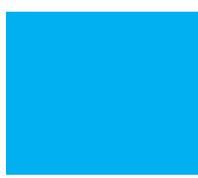


# **2019 RSAI ANNUAL MEETING**

**October 16, 2019**

**FFA Enrichment Center, DMACC Campus  
Ankeny, IA**

**4:30 – 7:30 pm**



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## **RSAI Annual Meeting Agenda**

**October 16, 2019**

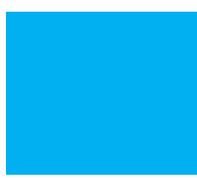
**4:30 – 7:30 pm**

FFA Enrichment Center, DMACC Campus

1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa 50023

(There will be a working dinner during the meeting)

1. Call Annual Meeting to Order: *Bob Olson, Chair, RSAI Leadership Group*
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Introduction of the 2019-20 Leadership Group and 2019-20 Legislative Committee Members
4. Introduction of meeting attendees: (Name, District, Role and one advantage of rural schools)
5. Annual Meeting Business: *Duane Willhite, Secretary/Treasurer, RSAI Leadership Group*
  - 2018-19 Annual Audit
  - 2019-20 Budget & Professional Advocate Payment
  - 2019-20 RSAI Membership Dues
6. Results of Election of SW Region Representative to the Leadership Group for three-year term through Sept. 2022. (Welcome back Paul Croghan, CAM CSD & Nodaway Valley CSD.)
7. Election of RSAI At-Large member for a three-year term (Dennis McClain 3-year term expires)
8. Opportunity to Amend to RSAI Bylaws (No proposals emerged at regional meetings or via Legislative or Leadership Committee review)
9. Status of RSAI 2019 Priorities: *Margaret Buckton, RSAI Legislative Advocate*
10. Report of Aug. 14 Legislative Group meeting: *Duane Willhite, Chair, RSAI Legislative Group*
11. Establish RSAI legislative priorities for 2020 Legislative Session: *Duane Willhite, Chair, RSAI Legislative Group*
12. Vote to approve slate of priorities (Simple majority of districts present, one vote per district)
13. Focus Area Prioritization and Plan for grassroots advocacy / legislative contacts: *Margaret Buckton*
14. Any other business
15. Adjourn (please note: Leadership Group convenes short organizational meeting upon conclusion of the Annual Meeting.)

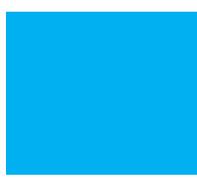


## RSAI Essential Values

**Background:** The following themes provide a concise 30,000-foot view to help define the organization and drive lobbying responses to proposals outside the boundaries of defined RSAI legislative priorities.

### **RSAI Essential Values: (Considerations when formulating positions on Legislative Issues):**

- **Students First:** State policies and resources should be designed to support schools in providing equal opportunities and success for students in **all districts of all sizes and locations**.
- **State Mandates:** Any new mandates ought to be founded on a principal of state public purpose. If the state compels school district action, the costs of that action must be initially funded and continually supported with a long term sustainability plan.
- **Flexibility:** In education policy, one size does not fit all school districts, classrooms or students. District leaders need maximum flexibility to provide a great education to all students. The state role is to define what outcomes are necessary for all students, leaving flexibility to schools in expenditures and policy to best determine how to deliver those intended outcomes.
- **Recognize Need and Capacity:** Formulas for funding should be based on student needs rather than exclusively defined based on enrollment. Per pupil funding alone does not recognize the challenge of maintaining capacity for supporting and improving education during continuous enrollment decline.
- **School General Fund Revenues Drive Instruction:** General Fund dollars pay for education. Any inequities on the expenditure side of the General Fund deprive districts of resources to pay for education. School transportation costs are a prime example.
- **Local Control:** Local leaders will typically make the best decisions for students, especially when they have adequate flexibility and resources to make those decisions. The state should exhaust other tools to correct local district mistakes when they believe those happen, rather than legislating for all districts (such tools may include but are not limited to DE review, set accreditation expectations, AEA support, SBRC request for a conversation, etc.)
- **State Program Sustainability:** Funding for state initiatives should be defined and planned, including providing a plan for adequately funding the basic cost of education along the way, while defining sustainable sources of revenue for new state reforms and initiatives.
- **School Sustainability:** Decisions about school sustainability should be based on the inability to deliver student success, rather than assumptions about the size of a school district. Sharing, reorganization, consolidation and dissolution decisions are best made locally. The state provides support through the provision of incentives to help eliminate barriers to those conversations.



## RSAI Leadership and Contact Information

### RSAI Professional Advocate

Margaret Buckton, [margaret.buckton@rsaia.org](mailto:margaret.buckton@rsaia.org), cell: (515) 201-3755, office: (515) 251-5970

### RSAI Leadership Group

The RSAI Leadership Group is comprised of representatives from all four regions of Iowa, plus three at-large members.

- Robert Olson, Clarion-Goldfield/Dows CSD, Superintendent, (NW, Chair, Region 1 Director) [robert.olson@rsaia.org](mailto:robert.olson@rsaia.org)
- Dennis McClain, Adair-Casey/Guthrie Center CSD, Superintendent (Vice Chair, At-large member) [dennis.mcclain@rsaia.org](mailto:dennis.mcclain@rsaia.org)
- Duane Willhite, North Fayette CSD, Superintendent (Secretary/Treasurer, At-large member) [duane.willhite@rsaia.org](mailto:duane.willhite@rsaia.org)
- Paul Croghan, CAM/Nodaway Valley CSD, Superintendent, (SW, Region 3 Director) [paul.croghan@rsaia.org](mailto:paul.croghan@rsaia.org)
- Laurie Noll, Fairfield CSD, Superintendent, (SE, Region 4 Director) [laurie.noll@rsaia.org](mailto:laurie.noll@rsaia.org)
- Dan Smith, Harmony CSD, Board President (At-large member) [dan.smith@rsaia.org](mailto:dan.smith@rsaia.org)
- Nick Trenkamp, Superintendent, Central CSD, (NE, Region 2 Director) [nicholas.trenkamp@rsaia.org](mailto:nicholas.trenkamp@rsaia.org)

### RSAI Legislative Group

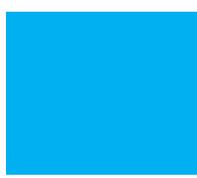
The RSAI Legislative Group is comprised of the above at-large Leadership Group members, plus the following additional legislative representatives

#### *2018-19 Legislative Group*

- SW - Tim Mitchell, Superintendent, Riverside CSD [tmitchell@riverside.k12.ia.us](mailto:tmitchell@riverside.k12.ia.us)
- NE - Darrin Strike, Superintendent, West Fork CSD [darrin.strike@westforkschool.org](mailto:darrin.strike@westforkschool.org)
- SE - Sandy Dockendorff, Board Member, Danville CSD [sandy.dockendorff@danvillecsd.org](mailto:sandy.dockendorff@danvillecsd.org)
- NW - Dan Frazier, Superintendent, Belmont-Klemme CSD [dan.frazier@bkcsd.org](mailto:dan.frazier@bkcsd.org)

#### *2019-20 Legislative Group*

- SW - Tim Mitchell, Superintendent, Riverside CSD [tmitchell@riverside.k12.ia.us](mailto:tmitchell@riverside.k12.ia.us)
- NE – Barb Schwamman, Superintendent, Osage/Riceville CSD, [bschwamman@osage.k12.ia.us](mailto:bschwamman@osage.k12.ia.us)
- SE – Joel Pedersen, Superintendent, Cardinal CSD, [joel.pedersen@cardinalcomet.com](mailto:joel.pedersen@cardinalcomet.com)
- NW –Scott Williamson, Superintendent, Sioux Central, Laurens-Marathon, and Clay Central Everly CSD, [swilliamson@siouxcentral.org](mailto:swilliamson@siouxcentral.org)



## **Memo re Financial Statement Audit**

### **June 30, 2019**

TO: RSAI Leadership Committee

FROM: Duane Willhite, RSAI Treasurer

DATE: September 15, 2019

RE: RSAI Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

#### 1. SUMMARY

Rural School Advocates of Iowa (RSAI) concluded its most recent fiscal year on June 30, 2019. During the 2018-19 fiscal year, RSAI consisted of 101 member districts, up from 93 members during 2017-18, and 72 members during 2016-17. Revenues for the fiscal year came entirely from those memberships which totaled \$71,850. Total expenses for the fiscal year were \$70,403, with payments for association management and professional advocate services totaling \$61,073. Net revenue for the fiscal year was positive \$1,447. RSAI assets as of June 30, 2019 totaled \$13,954. Due to the limited number of transactions during the fiscal year, it was decided by the RSAI Leadership Committee to forego the expense of a formal external audit and instead conduct an internal review of the financial transactions.

#### 2. SCOPE

As RSAI Treasurer, I have conducted an internal review of the financial transactions of the Rural School Advocates of Iowa (RSAI). The time period covered by this review is July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. In my opinion, the internal review procedures conducted are sufficient to evaluate the accuracy of the financial report that follows this memo.

#### 2. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

RSAI day-to-day financial transactions are performed by staff members and contractors of Iowa School Finance Information Services (ISFIS). The financial review was conducted on the basis of questionnaire, inquiry, observation, and verification of supporting documentation and identified processes.

#### 3. FINDINGS

After the internal review was conducted, I have identified no significant findings requiring adjustments to the financial statements presented.



## RSAI Financial Statements

Rural School Advocates of Iowa (RSAI)  
Balance Sheet  
June 30, 2019

Current Assets

Cash - Wells Fargo Checking	13,139	
Accounts Receivable	-	
Prepaid Items	815	
Total Current Assets	<u>          </u>	13,954

Other Assets

Other	-	
Total Other Assets	<u>          </u>	-

**Total Assets**

**13,954**

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	-	
Advances from/Amounts Due to ISFIS	854	
Deferred Income	11,250	
Total Liabilities	<u>          </u>	12,104

Equity

Retained Earnings	403	
Net Income	1,447	
Total Equity	<u>          </u>	1,851

**Total Liabilities & Equity**

**13,954**



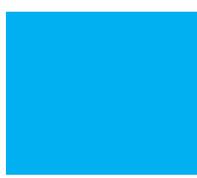
**Rural School Advocates of Iowa (RSAI)  
Income Statement  
For the Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2019**

	<b>YTD Actual June 2019</b>	<b>Annual Budget 2018-19</b>
<u>Income</u>		
Membership Dues	71,850	65,000
Other	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>71,850</u>	<u>65,000</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Advertising/Promotion	2,147	1,500
Postage	335	300
Supplies/Printing/Signage	754	1,000
Computer Hardware/Software	645	540
Insurance	712	725
Dues, Subs & Ref Matls	500	750
Consultation Fees - Assoc Mgmt/Professional Advocate	61,073	55,250
Consultation Fees - CPA Services	-	250
Legal Fees	-	250
Hosting, Domain & Website Fees	400	650
Travel Expenses	1,262	-
Annual Conference	1,409	1,300
Regional Meetings	467	1,000
Program Fees - NASDTEC	700	1,200
Other	-	285
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>70,403</u>	<u>65,000</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>1,447</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>



## RSAI Budget

	<b>Budget 2019-20</b>
<u>Income</u>	
Annual Conference	\$ -
Membership Dues	\$ 65,000
Regional Meetings	\$ -
Other	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 65,000</b>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Advertising/Promotion	\$ 1,600
Postage	\$ 250
Supplies/Printing/Signage	\$ 1,000
Computer Hardware/Software	\$ 645
Insurance	\$ 715
Dues, Subs & Ref Mats	\$ 750
Consultation Fees - Assoc Mgmt/Prof Advocate	\$ 55,250
Consultation Fees - CPA Services	\$ 250
Legal Fees	\$ -
Hosting, Domain & Website Fees	\$ 650
Travel Expenses	\$ 1,000
Annual Meeting	\$ 1,340
Regional Meetings	\$ 850
Program Fees - NASDTEC	\$ 700
Other	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 65,000</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



## RSAI Membership Pricing Schedule (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

<b>Standard Annual Dues:</b>	\$750 per district
<b>Whole Grade Sharing:</b> (approx. 25% discount)	\$550 per district if both join
<b>Final Year of WGS before Reorg:</b> (approx. 50% discount)	\$375 per district if both join

**DUES WAIVER**

**Negative Spending Authority** 100% discount off membership fee  
(fee waived with approval from RSAI Leadership Group for financial hardships)

**SERVICE FEE DISCOUNT**

**ISFIS Policy/Negotiations Subscriber Discount** \$100 discount off membership fee  
(discount paid by ISFIS on district's behalf)

**ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**

**NASDTEC Licensure Check** Free member benefit for RSAI Members  
Includes licensure check of prospective employees through the 50-state NASDTEC licensure clearinghouse.



## **RSAI By-Laws (*no Proposed Amendment*)**

**Name:** The name of the organization shall be the Rural School Advocates of Iowa and shall be referred to below as "RSAI".

**Mission:**

RSAI will advocate for students in rural schools to assure a fair, equal, and quality education.

**Vision:**

Member schools will collaborate to promote legislation that strengthens rural education for students, by;

1. Educating others about the value of rural education to the state's economy and future of Iowa as an educational leader in the nation and the world and unique challenges rural schools and communities face;
2. Building the capacity and understanding of other groups with similar interests on legislative and educational issues to build a stronger voice;
3. Securing adequate resources, academic and financial, to provide first class educational opportunities for students; and
4. Maintaining local control through the flexibility and authority of locally elected School Boards.

**Membership:**

Membership of RSAI shall be open to School Districts in Iowa that share the values and mission of RSAI in advocating for students in rural schools to assure a fair, equal, and quality education. Affiliate membership is extended to other organizations/entities sharing the values and mission of RSAI, as approved by the RSAI Leadership group. Input from affiliate member organizations is valued but such organizations are non-voting affiliate members of RSAI.

Membership in RSAI shall not be considered in lieu of membership in other organizations serving students in the state of Iowa. RSAI will work closely with all organizations sharing its Mission, Vision and Legislative priorities.

Member School Districts shall be responsible for advocating for students; creating local networks to support RSAI identified Legislative priorities; and assisting Legislators in gaining a better understanding of rural student and school needs.

Member School Districts are encouraged to create a Liaison responsible for Legislative

advocacy from among its Board members to fulfill its RSAI responsibilities and act as a direct contact within the School District for RSAI.

Membership dues shall be provided each year at the Annual meeting of RSAI. Dues shall be the same for all member school districts regardless of certified enrollment. However, school districts engaged in whole grade sharing prior to the final year preceding reorganization may receive a discount of 25% each. Districts sharing in the final year prior to reorganization may each receive a 50% discount. In both cases, the two districts may determine the ratio of responsibility for payment. The leadership group may waive dues for districts with financial hardship.

Member School Districts can withdraw membership at any point through written notification to the RSAI Leadership Group. Dues paid are non-refundable.

Member School Districts shall be entitled to participation in RSAI as follows in these By-Laws.

**Voting:**

Unless otherwise specified in these By-Laws, all voting is to be done in person. Active electronic attendance is permitted via internet technologies or in response to survey or other electronic communication as approved by the RSAI Leadership Group. Proxy voting between and by School Districts is not allowed. Each District in attendance shall be entitled to one vote on all issues addressed at the RSAI Annual Meeting or as needed between RSAI Meetings as determined by the RSAI Leadership Group.

**Quorum:**

Unless otherwise specified in these By-Laws, Quorums are not required.

**Meeting Procedures:**

The latest version of Roberts Rules of Order shall be used to determine procedural questions except as otherwise directed by the membership.

**Agendas:**

Unless otherwise specified in these By-Laws, agendas must be forwarded to participants no later than 7 days prior to meetings and must include a date, time and location in addition to actions required at each meeting as per these By-Laws. Unless otherwise specified, creating agendas will be the joint responsibility of the Secretary/Treasurer and Chair of the Leadership Group and must be posted by the Secretary/Treasurer or the Secretary/Treasurer's designee.

**Vacancies:**

If the Leadership Group determines it is unnecessary to appoint to fill a vacancy, a vacancy

shall remain vacant until the next election cycle.

**Representation:**

RSAI shall strive for diversity in representation of all leadership and elected positions within RSAI, including both elected Board members and Superintendents.

**Good Standing:**

Only School Board members and Superintendents in Good Standing in their respective School Districts are eligible to hold elected office in RSAI. Changes in status such as but not limited to failure of Board members to gain reelection to their local School Board or changes in School District employment in the case of Superintendents shall be deemed vacant.

**RSAI Regions:**

Member School Districts shall be divided into 4 Regions known as RSAI Regions. These Regions shall be defined as per the map in Appendix A - "RSAI Regions". Should a merger between one or more districts occur and both districts do not occupy the same RSAI Region, the reorganized district shall be included in the RSAI Region of the district which had the greatest land area prior to the reorganization.

RSAI Regions shall meet annually in the summer and as deemed appropriate and necessary by the RSAI Leadership Group. Each District shall be entitled to one vote on all issues addressed at RSAI Regional Meetings. A shared superintendent present at the meeting may cast one vote for each member district he/she represents.

The RSAI Region meeting participants shall elect an RSAI Region Representative to serve a term as specified later in these By-Laws on the RSAI Leadership Group and shall act as Chair of the Region meetings during their term. The RSAI Region Representative will be responsible for making all arrangements necessary for RSAI Region meetings during their term, ensuring that staff share an Agenda with members at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

The RSAI Region meeting participants shall elect an RSAI Region Liaison to the RSAI Legislative Group. It shall be the responsibility of the RSAI Region Liaison to present the RSAI Region's Legislative priorities at the Legislative Group meeting each year. The term of office of the RSAI Region Liaison shall be one year.

At the RSAI Region meeting, amendments to these By-Laws may be presented for consideration. In order for an amendment to move forward to the RSAI Legislative Group for consideration, a 2/3 majority is required.

At the RSAI Region meeting, Legislative priorities for the upcoming Iowa Legislative

Session shall be established and forwarded for consideration to the RSAI Legislative Group. Determination of Legislative priorities shall be based on a simple majority vote.

**RSAI Legislative Group:**

RSAI Region Liaisons shall gather with the At-Large Leadership Group members as the RSAI Legislative Group annually, but in no event later than 4 weeks prior to the RSAI Annual Meeting.

The Legislative Group will select a Chair and Vice-Chair/Secretary from among its members to conduct the RSAI Legislative Group meeting. The term of office for both will be one year. The RSAI Legislative Group will be responsible for reviewing, amending as necessary and finalizing the Legislative Priorities as identified at the RSAI Region meetings.

The RSAI Legislative Group shall present a set of recommended Legislative Priorities for consideration at the RSAI Annual Meeting. The recommended legislative priorities are presented as a draft with responsibility for finalizing the determination of RSAI's legislative priorities on the body of the RSAI annual meeting participants.

The RSAI Legislative Group shall present any Amendments to these By-Laws for consideration at the RSAI Annual Meeting. In order for an amendment to be included on the agenda at the RSAI Annual meeting for consideration, a 2/3 majority of the RSAI Legislative Group is required. Such proposed amendment shall be submitted to the RSAI Leadership Group at least 14 days prior to the Annual meeting.

**RSAI Annual Meeting**

All member School Districts shall gather annually as determined by the Leadership Group. This meeting shall be known as the RSAI Annual Meeting. An Agenda of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to all member school districts no less than 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting by the RSAI Leadership Group Chair.

At the RSAI Annual meeting, three At-Large members will be elected for membership in the RSAI Leadership Group who in conjunction with the 4 RSAI Region Representatives shall comprise the RSAI Leadership Group. RSAI Region Representatives and At-Large members will take office at the conclusion of the Annual meeting in the year in which they were elected.

At the RSAI Annual Meeting, members will approve a slate of Legislative Priorities for the upcoming State Legislative Session.

At the Annual Meeting, amendments to these By-Laws may be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote.

At the Annual Meeting, the budget for the upcoming fiscal year shall be shared with membership. The budget shall include the payment for association member services including advocacy for the upcoming year.

At the Annual Meeting, the RSAI Leadership Group Secretary/Treasurer shall present an Annual Audit or an annual financial report for the most recently completed fiscal year.

**RSAI Leadership Group:**

As specified, 4 Region Representatives and 3 At-Large members shall comprise the RSAI Leadership Group.

The Election cycle shall be:

- RSAI SW Region & 1 At-Large: upon ratification, 3-year term; 3 years thereafter
- RSAI NE Region & 1 At-Large: upon ratification, 2-year term; 3 years thereafter
- RSAI NW Region, RSAI SE Region & 1 At-Large: upon ratification, 1-year term; 3 years thereafter

It shall be the responsibility of the RSAI Leadership Group to direct operations of RSAI; select, retain and evaluate the services of the Professional Advocate; establish dues for the upcoming fiscal year, coordinate local network efforts with member school districts and the Professional Advocate; create and conduct School District network training; conduct the RSAI Annual Meeting; coordinate annual legislative -activities and encourage membership in affiliate associations where appropriate.

Members of the RSAI Leadership Group will select the following positions from among its membership by vote annually: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer.

It shall be the responsibility of the Chair to create agendas for meetings as required in these By-Laws; act as the official spokesperson for RSAI; sign warrants and preside at meetings.

It shall be the responsibility of the Vice-Chair to act as temporary Chair when the Chair is absent.

It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary/Treasurer to monitor all appropriate records and warrants or drafts drawn from the treasury; conduct an annual audit or annual financial report for presentation at the Annual Meeting; maintain minutes of each meeting; and file any reports necessary with the Iowa Secretary of State and State Legislature regarding non-profit status and lobbying activities as required.

A majority of members is required in order to conduct business at the RSAI Leadership Group meetings.

A vacancy in the Leadership Group shall be filled by the Leadership Group at its next regular meeting by majority vote. Vacancy of a Region Representative must be filled by a member school district in the same RSAI Region. At-Large vacancies may be replaced by any member school district. Notice of vacancy and intent to appoint a replacement shall be sent to all appropriate member districts soliciting interest.

The RSAI Leadership Group shall be responsible for determining legislative positions responding to legislation that arises between annual meetings that the RSAI Legislative Group and list of legislative priorities did not anticipate or address.

The RSAI Leadership Group may appoint Committees as deemed necessary. These Committees shall be tasked with a specific objective. The duration of the Committee shall be limited and end with a report to the Leadership Group on a specific date to be established at their inception. Committees shall make recommendations to the RSAI Leadership Group, but shall not adopt policy, take independent action or endorse any entities that will do either.

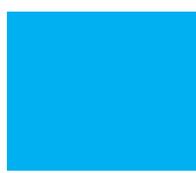
Regular meetings of the RSAI Leadership Group shall occur monthly or as otherwise directed. A meeting schedule of all meetings shall be developed by the RSAI Leadership Group for the year following the Annual Meeting. At the discretion of the RSAI Leadership Group, regular meetings may be held electronically but must include an interactive format and may be recorded.

An Agenda including the time and location of a Regular meeting shall be forwarded to all members of the Leadership Group at least 1 week in advance of the meeting by the Chair of the Leadership Group or the Chair's designee.

Appendices:

- A. Statewide RSAI Region map
- B. RSAI Organizational Flow Chart
- C. RSAI Professional Advocate Job Description

Adopted: January 18, 2014  
Amended: October 25, 2014  
Amended: June 15, 2015  
Amended: October 12, 2016  
Amended: October 25, 2017  
Amended: October 24, 2018



## 2020 Legislative Priorities Draft

**1. Adequate School Resources:** RSAI supports adequate base funding. The increased per pupil cost known as SSA is especially critical to rural students due to distance from school/opportunities, economies of scale, mandates, the need for AEA support, and the ability to attract and retain staff. Rural schools depend on an investment of meaningful new resources to prepare students for a successful future. The rate of increase in SSA should be no lower than anticipated growth in state revenue (adjusted for legislated tax cuts), should keep up with other economic factors such as personal income or state gross domestic product over the long term, should maintain a balance of state and local property taxes, provide predictability, and be set timely to assure adequate notice for budget planning and staffing. The SSA rate for the 2020-21 school year should be set no lower than 3.2%.

**2. Student Mental Health:** RSAI supports increased access to and funding for mental health services for children. Student mental health challenges are increasing while lack of access to mental health services in rural Iowa is common. An array of services should include telehealth services received at school, paid by private insurance companies and Iowa's Medicaid services plan, including direct billing by providers to minimize school districts' administrative burden.

**3. Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction:** RSAI supports maximum flexibility to hire staff to provide great instruction and support to all Iowa students. RSAI supports 1) district flexibility to meet offer and teach requirements, 2) teacher or other staff shortage loan forgiveness programs and incentives to encourage staff to work in rural schools, 3) a special education generalist credential to teach special education across all grades, 4) creation of a Public Service strand in Iowa's CTE system to prepare Iowa's future teaching workforce, 5) continued state support of Iowa Learning Online (ILO), 6) flexibility to hire retirees without a negative IPERS impact, and 7) elimination of barriers to licensure for teachers and administrators. The BOEE should accept evidence other than strict transcripts to show skill mastery for administrators from other states.

**4. Formula and Transportation Equity:** RSAI supports formula and transportation equity. The Legislature should accelerate the commitment to close the \$165 gap between the state and district cost per pupil within ten years and continue transportation equity support, bringing down all districts to no more than the state average per pupil transportation cost, without requiring burdensome reporting requirements from school districts.

**5. Opportunity Equity for Low SES:** RSAI supports resources for at-risk students. Resources should be based on need, such as the percentage of students eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL), in addition to enrollment of the district. The current disparity in dropout prevention capacity, (some districts held to 2.5% and others allowed to access up to 5% of regular program district cost) is arbitrary, based on history no longer relevant to supporting student needs. All school boards should be able to realize the full 5% dropout prevention funding. The formula must further recognize the disproportionate cost of providing

equal educational opportunities to low-income students. School districts should be granted spending authority for FRPL eligible students' fees mandated to be waived by state and federal law.

**6. Sharing Incentives and Efficiencies:** RSAI supports extension of sharing and efficiency incentives. Rural students benefit from opportunities to achieve efficiencies, share capacity to operate, and redirect resources to educational programs. Whole Grade Sharing, Reorganization, and Operational Sharing Incentives should be extended and expanded.

**7. Quality Preschool:** RSAI supports full funding of quality preschool. Due to changing demographics in rural Iowa, significant transportation costs, and lack of quality day care access, preschool should be fully funded at the regular student count at 1.0 per pupil cost.

**8. School Safety:** RSAI supports school safety investments. Rural schools need the resources, training and support necessary for Iowa student and staff safety at school, including additional funding for security personnel and training to protect against active shooter and other emergency situations presenting harm.

## Notes