



RSAI Legislative Update April 7, 2016

These updates are posted on the RSAI legislative web page at <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>. Governor signs FY 2016 school aid and releases his revised budget, and House and Senate agree on budget targets, getting ready for appropriations work. Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa's children! margaret.buckton@isfis.net

Governor Signs School Funding April 6: SF 174 and SF 175 conference increases state cost per pupil and categoricals by 2.25% for FY 2017. This is a \$145 per pupil increase in the state cost per pupil and a 2.25% increase in the professional development, early literacy/class size, TLC and teacher salary supplements per pupil (categorical funds.) Thank legislators for getting it done, but encourage more timely action in the future. Next Step: **Set the FY 2018 state cost per pupil this year before adjourning.** Senate passed bills at 4% (SF2092/SF 2093). Ask House members to act.

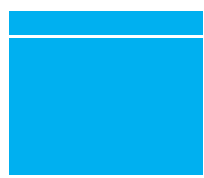
New Budget Targets: After the passage of HF 2433, Federal Tax Coupling, new budget targets are required since the expenditure limitation was lowered (\$96 million in surplus from FY 2016 doesn't carry forward into FY2017). Here are the new budget targets announced this week, from Wed. April 6, IALNS newsletter:

BUDGET TARGETS

	FY 2016 (ESTIMATED)	JOINT TARGETS	STANDING ADJUSTMENTS	JOINT TARGET (WITH ADJUSTMENT)
ADMIN & REGULATION	\$51,795,769	\$50,700,000	\$143,068	\$50,843,068
AGRICULTURE & NAT RESOURCES	\$43,111,995	\$43,111,995		\$43,111,995
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$42,250,763	\$41,554,000	\$1,540,702	\$43,094,702
EDUCATION	\$992,236,365	997,130,486	\$12,606,196	\$1,009,736,682
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	\$1,832,865,612	1,836,364,265	\$609,266	\$1,836,973,531
JUSTICE SYSTEM	\$742,991,531	\$748,234,312	\$10,000	\$748,244,312
STANDINGS	\$3,469,042,636	\$3,631,904,942	-\$14,909,232	\$3,616,995,710
GRAND TOTAL	\$7,174,294,671	\$7,349,000,000		\$7,349,000,000

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The targets are agreed to for each budget area, but within the budget, we expect a lot of conversation and debate before the House and Senate agree on individual specifics of each bill. Legislative leaders are hoping to complete the process in a few weeks. The final day of Session for which per diem expenses are covered, is April 19. It may take a few days beyond that, but hopefully not stretch into June as has happened in the last few years.



Education Coalition Fact: The Facts about Education Funding! 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 sometime on Friday: <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.

Water Quality: The House Republicans presented an alternative for funding water quality, which would divert \$25 million currently collected in sales tax to a water excise tax for drinking water quality and appropriates Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure (RIIF) funds which come from lottery and other gambling revenues through 2029 for water quality agricultural infrastructure projects. This bill, [House File 2451](#), would lower state general fund revenue by \$25 million and reduce SAVE fund revenue to schools by about \$4 million annually once phased into full effect. The House Appropriations Committee approved the bill this week, so it moves to the House Calendar.

Assessment Funding: We have heard from both House and Senate education appropriations folks that funding for state assessment (Smarter Balanced Assessments) is not going to be in the budget. They are considering the consequences of an unfunded mandate, requiring the tests to move forward without state funding, compared to the consequences of delay in requiring the tests, postponing implementation until the 2017-18 school year. It is unknown what happens at the federal level with transitions to the Every Student Succeeds Act, whether there is a penalty from the feds for not testing as required by federal law. Some have expressed concern that Title I funds may be at risk as a penalty for not complying with federal law. There are some schools that need good assessment data to help with school improvement that hasn't been available in the past. The RSAI Leadership Group members and the Legislative Group members have undertaken a conversation, and although there is not consensus, the majority are leaning toward supporting the implementation of SBAC without funding in the 2016-17 school year, but working hard to garner funding going forward. Please let us know your thoughts about this.

Bills signed by the Governor:

[HF 228 Coaching Authorizations by BOEE:](#) The bill allows the BOEE to issue a one-year, non-renewable coaching authorization to a person at least 21-years of age, has a verified job offer, but hasn't completed the course work required for coaching certification. Includes training requirements for concussions, mandatory abuse reporting, professional responsibilities and requires a background check. The bill also requires the new coach to be supervised by a practicing coach for the first two weeks. RSAI is undecided on the bill.

[HF 2363 Closed Meetings:](#) prohibits a governmental body (such as a school board) from excluding a member of the board from a closed session, unless there is a conflict of interest. RSAI is undecided on the bill.

[SF 174 Increase in State Cost per Pupil for FY 2016:](#) Sets the increase at 2.25% which is \$145 per pupil. RSAI is opposed to the bill.

[SF 175 Increase in categorical supplements, Cost per Pupil:](#) 2.25% increase per pupil for early intervention/class size, TLC, TSS and PD supplements for FY 2016. RSAI is opposed to the bill.

RSAI in the News: Public Radio covered a story on Education Savings Grants, [HF 2284](#). The bill would create two pilot project voucher programs for students eligible for free and reduced lunch, 120 in Waterloo and 70 in Sioux Center. The House Appropriations Committee assigned a subcommittee, where public input was provided. Margaret expressed concerns that public education is not adequately funded, that there already is school choice in Iowa with open enrollment, school foundation tuition tax credits and



nonpublic school options. The news coverage specifically mentioned RSAI opposition to the bill. Two other news stories covering school funding specifically mention impact of legislation on rural schools. SAVE & Transportation equity in the news

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/31/tax-debate-how-much-enough-school-facilities/82482982/>

School Funding: Pressure on rural schools to consolidate is included

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/22/education-deal-calls-225-percent-increase/82110812/>

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

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