

RSAI news to share at AEA sups Meetings in November

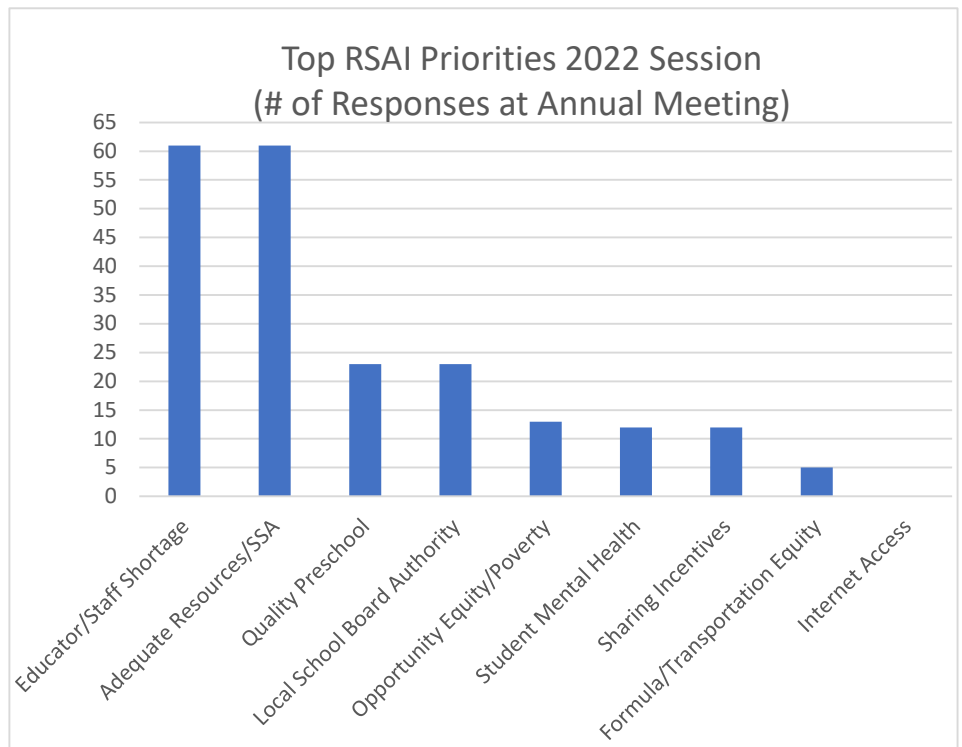
RSAI Annual Meeting Results Oct. 26:

Leadership Changes:

RSAI members elected **Dan Peterson**, Superintendent Central DeWitt, to a second at-large term. Changed bylaws to increase the number of legislative representatives appointed at the summer regional meetings to at least one per region but up to one per AEA per region. Since regional boundaries overlap AEA boundaries, there are a few areas that do not have a representative from each AEA. Any superintendent or board member interested in participating as regional rep on the Legislative Committee should reach out to RSAI Regional Leaders (or staff Margaret Buckton or Dave Daughton). Our regional Rep is _____ (pick from the Leadership Group Members at the end of this document.)

The At-large members of the Leadership Group also serve on the Legislative Committee, so if you want to find out more about the Committee, you can also reach out to one of them or our legislative rep. The people in or closest to our area include _____

Legislative Priorities: Members attending the annual meeting had a great discussion about Legislative Priorities. We approved the following slate of priorities and then ranked them through a forced-choice activity, yielding these 9 issues in this order of importance (Educator/Staff Shortage and Adequate Resources/SSA were clearly the top two.) RSAI specifies 3.75% in our SSA priority.



Next Steps:

RSAI 2021 Priorities and Advocacy

ZOOM meeting with Margaret Buckton and Dave Daughton,

Monday Nov. 15 at 1:00 PM. During this session, Margaret and Dave will share some impactful data about the needs of rural schools related to these 2022 Priorities and provide some advocacy actions school leaders can take before the 2022 Legislative Session kicks off in January. Leave energized and hopeful that your advocacy can make a difference for your students and communities. Watch your email for an invitation or sign up via the RSAI website.

RSAI Booth at IASB: Stop by the RSAI booth at IASB and vote your priority choices, along with other board members and advocates. If your district is not yet a member, someone will be there to talk about the benefits of RSAI to your students and school leaders.

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Additional Resources: find a PPT with status of the 2021 Legislative Priority action during the last Session and other resources on the RSAI legislative Website: <https://www.rsaia.org/2022-legislative-session.html>



2022 Legislative Session

Sample questions for legislators, 2021 Legislative Successes, Talking Points on State GF Surplus and Education and the 2021 Legislative Digest are new this Fall.

Also, new testimony provided to BOEE and DE regarding charter school proposed administrative rules.

Weekly Updates & Calls to Action

- Updates will be posted regularly during the 2022 legislative session, beginning January 2022.

2021 Legislative Digest

- [About RSAI Section](#)
- [2021 Legislative Priorities & Status Section](#)
- [Legislative Session Process Section](#)
- [Executive Summary Section](#)
- [Bill Registration List Section](#)

Advocacy Resources

- [RSAI Advocacy Handbook](#) - tools to help you advocate for Iowa rural schools
- [Sample Questions for Legislators](#) - Updated Summer 2021 - download and personalize for your district's fall 2021 legislator discussions
- [2021 Legislative Session Successes](#)
- ISFIS [Talking Points on State General Fund Surplus & Education Funding](#)

Testimony

- [RSAI Memo re OCR letter to Dir. Lebo on Mask Mandates](#) - 8/30/2021
- [RSAI Comments re Cybersecurity Equipment and Services as part of E-Rate](#) - 10/12/2021
- [RSAI Testimony on Charter School Proposed Rules](#) - 10/26/2021
- [RSAI Testimony on Charter School Administrator Credential Proposed Rules](#) - 10/26/2021

2022 Legislative Priorities

RSAI 2022 Legislative Priorities as approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting on Oct. 26, 2021.
[Download a printable version of the RSAI 2022 Legislative Priorities.](#)

Adequate School Resources: the increase in SSA should be no lower than 3.75% in FY 2023 due to abundant state surplus, maintain balanced state and local resources, be predictable, and assure adequate time for budget planning and staffing.

Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction: maximum flexibility to hire staff to provide great instruction, including several strategies to attract and retain quality staff; flexibility to meet offer and teach requirements, loan forgiveness programs, a special education generalist credential, creation of a Public Service CTE strand, hire retirees without IPERS impact, and elimination of barriers to licensure.

Local School Board Authority: locally elected leaders closest to the community are in the best position to determine the interest of students, staff and stakeholders. District leaders need maximum flexibility to provide a great education to all students. The Legislature, the Executive Branch and the courts should follow Iowa Code 274.3 and liberally construe statute to effectuate local control.

Quality Preschool: funding of quality PK at the 1.0 per pupil cost and formula protections against budget and program impacts of PK enrollment swings (budget guarantee/on-time spending authority).

2021-22 Leadership Group Regional Reps:

- Paul Croghan, CAM/Nodaway Valley CSD, Sup. (Vice Chair, SW Region 4 Director)
- Laurie Noll, Fairfield CSD, Sup. (Secretary/Treasurer, SE Region 4 Director)
- Justin Daggett, Manson NW Webster CSD, Sup. (NW Region 1 Director),
- Nick Trenkamp, Central CSD, Sup. (NE Region 2 Director)

2021-22 Legislative Committee Members

- Dennis McClain, Adair-Casey/Guthrie Center CSD, Sup. (Chair, At-large Director),
- Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD, Sup., (At-large Director)
- Scott Williamson, Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont CSD, Sup.
- SW - Tim Mitchell, Riverside CSD, Sup. (Committee Vice-Chair)
- NE - Barb Schwamman, Osage CSD and Riceville CSD, Sup.
- SE - Joel Pedersen, Cardinal CSD, Sup.
- NW - Brian Johnson, Prairie Valley CSD and Southeast Webster Grand CSD, Sup.