

### 2026 Session Priority Action

**School Funding is Done:** 2% SSA to the Governor, signed on February 26. The rest of the budget still needs to be completed, including education and other appropriations. Continue to advocate for another \$7 million for supplemental salary for support staff (the last two years it was set at \$14 million, but SF 2201 only included \$7 million).

Gentle persuasion, applied relentlessly, builds better relationships between legislators and school leaders: thank them for getting it done in February. Constantly remind them that additional unfunded mandates in this budget climate, combined with declining enrollment, are devastating to school budgets and limit district resources for student-centered programs.

School Funding Stats: 89 districts have a decrease in regular program authority at this 2% number. 199 districts are on budget guarantee (although the state pays for it in SF 2201). The \$42 million for budget guarantee property tax relief combined with a low SSA rate shows the priority – of the \$98.9 million in state aid increase shown in the fiscal note, \$25 million is AEA funding restoration (likely to be reduced in the standings bill) and \$42.2 million in budget guarantee (rather than higher SSA), leaves \$22 million state contribution to PK-12 schools.

**Sharing and Incentives:** Several bills addressing operational sharing or extending reorganization and whole grade sharing incentives have survived the first funnel:

- **SF 2403 WGS and Reorganization Incentives** extended through 2031. This bill is on the Senate Calendar. RSAI supports.
- **Operational Sharing CTE Teacher:** **SF 2005** on the Senate Calendar and **HF 2492** on the House Calendar: both add a CTE teacher as a position eligible for operational sharing, placing it in the group of positions that qualify for a weighting of 3 students (which really means 2), generating just over \$16K for a 20% FTE for each participating district. RSAI supports.
- **SF 2007 SRO Sharing:** on the Senate Calendar and doubles the weighting for a shared SRO: increases to a weighting of 4 students, generating just over \$32K for 20% of an FTE for participating in each district. RSAI supports.

**Flexibility:** Several bills addressing flexibility and local control have survived the funnel:

- **SF 2144 ESA Categorical Funding:** provides authority for districts receiving categorical funds by the count of resident students attending a nonpublic school with an ESA to spend those funds on any general fund purpose. RSAI supports.
- **SF 2320 Concurrent Enrollment Modality** provides district authority to require concurrent enrollment (community college) courses in person if offered by the district rather than online and **SF 2299 Concurrent Enrollment Responsibility** allows (but doesn't require) districts to require parents of students who fail a concurrent enrollment course to repay the district for the cost. RSAI supports both, which were approved by the Senate and are now in the House Education Committee.

- **SF 2351 Open Enrollment and Truancy:** prohibits a student from open enrolling into another district or online academy if there is an issue of chronic absenteeism, until the absenteeism is corrected. RSAI supports. Approved by the Senate and in the House Education Committee.
- **Just Say No to Unfunded Mandates:** There are many bills with unfunded mandates, state control usurping district authority, and school choice expansion (such as charter schools). See above and tell them to just say no.

**Property Tax Relief:** The Governor, Senate, and House all have property tax proposals in play. The House has moved the Governor’s study bill and its own proposal out of subcommittee, both of which are assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate held a subcommittee on the Governor’s bill the last week of February and has a subcommittee on March 3 on their own bill. RSAI is registered undecided on all three proposals. There are concerns about all three, and little information about how each proposal in total might impact taxpayers and local government revenues. Biggest concerns are:

Proposal	Comments / Major Concerns
Senate SSB 3001	State takes on more of the school aid formula, making it harder to afford adequate SSA. Unknown impact of the combination of levy limits, larger property tax credits and phase-out of rollbacks. Concerned about management fund levy limits at arbitrary thresholds.
Governor HSB 563 and SSB 3034	Grateful for sparing education in the growth limits and other provisions. Very concerned about the acceleration of 30% of SAVE for property tax relief by 2030, with over 175 school districts obligated via bonds without protection. (Drops SAVE to schools by about \$170 million by 2030.)
House HSB 596	Spare schools for growth limits. Great policy on new taxpayer statements. Concerned about requiring a 60% super majority vote to authorize SAVE bonds beginning July 1, 2026.

See a comparison of the three bills in this table prepared by ISFIS. Download [ISFIS Property Tax Comparison Side-by-Side](#).

**RSAI 2026 Updates and Legislative Priorities:** You can always see RSAI weekly updates, videos and calls to action , as well as the list of priorities with corresponding position papers on [RSAI’s website](#).

**RSAI Regional Meetings:** Mark your calendars and watch for more details and registration info posted on the [RSAI website](#), which will be circulated soon.

- SW Region – 4/1/2026 in Red Oak, 11:45 Lunch; 12 Meeting
- NW Region – 4/7/2026 in Pocahontas, 11:30 Lunch; 12 Meeting
- SE Region – 5/6/2026 in Fairfield, 12 Lunch; 12:30 Meeting
- NE Region – 5/7/2026 in Cedar Falls, 8-9:30 Breakfast & Meeting

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

**Thanks to all of you for your energy and voice on behalf of the students in your schools!**