

RSAl Legislative Update March 3, 2016

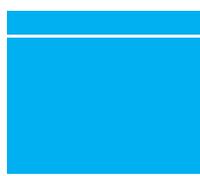
These updates are posted on the RSAI legislative web page at <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>. The following provides news of this week's statehouse action as floor debate in the House and Senate followed last Friday's funnel deadline. Lots of action on little bills impacting education, but very little about priority areas for RSAI. Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa's children! margaret.buckton@isfis.net

District Flexibility Offer and Teacher: [SF 2200](#) has been sent to the Governor. *A thank you note to your Senator and Representative would be in order* since the bill received unanimous support in both chambers. The bill, of primary benefit to rural schools, would allow districts to offer online learning coursework to meet offer and teach requirements, based on the district making a good-faith effort but unable to hire a teacher and the DE granting a waiver. Districts are already allowed to use Iowa Learning on-Line program courses for this purpose, but in the event Iowa Learning on-Line doesn't offer the course needed or the course is full, then the district could substitute another online learning course.

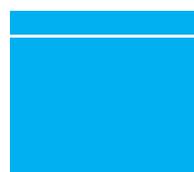
Other priorities: Transportation and district cost per pupil equity, both priorities of RSAI, are now included in the Governor's water quality bill and the Education Committee's version of SAVE extension. See below for details. School Funding for FY 2017 is still in conference committee, but we expect movement soon, following consensus on the Federal Tax Coupling, which hasn't yet been seen. Also the Education Coalition posted a publication last week to help advocates, stakeholders and legislators better understand inflationary and staff costs of school districts. RSAI is part of the coalition and has posted the issue on the RSAI legislative page: [Education Funding and the Cost of Doing Business](#)

The list of bills impacting education that received action this week follows:

- **[SF 2170 Sealed Bids Publication](#):** this bill requires that a notice of a sealed bid exceeding threshold requirements be posted in a designated site and eliminates the requirement for a newspaper publication. Includes details on posting new deadline notice on the internet if sealed bid letting is postponed. Requires the notice for hearings for such competitive bids to include description of the improvement and its location. With unanimous House approval, this bill now goes to the Governor. RSAI is undecided.
- **[SF 2200 ILO Offer and Teacher Alternatives](#):** this bill allows districts to offer an on-line course to meet offer and teacher requirements, if ILO doesn't offer the course or if is full. The bill was passed unanimously in both chambers, now goes to the Governor. RSAI supports this bill.
- **[SF 2225 Concussion Management](#):** this bill requires that the home team in a high school collision sport (defined as football, soccer, wrestling) have a health professional available (athletic trainers, physical therapists, health care professionals). Encourages that the home team make such professionals available in contact sport contests. Requires the professional to report to the athletic director of the visiting team if a player shows signs of brain injury. Requires the DE to develop a waiver process for high schools that show good faith efforts to comply but cannot due to a regional shortage of health care professionals. Requires the DE with the high school athletic associations to develop a way for games to go on when a scheduled contest health care professional isn't available due to unforeseen circumstances. RSAI is registered opposed to this bill. The Senate approved the bill with 35 senators in favor and 15 opposed.
- **[HF 2363 Closed Sessions](#):** this bill prohibits a governmental body from excluding a member of the body from a closed session. The bill includes an exception if a member has a conflict of interest. The bill requires confidentiality for closed sessions and sets penalties for government officials who break that confidentiality. House approved the bill 96-0; it now goes to the Senate. RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill.



- **[HF 2364 Open Meetings](#)**: this bill allows a governmental body to post an amended notice for a postponed meeting in order to meet public notice requirements and requires that such postponement be for good cause. The House approved the bill 97-0; it now goes to the Senate. RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill.
- **[HF 2421 Coaching Requirements](#)**: this bill requires that holders or applicants for a coaching endorsement for schools complete a course in basic CPR, defibrillator use and heat therapy. Gives current coaches until July 2017 to comply. The House passed the bill as amended 95-1; it now goes to the Senate. RSAI is registered as undecided.
- **[HF 2321 Non-public School Alternative Accreditation](#)**: the bill strikes the July 2020 sunset date of the provisions which allow non-public schools to be accredited by a private accrediting organization rather than by the Iowa DE. The House passed the bill 57-41; it now goes to the Senate. RSAI is opposed to this bill.
- **[HF 2324 Computer Science Education](#)**: this bill originally added one unit of computer science for grades 9-12 and one unit of computer coding for grades 7-8 to the requirements for school classes, as of the 2018-19 school year. The bill requires the DE to convene a computer science advisory council to make recommendations, which was amended to include consideration to develop an estimate of the cost of these requirements. The House passed the bill as amended 96 in favor and 2 opposed; it now goes to the Senate. RSAI is now registered as undecided since the mandate has been eliminated.
- **[HF 2336 DE Technical Corrections Bill](#)**: this bill makes statutory changes for the state Board of Education and the DE on the duties of the DE director, attending school out-of-state, whole grade sharing, open enrollment payments, progress reports, student achievement and teacher quality programs, and program repeals. The House passed the bill 98-0; it now goes to the Senate
- **[HF 2011 School Employees](#)**: this bill includes full and part time employees, substitutes, volunteers, contract employees with significant contact with students as school employees for purposes of sexual exploitation crimes. Does not include volunteers or students who are coaches if less than four years older than the student and not in a position of authority over the student. The bill makes an exception for district employees who have contact with a student from another district. The House passed the bill as amended 98-0; it now goes to the Senate.
- **[HF 228 Coaching Authorizations](#)**: this bill requires the Board of Educational Examiners to issue a non-renewable, one-year transitional coaching authorization to a person who is at least 21, has a verified offer of a coaching job but who has not yet completed the required course work. Gives priority to teachers and persons with coaching authorization first. Includes training requirements for concussions, mandatory abuse reporting, professional responsibilities and requires a background check. The bill requires supervision for the transitional coach for the first two weeks of coaching. The Senate passed the bill as amended 49-0; it now goes back to the House
- **[HF 2392 Career and Technical Education Program](#)**: this bill addresses the 8th grade career plan, and includes the following:
 - Requires state board to set standards via rule for approved career information and decision-making systems.
 - Requires annually, beginning July 1, 2016, the school board submits to community and includes in the CSIP, an annual report on student utilization of the system.
 - Requires DE to monitor district compliance via accreditation.
 - Replaces the term “vocational” with “career and technical.”
 - Replaces the terms “school to work program” with “work-based learning opportunity”.
 - Updates references to six career and technical education service areas and the sub-clusters underneath those areas
 - Duties of the state board of education for Division II: Existing authority updated, revise Perkins state plan, adopt rules related to CTE instructors, programs and practitioner prep



- schools, adopt standards for CTE service areas and adopt standards for Regional CTE Planning Partnerships and regional centers
- Creates new Regional CTE Planning Partnerships
 - Addresses new Career Academies (must integrate academic coursework, work-based learning, and career and academic planning; state BOE adopts standards; and career academies must meet the standards)
 - Clarifies the role of Senior Year Plus, to prevent PSEO from being used for school-organized classes of students rather than individuals

The bill was approved with 96 representatives voting in favor and 0 opposed, now goes to the Senate.

- **HF 2406 Schools Elections:** this bill changes the September regular school election to coincide with the November city elections in odd numbered years. RSAI is opposed to this bill. It was approved in the House, with 61 representatives voting in favor and 36 opposed. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Appropriations Committee Action

- **SF2237 PK Expansion Incentive Program:** this bill creates a PK incentive for 3 years (beginning 2017-18) during which growth in PK enrollment compared to the base year is weighted an extra 0.1 in addition to the 0.5 weighting. The bill requires districts to have a plan to offer PK without waiting lists by 2020-21. The bill also requires the district to pass through 90% of the cost per pupil to community providers compared to 95% in current law. The bill was approved by the Senate Appropriations committee 13 in favor and 8 opposed. RSAI supports this bill.
- **SF 2161 Children Mental Health:** this bill originally appropriated \$300,000 for planning grants for the development of children's MH services. With amendment in the Appropriations Committee, the bill now directs the DHS to contract for grants to implement the program, contingent on appropriations. The bill directs the DHS to work with the departments of public health, education and the Judicial Branch on an RFP, to be based on the recommendations for children's MH crisis services report from December 2015. The bill directs the DHS to establish to establish guidelines for well-being for children with complex needs and to select three to five programs as learning labs. Includes reporting requirements. The bill was amended and approved in committee, with 21 senators voting in favor and none opposed. RSAI supports this bill.

School Funding Status. RSAI is registered in favor of 4% and opposed to 2%. No action this week.

Conference Committee for FY 2017: [SF 174](#) and [SF 175](#) originally set the increase in the state per pupil cost and categorical funds at 4%. House is at 2%. Conference committee appointees include: Reps. Jorgensen, Dolecheck, Stanerson, Ruff, and Winckler and Sens. Bowman, Dvorsky, Quirnbach, Kraayenbrink, and Sinclair. Although the committee met for an organizational meeting to appoint chairs, weeks ago, they have not reconvened since. The chairs from the House and Senate have been talking regularly. We expect something to break the log jam very soon. *Keep talking with legislators about timing, adequacy and equity of funding.*

[SF 2092](#) and [SF 2093](#) set 4% for categoricals and regular program district cost for FY 2018 were approved by the Senate and sent to the House.

Messages to House and Senate, both sides of the aisle, regarding the need for adequate and timely funding, are encouraged. Key talking points:

- Thanks for getting the school funding discussion started early in Session. Keep at it 😊
- Thanks to the Senate for approving bills at 4% for FY 2018.
- Five of the last six years have included per pupil increases below the cost of doing the business of schools. A 2% increase would extend that track record to 6 out of 7.



- Districts with declining enrollment are even worse off, having to make more program and staff reductions to live within tighter constraints.
- In the last five years, state net revenue growth has averaged 4.1% while the cost per pupil growth has averaged 2.0%. Add in the current year 1.25% increase in per pupil cost and 3.3% REC estimate and that spread continues: six year average SSA is 1.87% and state net revenue growth is 3.9%. Schools haven't experienced the economic recovery that the state has enjoyed.
- To put students and opportunities first, schools need adequate, predictable and timely funding.

RSAI Advocacy Resources: RSAI has updated the legislative page of our website with sample parent letters on adequate school funding, transportation and district cost per pupil inequities. Instructions for writing to legislators are include in the packet found here [Sample Parent Letters on School Funding](#). Also, the transportation and formula equity toolkit has been updated to include the FY 2015 transportation report from the DE. Find those resources here: <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>

Governor's SAVE/Water Quality Bill – no action this week. Details repeated here from last week's newsletter.

[HF 2382](#) been amended an approved 13:9 by House Agriculture. It has been assigned to House Ways and Means. Here are the bill details impacting SAVE which begin on page 8 of the bill:

- FY17 amount to SAVE is the same as FY 16
- Beginning July 1, 2017, the 6th penny allocation to SAVE increases \$10 million annually
- Extends the sixth penny until Jan. 1, 2050
- Adds "Water quality" to the list of allowable uses for the 6th penny.
- Application of the PTER fund carve out, currently 2.1% of SAVE fund per Iowa Code 423F.2(3) will no longer apply to the entire SAVE amount, which lowers resources for school property tax inequities.
- The bill allows district flexibility for a per pupil school equity budget adjustment (up to \$175 or however far below the state's maximum per pupil cost a district is) and transportation equity flexibility for local districts with excessive transportation costs to access SAVE funds (after adding the use to a Revenue Purpose Statement approved by voters.) Additional limitations on use of the flexibility funds are too restrictive. Although RSAI approves of the restriction exempting these funds from collective bargaining, we support use for any general fund purpose.
- The bill requires any SAVE fund purchase or project in excess of \$1 million in cost to have a specific revenue purpose statement, including commencement and conclusion date and maximum amount of funds to be spent on the purpose or project, approved by a 60% super majority of voters. Although RSAI was not excited about the water quality provision prior, this provision alone would be sufficient for RSAI to oppose the bill (and RSAI is registered opposed.)
- Water quality impacts: All additional growth beyond school infrastructure goes to 3 areas:
 - 25% to wastewater and drinking water treatment finance assistance fund
 - 25% to water quality financing program fund
 - 50% to Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for water quality infrastructure cost share program, assisting land owners with implementing water quality practice and water quality demonstration projects
- The bill now requires a 10-year review and reporting requirements for water quality programs.

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