

RSAI news to share at AEA Superintendents Meetings October 2025

RSAI Annual Meeting: Mark your calendars and [register now](#) for **Thursday, October 9, 2025, from 4:30 – 7:30 pm in Des Moines**. We have a new location this year, at the Solution Tree Learning Center at 611 5th Avenue in Des Moines (directly across Park Street just south of the Hilton Des Moines Downtown).

During this meeting, RSAI members will network and connect about important legislative issues, and chart the advocacy course for the 2026 Session by adopting the priorities that are the most critical to rural schools and students. Attendees will discuss adequate funding, the ability to attract/retain quality staff, preschool funding and flexibility, the priority of public education, the importance of local control and flexibility, implications of property tax reform (new priority suggested by the Legislative Committee) and others. Your voice is critical to our success and has never been more important for Iowa students.

Guest speaker, Dr. Melissa Sadoft, Executive Director of the National Rural Education Association, will present data and information on “Why Rural Matters”, an annual analysis of the condition and quality of the nation’s rural education. She will share Iowa specific information about rural schools and students.

Attendance is complimentary to RSAI members. We encourage Superintendents and Board Members to attend. Non-members or others who are interested in learning more about RSAI and our legislative platform are also welcome to attend, watch the process, and ask questions.

UAB Limitations: School Budget Review Committee will discuss UAB limitations at their October 28 meeting (rescheduled from Oct. 14) at the Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines. See the [ISFIS Memo to the SBRC re UAB - 08/2025](#) regarding better understanding local district UAB increases over the last decade and appropriate roles for state and local leaders in school finance policy. Check out your own district accumulated UAB and discuss financial goals with your school board.

Next Advocacy Actions: Check RSAI Website after the Annual Meeting, for additional advocacy resources, including a strategy to build coalitions and engage community members in advocating for public school funding. <https://www.rsaia.org/annual-meeting.html>

NREA Annual Conference: The National Forum to Advance Rural Education, NREA’s annual conference and research symposium, is Oct. 13-15 in Salt Lake City, UT. Find out more about their conference on their website: <https://nrea.net/nfare/> Soon after the event, an updated “Why Rural Matters” analysis, including Iowa specific information, will be posted on their website <https://nrea.net/research/why-rural-matters/> Use these resources in sharing needs of rural schools and students with your school board, community and legislators.

Is the Staff Shortage Over? We’ve heard state level leaders declare the teacher shortage is over. Now that school has started, share some information with your legislators. Were there any positions you weren’t able to fill? Are there teachers assigned courses under conditional licensure? Did you have to share with another district, community college or provide online learning due to lack of applicants? Gather this information while it’s fresh and keep reminding legislators that Iowa’s work in attracting and retaining school staff is not done. Google Iowa Teacher Shortage 2025 to see many news stories this last week reporting 660 vacant positions as school starts. Remind legislators about the issue of salary compaction related to new teacher salary minimums, too, which may impact on your school’s ability to keep the teachers you have.

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!