

RSAI Legislative Update Feb. 18, 2016

These updates are posted on the RSAI legislative web page at <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>. The following provides analysis of this week's statehouse action as committees scrambled to meet Friday's funnel deadline. This deadline requires bills to be approved by their committee of origin in order to keep moving. (Tax and appropriations bills are exempt.) Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa's children! margaret.buckton@isfis.net

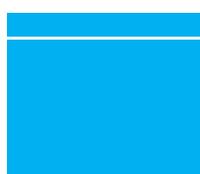
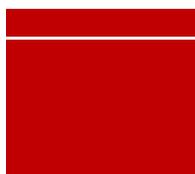
Transportation: The 2014-15 Annual Transportation Report is posted on the DE web site (and also in the RSAI inequities advocacy toolkit.) Some observations: 228 school districts have transportation costs per pupil above the state average in excess of \$314.13. Those districts educated 171,817 students last year. At least 40 districts spend more than 10% of their Regular Program District Cost on transportation (FY 2015 State Cost per Pupil, \$6,366, multiplied by enrollment times 10%). Keep talking to legislators about this pressure point in your budget that directly competes with investments in learning. The flexibility to use SAVE funds for excess transportation costs has become an important piece of the state penny extension debate.

The list of bills impacting education that survived the first funnel is detailed in this report, then bills which didn't survive the funnel, status of education funding and changes to the Governor's water quality and state penny extension follow.

Bills Surviving the Funnel by Committee

Senate Education

- **SF 2009 PK for 5-year Olds:** this bill allows five-year old children who had not attended preschool to be enrolled in the statewide voluntary preschool program. The bill is effective for school years beginning July 1, 2017. RSAI is undecided.
- **SF 2163 BOEE Rule Nullification:** This bill prohibits BOEE from increasing license fees for two years and limits their carry forward. RSAI is undecided.
- **SF 2195 Dating Violence Curriculum:** this bill requires districts to include age-appropriate information regarding dating violence and prevention in their local human growth and development instruction. RSAI is undecided.
- **SF 2196 Teacher Prep Reading:** This bill specifies reading and literacy requirements to meet needs of all students (dyslexia, ELL, students with disabilities) in practitioner preparation programs. RSAI supports this bill.
- **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. RSAI supports this bill.
- **SF 2205 Hours/Days Clean up:** this bill allows hours or days calculation in how long an open enrolled student waits before participating in varsity athletics. RSAI supports this bill.
- **SF 2217 Human Trafficking Reporting:** This bill requires the addition of how to recognize and report incidents of human trafficking involving minors to mandatory reporter training. RSAI is undecided.
- **SF 2225 Health Care Professional at Home Games:** Requires home team to provide a health care professional (athletic trainer, doctor, etc.) for collision sport contests to detect/assess potential concussions or brain injuries (football, boys and girls soccer and wrestling). RSAI opposes this bill since it's an unfunded mandate and rural districts may struggle to find qualified individuals to fulfill the requirement.
- **SJR 2006 BOEE Special Ed Endorsement:** this joint resolution nullifies an administrative rule by BOEE establishing a special education endorsement and specializations. RSAI is undecided.
- **SSB 3140 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. RSAI supports this bill.



- **[HF 228 Coaching Authorization](#)**: this bill requires BOEE to issue one-year transitional coaching authorization to applicant which meets several criteria: 1) >21 years old 2) has verified offer to coach but hasn't completed course work 3) adds training requirements for concussions, mandatory reporter, background check and 4) requires supervision for the first two weeks and the first contest. RSAI is undecided.

House Education

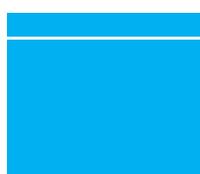
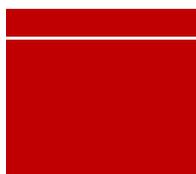
- **[HF 2017 Coach Training](#)**: this bill requires coaches to complete a CPR course. RSAI supports it.
- **[HF 2229 Early literacy language change](#)**: this bill eliminates the letter language to notify parents of early literacy challenges from "your student has a substantial deficiency in reading" to "your child is persistently at-risk in reading" and specifies determination is based on multiple measures, rather than two failed fluency screenings. RSAI supports this bill.
- **[HF 2260 SAVE Extension](#)**: this bill extends the state penny sunset to 2049 with local district flexibility to include a district cost per pupil equity budget adjustment, additional levy buy down or excess transportation costs as allowable expenditures of SAVE after voter approval of a change in the district's revenue purpose statement. (Formerly HSB 551) RSAI is undecided on this bill, but working to make productive changes.
- **[HF 2263 BOEE Reporting](#)**: this bill adds under the influence on school grounds or at school sponsored activity to disciplinary actions taken against a licensed school employee that are required to be reported to BOEE. RSAI supports this bill.
- **[HF 2264 Varsity Eligibility/Open Enrollment](#)**: this bill allows students subjected to a founded harassment or bullying event to immediately participate in varsity athletics based on district of residence findings. RSAI is undecided on this bill.
- **[HF 2312 PD Supplement Flexibility](#)**: this bill allows the per pupil professional development supplement to pay for textbooks or curriculum if purchase includes free PD. RSAI supports this bill.
- **[HF 2321 Nonpublic Accreditation](#)**: this bill repeals the sunset of accreditation of nonpublic schools by independent accrediting agencies approved by the state BOE. RSAI opposes this bill.
- **[HSB 545 Reading for Teacher Prep Programs](#)**: this bill specifies reading and literacy requirements to meet needs of all students (dyslexia, ELL, students with disabilities) in practitioner preparation programs. RSAI supports this bill.
- **[HSB 602 DOE technical corrections](#)**. RSAI is undecided.
- **[HSB 603 Computer Courses](#)**: this bill requires schools to offer one unit of computer science for grades 9-12 and one under of coding for grades 7-8. Sets up an advisory committee to determine many things, one of which is whether this course will serve as a mathematics or science course for purposes of graduation requirements. RSAI is opposed to this bill. The task force should make recommendations prior to the state mandating these courses, especially without funding.
- **[HSB 620 Career and Technical Education and 8th Grade Planning](#)**: this bill includes CTE task force recommendations and 8th grade career and academic plan process. RSAI supports this bill.

Senate Human Resources

- **[SSB 3109 Child Mental Health](#)**: This bill appropriates \$300,000 for planning grants for the development of child mental health services. The bill directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to work with the Department of Public Health, the DE and the Judicial Branch on an RFP based on the recommendations for children's MH crisis services from the report submitted to DHS last December. Directs the DHS to establish guidelines for well-being for children with complex needs and to select 3-5 programs as learning labs. The Senate Human Services Committee approved the bill with 13 in favor, none opposed. RSAI supports this bill.

Senate State Government

- **[SSB 3020 Secretary of State Technical Corrections Bill](#)**: this bill makes technical corrections regarding school board elections following reorganization and the process for a school board vacancy. The bill specifies that a person appointed to the school board serves until the next regular school election, unless there is an intervening special election for the school district. RSAI supports this bill.



House State Government

- [HF 2273](#): **SOS bill**: Election clean up involving board member appointed to fill a vacancy (see SSB 3020 companion bill description above) RSAI supports this bill.
- [HF 2067](#): **BOEE Fees**: Strikes the requirement that BOEE deposit 25% of licensing fees in the state General Fund and requires BOEE to reduce licensing fees by 25%. (State Government Committee) RSAI is undecided.
- [HSB 541](#): Changes the regular school board election to November (date of the regular city election) effective for elections as of Nov. 7, 2017. (State Government Committee) RSAI opposes this bill.

House Agriculture

- [HSB 601](#): **Governor's SAVE/H2O**: this bill was amended and passed by House Agriculture Committee 13:9. Amended to allow local flexibility for SAVE dollars for some inequities and limits on infrastructure projects through SAVE (see further description below). RSAI opposes this bill.

House Labor Committee

- [HSB 556](#) **PERB Records**: this bill, requested by PERB, makes evidence submitted to PERB related to the certification or decertification of a union a confidential record. The bill was approved in the House Labor Committee with 17 in favor, none opposed. RSAI will continue to monitor this bill which has a companion bill in the Senate.

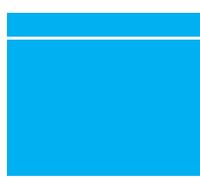
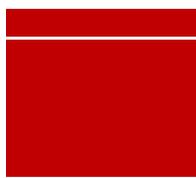
Dead Bills (Warning: although technically dead due to the funnel, these ideas may resurrect as an amendment to another bill.)

- Mandatory Civics Test for High School Graduation
- Various bills on assessment (picking a different one, require DE to go out for RFP, prohibiting a state assessment, etc.)
- DCPPE equity (3 years of spending authority paid with cash reserve)
- SAVE fund with Inequity carve outs
- Radon testing mandate
- Transportation equity bills
- Growing Enrollment Funding (state help with on-time funding)
- DE study of school implementation of Iowa Core (included state aid penalty if not compliant)
- DE distribution of handbook to every household with school-aged children of educational options
- Home Rule constitutional amendment and Home Rule light
- Vouchers for children of military employees
- Science standards
- Statewide collective bargaining contract for teachers

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, two weeks ago, they have not reconvened since. Although the chairs from the House and Senate have been talking, we are told that here are large influences at the leadership level that must be resolved.

[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 and 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 approved by House Agriculture Committee

[HSB 601](#) by the Governor has been amended and approved 13:9 by House Agriculture. It will be assigned a new bill number and likely wind up in 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
- All additional growth 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
- Adds "Water quality" to the list of allowable uses for the 6th penny.
- Unsure of PTER fund carve out, currently 2.1% of SAVE fund per Iowa Code 423F.2(3) and whether that will still be based on the total amount including growth, diverted or not, or whether it's based on the SAVE fund allocation.
- The bill was amended in committee to require a 10-year review and reporting requirements for water quality programs. Amendments in the area of school SAVE added per pupil school equity budget adjustment and transportation equity flexibility for local districts to allocated SAVE funds (after adding the use to a Revenue Purpose Statement approved by voters.) There were additional limitations on school infrastructure that we will share next week.

RSAI is now registered opposed to this bill, but hoping to continue the conversation to improve it or better yet, support one of the House Education options that include provide more resources for high transportation costs, district cost per pupil equity, and school infrastructure and technology needs.

RSAI Professional Advocate, Margaret.buckton@isfis.net 515.201.3755

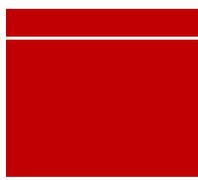
RSAI Leadership Group

Brad Breon, Moravia/Seymour, Superintendent, brad.breon@rsaia.org

Gregg Cruickshank, Sidney/South Page, Superintendent, gregg.cruickshank@rsaia.org

Dan Smith, Harmony, Board President, dan.smith@rsaia.org

Kevin Fiene, I-35, Superintendent, kevin.fiene@rsaia.org



Lee Ann Grimley, Springville, Board President, leeann.grimley@rsaia.org
Robert Olson, Clarion-Goldfield/Dows, Superintendent, robert.olson@rsaia.org
Brian Rodenberg, Midland, Superintendent, brian.rodenberg@rsaia.org