**RSAI Legislative Update   
February 21, 2020**

In this February 21, 2020 RSAI Report of the 2020 Legislative Session, find information about:

* **RSAI Priorities: SSA, ELL, Transportation and Formula Equity**
* **RSAI memo: Understanding the Numbers (how much of $843 million is property Tax Relief)**
* **Bill Action Including Future Ready Act & Classroom Behavior**
* **Bills surviving the Funnel Deadline**
* **Students at the Capitol**
* **Link to Jan. 23 Report to find Biographical and Contact Information for your Legislators and members of Key Legislative Committees**
* **Advocacy Resources**
* **Welcome Dan Peterson to RSAI Leadership Group**

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

Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, [margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com](mailto:margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com) 515.201.3755 Cell

**Find RSAI 2020 Legislative Priorities and Position Papers here:**  <http://www.rsaia.org/2020-legislative-session.html>

**RSAI Welcomes Superintendent Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD,** as the new at-large member of the RSAI Leadership Group. Dan was appointed at the most recent Leadership Group meeting. Dan will be a welcome addition to the Central Eastern region of the state. We look forward to Dan’s new voice among the RSAI Leadership Group.

**RSAI Priority: State Supplemental Assistance (per pupil cost increase) and Transportation/Formula Equity:** The House amended the Senate version [SF 2142](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=SF%202142) on Feb. 11, to match the Governor’s Recommendation of 2.5% SSA. RSAI is now registered as undecided, since it’s still short of the 3.75% that RSAI requested. We were originally opposed to the Senate’s 2.1%. No appearance of a compromise has been spotted. Check out the RSAI memo, Understanding the Numbers, Feb. 19, which provides some context of the $843 million increase in state funding for schools since 2011. Find it on the RSAI website [here](http://nebula.wsimg.com/3e14d55a3e2d8037e18d90fc4fa57729?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1).

**Check out the FY 2020** [**ISFIS New Authority Report**](https://www.iowaschoolfinance.com/budget_projections)and compare the various proposals at 2.1% and 2.5% with the 3.75% RSAI request. What additional resources would be available to your district? How would your district put those dollars to work for students?

**Adequate Funding Talking Points:** RSAI’s priority for adequate funding calls for 3.75% increase in SSA for FY 2021. THANK YOU to legislators for working on SSA quickly; the 30-day deadline (Feb. 14) has passed.

* 2.5% SSA does not allow schools to keep pace with cost increases or compete with the private sector for labor, let alone lower class sizes and increase educational opportunities for students. 3.75% is based on economic benchmarks in Iowa including per capita personal income, state GDP, economic forecasts of insurance cost increases and the trend of utility costs over time. Annual increases in the

last decade have not been keeping up with inflation or the actual costs schools experience, which are even higher.

With full reserves and strong surpluses, the choice is pretty clear: it only takes another $50 million to meet the RSAI request of 3.75%. The tradeoff would be $50 million less deposited into the Taxpayer Trust Fund, which isn’t even obligated yet, based on the Governor’s budget recommendation. If the Legislature set 3.75%, the ending balance in the Taxpayer Relief Fund would be essentially $199 million instead of $249 million.

* Iowa’s schools statewide spend 62.6% of their General Funds on salaries, 19.6% on employee benefits and the remaining 18% on everything else (utilities, training, textbooks, bus fuel, educational software, assessments, etc.). There is little left to reduce expenditures after 11 years of low increases, but staffing.
* Iowa’s economy has strong Per Capita Personal Income and Gross Domestic Product growth, both of which are good benchmarks to demonstrate why SSA has been short in the last decade. Iowa’s full coffers and growing surpluses are a good indication the state can afford to adequately fund schools.
* Iowa’s 2.6% unemployment rate, one of the best in the nation, puts pressure on all employers to hire qualified staff. Schools are no exception and will not be able to compete with private sector employers if we don’t have adequate SSA. All across the state, it is harder to find bus drivers, support staff, special education teachers, STEM and ELL teachers, and other positions, demonstrating that our schools do not have the resources to be competitive.

**Coolest Day at the Capitol Ever Monday:** students from Davenport CSD visited the Capitol on Jan. 17. While there, they toured the Secretary of State’s office, where six of those students who would be age 18 before the November election filled out their registrations to vote . . . . . on top of the display case holding Iowa’s original Constitution! They also met with the Governor, with their Scott and Muscatine County delegation, toured the statehouse and learned how to call legislators out of chambers to discuss issues. They were prepared, passionate and polite, great ambassadors of RSAI districts. They will never forget where they filled out those voter registration forms. It was a magical day!

**Coolest Day at the Capitol Ever Wednesday**: students from all over Iowa came to visit for STEM day, talking to legislators and interested others about their ideas, relevant learning experiences and their future plans. Superintendent Nick Trenkamp, Central of Elkader, used a few minutes of his visit to talk with his senator about SSA. It was great to see other RSAI member district Albia in the mix!

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**RSAI Priority: Transportation and Formula Equity** [**SF 2164**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2164) is still awaiting the Governor’s signature. See the Feb. 14 report for details. RSAI is registered in support.

**RSAI Priority: Poverty Weighting** [**HF 2370**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2370)was approved with strong bi-partisan support in the House Education Committee. The bill comes from the school finance interim committee which unanimously recommended such a study. The bill describes the change in poverty among Iowa students, with 43% of student eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch in Iowa, FY 2019, and states that the costs of services and supports low-income students require for success are not well served by inequity in our Formula. The bill requires the DE to establish a work group (RSAI has a member on the committee). The bill requires the work group to study the services necessary to support student to success, which will include looking at other state models, and make a recommendation to the Legislature by January, 2021. RSAI is registered in support.

**RSAI Priority: ELL Weighting** [**HF 2419**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2419) was approved with strong bi-partisan support in the House Education Committee. It establishes two categories of ELL students based on the state test that ELL students must take, such that “intensive” students requiring the most support would generate a weighting of 0.3 and “intermediate” students still requiring support to reach proficiency would generate 0.25. Both supplementary weightings exceed the 0.22 weighting in the current formula. The Fiscal Note estimates an infusion of $5.8 million in supplementary weighting in the FY 2021-22 school year. RSAI is registered in support

**RSAI Bill Registrations**

Two lists follow: **Bill Action and New Bills**. If RSAI Legislative Priorities address our registration, you’ll see a registration already declared as in *support, undecided or opposed*. For those issues not addressed in our legislative platform, we encourage your feedback on what our registration should be, but in the meantime, will indicate a monitoring registration. Actually, we encourage your feedback and questions on any of these bills.

**Bill Action – Significant Policy Bills**

* [**SF 2360**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2360) **Room Clears** by Education (companion [**HSB 598**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb598) by Dolecheck). These bills are in various states of amendment, with the lobby groups working together with both Republican and Democratic legislators to make improvements. SF 2190 was amended and approved in Senate Appropriations Committee and now has a new number, SF 2360. HSB 598 was amended an approved in House Education Committee this week. Details of the Senate bill:
  + **Sec. 1 & 2 Best practice and Training:** Requires the DE to define appropriate and inappropriate responses to behavior, including standards, guidelines and expectations, and requires DE and AEAs to create PD on least restrictive environment and successful interventions, and requires teacher prep programs to include this content in teacher prep.
  + **Sec. 3 Therapeutic Classroom Grants:** Creates a grant process to fund creation of therapeutic classroom programs. Sets a maximum total of funds awarded to districts not to exceed 150 pupils at a weighting of 1.5. Uses a formula weighting at the upper range of intended slots (for programs intended to serve 1-5 student, weighting of 1.5 X 5; for programs intended to serve 6-10 students, weighting of 1.5 X 10, and for programs intended to serve 11-15 students, weighting of 1.5 X 15). Grant funds are required to be distributed after Dec. 31, but before the start of the school calendar for start-up costs for fall semester therapeutic classrooms. The bill requires that students with IEPs placed in therapeutic classrooms, whether or not the school receives grant funding, is subject to the provisions of chapter 256B, to administrative rules, and to the Federal IDEA act.
  + **Defines therapeutic classroom** as a classroom designed for the purpose of providing support for any student whose emotional, social or behavioral needs interfere with the student’s ability to be successful in the current educational environment, with or without supports, until the student is able to return to the current education environment, with or without supports, including but not limited to the general education classrooms.
  + **Sec. 4 Reimbursement:** Also creates a process to reimburse for transportation costs to the classroom for public and nonpublic students in such classrooms for whom transportation is not included in an IEP, if over 30 miles. The bill requires school districts to submit claims by June 15 and the DE to provide reimbursement by July. The bill requires the DE to prorate reimbursements if claims exceed appropriated amounts. The reimbursement claims must include the number of pupils transported, the number of days each pupil was transported, and a listing of actual costs incurred. The bill also provides a formula for reimbursement of actual costs not to exceed the 1.5 weighting, number of instructional days and district’s regular program cost. Specifies that nonpublic students enrolled in the therapeutic classroom are enrolled in the district as shared-time students. Requires the DE to prorate claims if total claims exceed appropriated funds.
  + **Sec. 5 Softens Least Restrictive Environment Requirements**: changes Iowa code language on LRE to be consistent with federal IDEA law. Iowa Code 256B.2(2)(a) currently requires that to the maximum extent possible, children requiring special education shall attend regular classes and shall be educated with children who do not require special education. The bill strikes “to the maximum extent possible” and replaces it with “consistent with the LRE requirements under IDEA”. The bill also changes the standard from whenever possible to whenever appropriate, that supports for special education students be provided in the inclusive classroom rather than separately.
  + **Regulates Room Clears:** Prohibits IEPs and behavior intervention plans (BIPs) from requiring room clears to calm the student. This language effectively only allows room clears if necessary to prevent or terminate an imminent threat of bodily injury to a student or another person in the classroom. Requires IEPs to be consistent with federal law.
  + **Sec. 6 Home School:** Requires home school students receiving competent private instruction be counted as shared-time students if served in a therapeutic classroom.
  + **Sec. 7 Transportation Equity:** includes adjustments to a school districts transportation expenditures related to the above reimbursements for calculation of transportation equity payments.
  + **Sec. 8 Accountability:** adds the failure of an administrator to appropriately address reports of violence and assault to the BOEE administrator ethics statute.
  + **Sec. 9 Classroom environment/reports of violence or assault**: Specifies that a teacher may clear a classroom only if necessary to prevent or terminate an imminent threat of bodily injury to a student or another person in the classroom. Requires the principal to notify parents of the classroom preferably by the end of the day but not later than 24 hours after the incident, but prohibits identification of students either directly or indirectly involved in the event. Requires the principal to request a meeting with the parent of the student causing the room clear, to meet with the principal, the teachers and other appropriate staff. Allows the classroom teacher to call for and be included in a review of the student’s IEP or BIP.
  + **Reporting:** Requires a classroom teacher to report any incidence of violence that results in injury, property damage or assault by a student enrolled in the school to the principal. Requires each school district to report to the DE an annual count of all instances of violence or assault by a student (in a school building, on school grounds or at a school sponsored event) and to report any time a student is referred for the use of or transfer to a therapeutic classroom. Requires the report to include demographic information of both perpetrators and victims (race, gender, national origin, age, grade level, and disability and any other data necessary to implement ESSA) with appropriate standards to insure student privacy. The DE is required to submit an annual report to the General Assembly by Nov. 1.
  + **Immunity Provisions:** provides immunity from civil or criminal liability and whistle-blower protections for school staff (teachers and administrators) who report incidents of violence or assault. Grants such immunity if the staff acted in good faith and without fraudulent intent or intent to deceive. Requires personal student information in such reporting be protected (comply with FERPA requirements.) For purposes of reporting, unless the context requires otherwise, defines “bodily injury” as physical pain, illness or any other impairment of physical condition.
  + **Sec. 10 Rules:** requires the state board of education to adopt rules to implement this bill.
  + **Sec. 11 Immunity from Employment Consequences:** Grants an employee immunity from any disciplinary action by the employer or the BOEE imposed as a result of physical contact with a student under the reasonableness standard for any reason articulated in Iowa Code [280.21 subsection 2](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/280.21.pdf).
  + **Sec.** **12 Justifications for physical contact:** adds j. relocating a student who is causing a severe distraction or disturbance that is detracting from the educational experience of other students to Iowa Code [280.21 subsection 2](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/280.21.pdf).
  + **Sec. 13 Civil Protection Standard**: to prevail in a disciplinary action alleging a violation of this section or related school policy, requires the party bringing the action shall prove the violation by clear and convincing evidence.
  + **Sec. 14-16 Appropriations:** $500,000 to DE to develop standards and PD, $1,582,650 for the therapeutic classroom incentive, and $500,000 for transportation claims reimbursement.
  + **Sec.** **17 Emergency Rules:** gives the state board of education and board of educational examiners emergency rulemaking authority to implement provisions of this act.
  + **Sec.** **18-19 Effective Dates:** requirements for teacher preparation programs to include content on classroom behavior and strategies (sec. 2) is effective July 1, 2021. Sec. 3 establishing the therapeutic classroom incentive grant program and Sec. 17 emergency rule authority are effective on enactment. All other provisions will be effective on July 1, 2020.

RSAI is registered in support of this bill and continuing to provide input through the process.

HSB 598 action in the House: The full House Education Committee approved a large amendment with many of the Senate changes, along with two additional amendments;

1) established an appeal process by which a teacher could appeal directly to the school board after two such incidents of violence in the classroom, and subsequent to that appeal, if the teacher believes the threats of violence or assault have not been remedied by the school board, may appeal to the state board of education. The amendment requires the state board to determine, based on the facts, whether the requested relief is warranted while appropriately weighing the education rights of any students involved. After the second separate appeal by the teacher to the state board of education, requires a warning be issued to the superintendent as a notice and to the administrator in question. If a third such appeal is submitted to the state BOE, the BOE is required to submit its findings of fact to the BOEE, which is required to initiate a licensee disciplinary hearing against the superintendent and administrator in question. RSAI is opposed to this amendment which does not respect the chain of command and does not distinguish between founded and unfounded reports in the triggers for additional appeal.

2) requires a review of the IEP after such an incident rather than simply allowing a teacher to request a review. Allows the AEA/district IEP team to refer the parents to individual or family counseling services in the area. RSAI does not believe that an IEP review should be mandated subsequent to an incident and prefers the original bill language allowing the teacher to request it. Of course current law allows for all parties, teachers, parents, administrators or AEA to initiate a review of the IEP at any time.

* [**HF 2384**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202384&ga=88) **Future Ready Act** by the Governor (companion [**SF 2313**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2313)in the Senate): this bill makes changes to the Future Ready Iowa Act. **The Division headers in bold impact K-12 education:**

Division I: Future Ready Iowa Apprenticeship Training Program

Division II: Iowa Child Care Challenge Fund

Division III: Workforce Diploma Pilot Project for adults without HS diploma

**Division IV: Computer Science Instruction**

* Requires high schools will offer at least a one-semester computer science course by July 1, 2021 to meet offer and teach requirements. Allows the course to be offered online.
* Requires middle and elementary schools to offer computer science instruction in at least one grade level each by July 1, 2021, but does not require a pull out or separate course, allowing the content to be embedded in the classroom.
* Requires the DE to develop a K-12 state computer science plan by July 1, 2021.
* Requires school districts/nonpublic schools to develop K-12 computer science plans by July 1, 2021.
* Establishes a computer science work group to recommend how to strengthen computer science instruction and develop a statewide campaign to promote computer science to students.
* Appropriates $500,000/Computer Science PD Incentive Fund.
* Other sources of funding will enhance PD for teachers, providing curriculum and virtual instruction for students (Microsoft Settlement funds are estimated to generate $4.0 million).
* Note from the Governor’s Office: Teachers will not be required to earn endorsements to teach computer science, but will be offered training for teaching courses and integrating computer science into other subjects. Computer science is not a graduation requirement for students, but must be offered at the high school.

**Division V: Supplementary Weighting/Shared Operational Functions**

Adds work-based learning coordinators to positions that can be paid for with operational sharing. A fiscal note has not yet been written to estimate the impact of this additional operational sharing position. Those districts already at the 21 student cap would not be able to access this position unless one of their current shared positions changes.

Division VI: Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Last Dollar Scholarship Program

**Division VII: Senior Year Plus Program and Postsecondary Enrollment Options**

Expands opportunities for high school students to earn college credit without families having to pay tuition by lifting the current annual 23-credit cap for concurrent enrollment. RSAI has expressed concerns about this provision as the supplementary weighting generated by concurrent enrollment does not fully cover the cost paid to the community college, and expects an amendment to limit the full-time option to programs authorized by districts in partnership with community colleges and private industry.

The bill is on the House Calendar. Companion [**SF 2313**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2313) was approved by the Senate Commerce Committee and moves to the Senate Calendar, with amendment anticipated during floor debate. RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill, but working with legislators and the Governor’s office to amend the offer and teach requirements regarding online learning to obtain additional flexibility in fully implementing the intentions of this bill and the Senior Year Plus provisions mentioned above. When such amendment is approved, RSAI will change registration to support.

**Other Policy Bill Action This Week – Education Committee Action and Bills Surviving Funnel**

* [**SF 199**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf199) **Voluntary Diversity Plans,** resuscitated from the 2019 session, was approved on a very close vote, with 8 senators in favor and 7 opposed in the Senate Education Committee. Sens. Lofgren and Cournoyer joined the democrats in opposition. RSAI is registered in strong opposition, concerned that repeal of diversity plans will create poverty and minority concentrations in our urban centers (Davenport, Des Moines and Waterloo) and two rural districts (Postville and West Liberty). There is much confusion about how the current plans work. Many students and families are allowed to open enroll both in and out of these districts, but the diversity plan regulates those requests with a goal of preserving and not worsening the low socioeconomic or non-English speaking concentrations of student needs in those districts. RSAI would advocate that other districts experiencing increasing poverty, increasing ELL, increasing minority students should be allowed to develop and implement similar diversity plans. The bill is on the Senate Calendar.
* [**SF 316**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf316) **Special Education Study** by Education; this bill was approved last year by the Senate, has been amended and approved by the House Education Committee, and is now on the House Calendar. The bill requires a special education study, specifies members of the study committee and duties of the committee, and requires a report by Dec. 2020. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**SF 438**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=SF438)**: Elimination of Mandates/Education Omnibus;** this bill was approved in the Senate in the 2019 Session on party lines and is in the House Education Committee. This bill eliminates several mandates on schools and cleans up irrelevant or redundant Code, but does not eliminate authority for school boards and administrators, staff, parents and families, to make decisions regarding the health and welfare of students. A strike-after amendment was considered in the subcommittee meeting on Thursday. Since this bill is a senate file approved last year, it is not subject to the upcoming funnel deadline. We will digest the amendment and report on changes in next week’s report. The bill includes the following provisions before the amendment:

1. Eliminates schools as the middle man for dental and vision screenings, lead testing, etc., reporting. Requires parents of both public and private students to ensure their child is appropriately screened. Allows schools to provide access to screenings. Requires providers who conduct screenings to submit data to DPH. Requires schools to provide information about screenings to parents. Allows DPH to release screening data to schools with parent consent. The implementation of these screening provisions is delayed until July 1, 2020 to allow DPH to set processes in place and request the resources necessary to take on this activity through the normal budget process. The Fiscal Note estimated a cost to the DPH of $1.2 million in the first year and $850,000 in the second year. Page 6 – strikes goal of 1 nurse for every 750 students.
2. Eliminates requirements for schools to use environmentally friendly (green) cleaning products.
3. Eliminates AEA public notice of budget in the newspaper to online with the intent of more appropriately reaching their broader audience not served by one newspaper.
4. Eliminates a requirement for school districts to publish a notice before entering into a loan agreement for an equipment purchase.
5. Eliminates a duplicative provision for loading and unloading buses.
6. Allows a school board to deposit proceeds of the sale of building or school site into any school fund other than the PPEL fund following a public hearing and board action. (about 37 districts for $1.2 million according to testimony to the Subcommittee 4.1.19)
7. Slightly limits reporting requirements around preschool reporting, but maintains the requirement for districts to report preschool experiences of kindergarteners.
8. Allows school districts to charge employees for DHS registry checks not to exceed the actual cost of the checks.
9. Repeals energy audit reporting requirements
10. Eliminates equipment purchase advance public notice.

RSAI is registered in support of the bill. The bill is still in the House Education Committee.

* [**SF 2009**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2009) **Minor Drivers’ License** by Education; this bill sets the same standard for public school students with minor drivers’ licenses as passed for nonpublic school students last year, allowing a student to drive up to 50 miles to extracurricular activities. RSAI is registered as undecided. The bill is on the Senate Calendar.
* [**SF 2082**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=SF2082)**DE Technical Corrections** AKA Education Omnibus bill: this bill eliminates duplicative language in the Iowa Code, and modernizes language, all technical (nonsubstantive) corrections. The bill updates titles of members of the Child Development Coordinating Council, updates language on school district agency funds to name them custodial funds, updates provisions on special education related to open-enrollment and to shared-time provisions, and updates language on electronic access offered by the State Library. The bill was approved by the Senate, 48:00 and is now in the House Education Committee. RSAI supports the bill.
* [**SF 2123**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2123) **Education Aid Adjustment** by Education: this bill makes a school eligible for an adjustment in state foundation aid if a property value adjustment made on appeal is at least $100,000 (2% of the property value in the district). Requires the property to originally be assessed at more than $5 million. The bill is in the Senate Ways and Means Committee and a subcommittee recommended it move forward. RSAI supports it. See Companion bill HF 2176.
* [**SF 2153**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2153) **Parent Permission for Health Screenings** by Education: this bill requires districts to obtain parent permission for health screenings that aren’t mandated by state or federal law and creates an exception for emerging health issues. RSAI is registered as undecided. The bill is on the Senate Calendar.
* [**SF 2155**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2155) **ISL Authority for SRO** by Education; this bill allows a school board by resolution to annual request additional Instructional Support Levy authority above its limitation to pay for the costs of one school resources officer and associated safety equipment for that one SRO. RSAI is registered in support. The bill is in the Senate Ways and Means Committee with a subcommittee of Senators Chapman, Quirmbach and R. Smith assigned.
* [**SF 2253**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2253) **Show Choir/Band Exemption** by Education: this bill allows a student in show choir or marching band to be exempt from PE requirements under certain conditions. The bill is on the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**SF 2258**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2258) **Proof of Guardianshi**p by Education: this bill relates to the documentation necessary to enroll a minor student in school. If the student is enrolled by someone in the district, this bill requires the individual to either submit a letter from the minor’s parent authorizing the person to enroll the student or proof of guardianship. The bill is intended to address sex trafficking of students and although well-intended, may have some unintended consequences. We have not yet confirmed that such paperwork must be submitted prior to enrolling and would delay a student’s education or create a barrier for students to enroll in school. The bill is on the Senate Calendar. RSAI is undecided.
* [**SF 2261**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2261) **Telehealth School Behavioral Services** by Education: this bill authorizes schools and AEAs to offer behavioral health screenings and services through telehealth. Requires insurance or Medicaid to pay the same for such telehealth services as for in-person services. Includes provisions to define appropriate provider/student relationships, communication with the school if there is a threat of danger to others or self, protection of student privacy and communication with parents and the student’s primary care provider. The bill is on the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**SF 2310**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2310) **Online Learning** by Education; this bill was amended in the Senate Education Committee to have the AEA become a hub of online learning classes, require school districts to pay the cost/fee associated with the class, requires courses to be from approved providers, follow state standards, and if not purchased from a provider with prior DE approval, the course information must be submitted to the DE. Requires all districts to include in their CSIP online courses to which their students enrolled. RSAI is undecided. The bill was approved 14:0 and moves to the Senate Calendar.
* [**SF 2285**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2285) **Declaration of Independence Display** by Education; this bill requires each school district to ensure that the first sentence of the Declaration of Independence is displayed in every school attendance center, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The Senate Education Committee approved it 14:0. It moves to the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided.
* [**SF 2329**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2329) **Occupational Therapist for Concussions** by Education; this bill adds occupational therapists to the list of providers who can address concussions to detect during a sporting event or treat and release back into participation. The bill was put forward by ChildServe. The Senate Education Committee approved the bill 14:0. The bill is on the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**SF 2331**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2331) **First Amendment Protections** by Education; this bill deems that a school teacher or official cannot be fired or otherwise disciplined for protecting the 1st Amendment rights of students. Approved by the Senate Education Committee 14:0. The bill is on the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided.
* [**SF 2356**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2356) **Dyslexia Specialists and Board** by Education; this bill requires the State BOE to adopt rules in collaboration with the Iowa Reading Research Center, prescribing standards and procedures for the approval of practitioner prep programs affiliated with the IRRC and that offer prep programs for the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement issued by the BOEE. The bill prohibits the state BOE from approving practitioner prep programs for such an endorsement if the program is not affiliated with the IRRC. Requires the DE to designate one FTE for a dyslexia consultant and specifies duties and qualifications of the consultant. Creates an Iowa Dyslexia Board to guide, facilitate, and oversee implementation of dyslexia instruction in Iowa and make recommendations for continuous improvement. Specifies areas of recommendations and membership of the board and requires an annual report every November. Requires BOEE, in consultation with the IRRC, to establish an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement. Requires AEAs, subject to appropriation, to dedicate at least one full-time equivalent position to maintain a dyslexia specialist by July 1, 2024. Absent the appropriation, each AEA is encouraged to employ such a specialist. Requires by July 1, 2024, all AEA employees with a license, certification, statement of recognition, or authorization other than a coaching authorization, issued by the BOEE, to complete the IRRC dyslexia overview module. After that date, all new hires to the AEAs have one year to complete the module. Defines dyslexia. Requires by July 1, 2024, school boards to require all employees with a teaching license or special education endorsement, or PK-3 levels endorsement, to complete the IRRC dyslexia overview module. All such licensed new hires to school districts after July 1, 2024 have one year to complete the module. The Senate Education Committee amended and approved the bill, 14:0. RSAI would likely support the AEA role of support and clarity of rules, but is concerned about the unfunded mandate surrounding mandated training, thus registered as undecided.
* [**HSB 598**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb598) **Classroom Behavior** by Education; this bill was approved by the House Education Committee 12:10 and moves to the House Calendar. See article above for bill details. RSAI is registered in support.
* [**HSB 666**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb666) **Dropout Prevention Cap Equity** by Education; this bill would allow school districts with dropout prevention capacity between 2.5% and 5.0% of regular program district cost to annual request of the SBRC modified supplemental amount equal to the difference between their DoP Cap and the 5% maximum. The bill does not change any other DoP rules (25% local match still required, carry forward amount still deducted from next year’s maximum authority, etc.). RSAI is registered in support since many RSAI districts are held to a ceiling below the 5% cap and have experienced significant demographic changes over the last 10 years. This bill is on the House Calendar.
* [**HSB 680**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb680) **Deaf Language Acquisition** by Education; this bill provides for the development and dissemination of a parent resource for the parents and guardians of children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing; requires the DE director to employ an early language development coordinator, provides for the identification of tools or assessments educators can use to assess the language and literacy development of such children from birth to eight years of age; requires, if such a child is not meeting language development milestones, that the child’s individualized family service plan (IFSP) or individualized education program (IEP) team explain in detail the reasons why the child is not meeting the milestones and submit modifications to the plan to assist the child in achieving English literacy proficiency; and provides for the establishment of an advisory committee for purposes of soliciting input from experts on the selection of language developmental milestones for such children that are equivalent to milestones for children who are not deaf or hard-of-hearing. The bill provides that “English” includes spoken English, written English, or English with the use of visual supplements. RSAI is registered as undecided. The bill was approved by the House Education Committee and moves to the House Calendar.
* [**HF 2120**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202120&ga=88) **Suicide Prevention Protocols** by Education; this bill was amended to remove the requirement that DE develop suicide prevention and postvention protocols that district must use and instead requires school districts to report annual as prescribed by DE (likely on Spring BEDS) which protocols they are implementing. The bill was approved by the House Education Committee 20:2 and moves to the House Calendar. RSAI was originally registered opposed but has changed registration to undecided with removal of the mandate.
* [**HF 2147**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2147) **School BEDS Error Correction**s by Education; this bill was amended in the House Education Committee to significantly change it. The bill would allow a district to request the DE director to recognize and certify that an error made during BEDS reporting was an error, then requires the DE to submit certification to the BOEE what the correct reporting should have been, requiring the BOEE to make any necessary licensure adjustments based on the correct information. The bill is on the House Calendar. RSAI supports it.
* [**HF 2340**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2340) **Education Savings Plans** by Education; this bill would allow parents to use 529 savings plans in order to save and spend tax free resources on special education schools outside of Iowa. The fiscal note estimates that this would initially cost the state general fund a loss of $175,000 annually, lowering to $140,000 long term. RSAI is registered as undecided. The bill moves to the House Calendar.
* [**HF 2359**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2359) **Teacher Preparation Reports** by Education; (similar to SF 2010 which did not receive approval in the Senate Education Committee): Directs the State BOE to require colleges and universities with teacher preparation programs to report annually on Praxis test scores. The House Education Committee amended the bill to remove the requirement that students applying to the college of education have a minimum test score on the Praxis I to be admitted, but requires those teacher prep programs that administer the pretest to report test scores to the DE. RSAI is registered in support. The bill is on the House Calendar.
* [**HF 2443**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202443&ga=88) **Senior Year Plus Proficiency** by Education; **this bill eliminates the mandate that students must be proficient on state tests in order to** access concurrent enrollment courses and instead allows community colleges to requires a proficiency exam if they deem it necessary. The bill was approved by the House Education Committee 22:1 and moves to the House Calendar. RSAI supports.
* [**HF 2454**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=f2454hsb644) **Community College Instructors Credentials** by Education; these bills would allow a community college instructor in a career and technical education field to teach, if the instructor has the degree required to work in that field of instruction (the degree is terminal) and the instructor has at least 3,000 hours of recent and relevant work experience in the area that the instructor is teaching. This bill was approved by the House Education Committee 23:0, and is on the House Calendar. Companion [**SF 2154**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%202154&ga=88)is on the Senate Calendar. RSAI supports it.
* [**HF 2457**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2457) **Bleeding Control Content** by Education; although the bill originally required all students to take a course in bleeding control, the bill was amended to instead require the DE to add bleeding control content into the health educational requirements. With the amendment, RSAI has changed our registration from opposition to undecided. The House Education Committee approved the bill as amended, 12:11. The bill is on the House Calendar.
* [**HF 2160**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202160&ga=88) **PK Eligibility** by Education; this bill expands 4-year-old preschool to include young 5-year-olds, born between March 15 and September 15. It allows students to repeat preschool rather than entering kindergarten. The bill requires school districts to prioritize 4-year-olds if there is a waiting list. The bill first applies to the 2021-22 school year. The bill was approved 15:7 in the House Education Committee and moves to the House Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided.
* [**HF 2490**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2490) **Poverty Weighting** was approved with strong bi-partisan support in the House Education Committee. The bill comes from the school finance interim committee which unanimously recommended such a study. The bill describes the change in poverty among Iowa students, with 43% of student eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch in Iowa, FY 2019, and states that the costs of services and supports low-income students require for success are not well served by inequity in our Formula. The bill requires the DE to establish a work group (RSAI has a member on the committee). The bill requires the work group to study the services necessary to support student to success, which will include looking at other state models, and make a recommendation to the Legislature by January, 2021. RSAI is registered in support.

**Other Policy Bill Action This Week – Other Committee Bills Surviving the Funnel**

* [**HSB 706**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hsb706) **Open Enrollment Cause** by Education; this bill adds a new condition to the good cause provisions for open enrollment out which does not meet the March 1 application deadline. The bill specifies that employment of a parent in a noncontiguous district is sufficient for a good cause exemption and requires the receiving district to take action approving to approve the request. The bill was approved by a subcommittee of the whole in the House Local Government Committee 11:10 and moves to the House Calendar where referral to the House Education Committee may be requested. RSAI is registered opposed, not because we have a position on open enrollment, but because the March 1 deadline allows for adequate planning for staff and programs.
* [**HF 2154**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2154) **Child Abuse Education Programs** by Education; this bill allows continuing education programs for teachers to include programs on child sexual abuse and requires school districts to include age-appropriate information in PK-12 human development content. The bill was amended at passed by the House Public Safety Committee 19:0 and moves to the House Calendar where referral to the House Education Committee may be requested. RSAI is registered as undecided.
* [**HF 2470**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf2470) **Professional Licensing Qualifications** by State Government; this bill strikes specific provisions regarding disqualifications from holding a license on the basis of criminal convictions in many licensing statutes (Chapter 272 BOEE included). The bill also requires licensing boards to grant a professional license to a person from another state who establishes residency in Iowa, currently holds a substantially equivalent license from another jurisdiction, is in good standing regarding the license in prior jurisdictions, completed minimum education work and clinical requirements, passed an examination required in the prior jurisdiction, has not had their license revoked or voluntarily surrendered while under investigation, does not have an investigation pending, has not had discipline imposed unless the issue has been resolved, does not have a complaint, allegation or investigation pending, pays applicable fees, and does not have a qualifying conviction (this section applies to administrators and coaches, but not teachers). The bill allows the licensing board to require an examination and submit fingerprints. Prohibits a person from receiving a license under these provisions from being eligible to practice in another state under a licensure compact. The bill also requires any fees for licensing be waived for first time applicants in the state whose household income does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. (Note: 2020 FPL at 200% is $24,980 for a single individual or $33,820 for a household of two.) RSAI supports the concept of reciprocity for licenses, but would prefer the BOEE allow reciprocity from states with more similar standards rather than blanket reciprocity at this higher licensure level. We are also concerned that most college graduates applying for first-time teacher’s license would qualify for the fee waiver, which could result in fewer resources for BOEE services, so we are registered as undecided on the bill. The bill was approved by the House State Government Committee, and is now in House Ways and Means Committee. See [SSB 3122](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SSB%203122&ga=88) by the Governor.
* [**HF 2192**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf2192) **Telehealth Payments** by Human Services; this bill requires health carriers to reimburse health care providers for telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services as of January 2021. The bill defines a student/mental health care provider relationship, protects student records and privacy, and allows the MH practitioner to share information with the school district if there is imminent danger. The bill is on the House Calendar. A fiscal note was published this week describing the complicated details of private insurance billing and Medicaid reimbursements and can be found on the legislative web site [here](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FN/1128304.pdf). RSAI supports this bill and specifically calls for telehealth services as part of the spectrum of mental health services our students need.
* [**HF 2308**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202308&ga=88) **Open Meeting Subjects** by State Government; the bill defines the content subject to open meetings to include budgetary duties: *“Meeting”* means a gathering in person or by electronic means, formal or informal, of a majority of the members of a governmental body where there is deliberation or action upon any matter within the scope of the governmental body’s policy-making or budgetary duties. Meetings shall not include a gathering of members of a governmental body for purely ministerial or social purposes when there is no discussion of policy or budgetary duties or no intent to avoid the purposes of this chapter. The bill is on the House Calendar. RSAI is undecided.
* [**SF 2184**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2184) **Permit to Carry on School Grounds** by Judiciary; this bill allows any individual with a license to carry a gun to have the gun on school property during dropoff and pick up of students or delivering things to the school. The bill was approved by the Judiciary Committee and is on the Senate Calendar. RSAI is opposed.
* [**SF 2268**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2268) **Smoking/Vaping Age** by State Government: this bill raises the age for tobacco and vapor products to age 21. The bill is on the Senate Calendar. RSAI is monitoring this bill.
* [**SF 2288**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2288) **School Immunity** by Judiciary; this bill provides immunity for school employees and school boards related to an employee using physical contact with a student under reasonable conditions. RSAI is registered as undecided. The bill moves to the Senate Calendar.
* [**SF 2298**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2298) **Drivers’ Education Instruction** by Transportation; this bill exempts retired peace office from DOT certification requirements in order to teach drivers’ education courses. The bill was approved 13:0 and moves to the Senate Calendar. RSAI is undecided.

**Dead Bills: We will have a complete list of bills that died due to the funnel early next week. Stay Tuned.**

**Connecting with Legislators: See the RSAI Jan. 23, 2020 weekly** [Report](http://nebula.wsimg.com/794dd24bbc0c3bd2c451079c6920a003?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1) **for information about legislator biographies, contact information and committee assignments.**

**Advocacy Resources:**

To find Advocacy Resources such as Position Papers, RSAI Weekly Legislative Reports and video updates, RSAI Calls to Action when immediate advocacy action is required, testimony presented to the State Board of Education, the DE or any legislative committee or public hearing, and links to fiscal information that may inform your work, visit the RSAI legislative web page here: <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>