**RSAI Legislative Update   
Mar. 24, 2017**

**Highlights of this week’s action:** Floor debate was completed, sending bills over to the other chamber. Then subcommittee work ensued. Key movement occurs on flexibility bills, including Home Rule, and equity proposals, including transportation and formula equality. Legislative leaders make plans to use reserve funds to cover the current fiscal year shortfall, but intend to pay the reserves back in FY 2018. By March 31, bills must clear the committee of the other chamber to stay alive (Senate bills out of House committee and vice versa.)

**Advocacy Opportunities:**

* House Way and Means Committee members need to hear from advocates regarding extension of the State Penny. See HF 230 below.
* House Appropriations Committee members need contact regarding formula equality and transportation equity. See SF 455 below.

**RSAI Website:** Legislative tab contains weekly reports, position papers, and other information to assist your advocacy efforts.

[**http://www.rsaia.org/**](http://www.rsaia.org/)

**State Budget and Tax Reform:**

[**HSB 187**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=hsb187) **Tax Credits:** Although this bill caps tax credits (estimated at $426.9 million FY 2017) to $400 million in FY 2018, $390 million in FY 2019, $380 million in FY 2020, and $370 million in FY 2021 and beyond, which does stop the extraordinary growth of the tax credits. The bill:

* Deposits the difference between $426.9 million and the cap into the taxpayer trust fund
* Does not provide additional resources for schools or the state general fund
* Provides that tax credits are paid in the order received, likely to disadvantage low income Iowans and those claiming child care tax credits, and
* Does not provide for analysis and continuation of the tax credits that are more effective in growing Iowa’s economy or eliminate of those that are not effective.

**Revenue Estimate Impact:** Legislative leadership is suggesting a transfer of $131 million out of reserves to cover the FY 2017 shortfall (which is better than another deappropriations bill in the current fiscal year.) Look at both FY 2018 and FY 2019 as continued tough budget years, (REC estimated growth of 3.6% in each year) especially if the Governor and Legislature determine that the reserve funds must be paid back immediately in FY 2018 instead of over a two- or three-year time frame.

[**HF 230**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF230) **SAVE Extension:**  this bill would extend the SAVE sunset from 2029 to Jan. 1, 2050. There are no proposed changes to the process or the use of the funds in this bill. RSAI is registered in support. A subcommittee of Reps. Forristall, Carlin and Jacoby recommended passage. See the RSAI web site for a position statement regarding the priority of extending the sunset and talk to House Ways and Means Committee members about moving this bill forward. Position Paper is found here: [Position paper found here.](http://nebula.wsimg.com/c6f25fa52d9da14421dfe628662fe880?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1)

##### House Ways and Means Members:

* [**Pat Grassley**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6277)**(R, District**[**50**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2050.pdf)**), Chair**
* [**Ashley Hinson**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=18049)**(R, District**[**67**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2067.pdf)**), Vice Chair**
* [**Chris Hall**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9388)**(D, District**[**13**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2013.pdf)**), Ranking Member**
* [Bruce Bearinger](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10738) (D, District [64](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2064.pdf))
* [Brian Best](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=14800) (R, District [12](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2012.pdf))
* [Wes Breckenridge](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=18033) (D, District [29](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2029.pdf))
* [Timi Brown-Powers](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=14805) (D, District [61](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2061.pdf))
* [Dave Deyoe](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6289) (R, District [49](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2049.pdf))
* [Cecil Dolecheck](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=88) (R, District [24](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2024.pdf))
* [Dean Fisher](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10755) (R, District [72](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2072.pdf))
* [David E. Heaton](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=97) (R, District [84](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2084.pdf))
* [Lisa Heddens](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=213) (D, District [46](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2046.pdf))
* [Jake Highfill](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10752) (R, District [39](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2039.pdf))
* [Daniel A. Huseman](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10) (R, District [3](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2003.pdf))
* [John Landon](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10751) (R, District [37](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2037.pdf))
* [Norlin Mommsen](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=14810) (R, District [97](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2097.pdf))
* [Jo Oldson](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=228) (D, District [41](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2041.pdf))
* [Walt Rogers](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9394) (R, District [60](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2060.pdf))
* [Kirsten Running-Marquardt](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9198) (D, District [69](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2069.pdf))
* [Mike Sexton](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=1153) (R, District [10](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2010.pdf))
* [Rob Taylor](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10753) (R, District [44](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2044.pdf))
* [Todd E. Taylor](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=54) (D, District [70](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2070.pdf))
* [Phyllis Thede](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6577) (D, District [93](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2093.pdf))
* [Cindy Winckler](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=44) (D, District [90](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2090.pdf))
* [Gary Worthan](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6324) (R, District [11](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2011.pdf)

**Here’s the latest activity on bills of interest to RSAI members:**

[**HF 563**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=hf563) **Collision Sports Training and Protocol:** Regarding CPR training, this bill requires coaches to have training in CPR and the use of an automated defibrillator. Current coaches have until July 2018 to get training. Regarding concussions, this bill requires:

* + Athletic associations must work together to develop training materials on concussions and coaches/referees must complete such training every two years.
  + Athletic associations are to develop information sheets for parents and guardians and districts must provide the info sheets to parents.
  + Coach/official or health care professional must remove a student from the competition if the student shows any sign of brain injury. Requires the athletic associations to develop a return to competition protocol. Requires districts to adopt the protocol.

House approved the bill as amended 96-0; sending it to the Senate. The Senate has assigned a subcommittee of Sens. Sinclair, Chelgren and Bowman. RSAI is opposed, although this language has softened considerably through the process. We remain concerned that the protocol developed by the athletic associations is mandated and may have a cost associated with it.

[**HF 564**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF%20564) **Categorical Flexibility.** House approved 96:0, Subcommittee Sinclair, C. Johnson and Quirmbach recommend passage. Must next be approved by Senate Education Committee to survive the funnel:

* Professional Development (PD): includes textbooks and assessments if PD included
* At-risk Dropout Prevention: adds counselors, allows staff proration, adds PD for counselors, and program costs to address absenteeism, truancy or frequent tardiness as allowable expenses and authorizes school districts to allocate a percentage of staff time to be spent on the program.
* Preschool (PK): broad school board flexibility for anything needed to meet standards, but specifically adds supplies, translation services, playground equipment, snacks, rental fees and other costs enhancing the approved local program.
* PPEL transportation repair of buses: eliminates $2,500 threshold so PPEL can pay for less costly repairs.
* Requires the DOE to give deference to the decisions of schools in regards to spending dedicated funding streams in the areas of teacher salary supplement, professional development and early intervention/class size.
* Safety Equipment: Allows school general fund to pay for safety equipment needed for extracurricular participation.
* RSAI is registered in support.

[**HF 565**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF565&ga=87) **Education Flex Account:** House approved 95:0, Subcommittee Sinclair, C. Johnson and Quirmbach recommend passage. Must next be approved by Senate Education Committee to survive the March 31 funnel:

* Allows a school board to transfer ending balances remaining June 30, 2018 or after from Professional Development (PD), Preschool (PK), Home School Assistance Program (HSAP) and extinct programs into a flex account.
* Allows flex account funds to be spent on start-up costs of PK, PD, HSAP, At-risk or dropout prevention, Talented and Gifted, or any general fund purpose.
* Requires a transparent process (public notice, public hearing, board resolution, part of budget, documentation kept for auditors)
* RSAI is registered in support.

[**HF 566**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF566) **Combining Election Dates:** This bill moves school elections to the same day as city elections, in November of the odd-numbered year. Makes changes to various deadlines, school districts in multiple counties and other matters. The bill was approved in State Government Committee with 12 in favor and 10 opposed. Although this action would lower election costs to schools and may increase voter turnout, RSAI is concerned about board turnover and the limited time for training and orientation between a December organizational meeting of the board and the deadlines for setting school budgets and bargaining requirements.

RSAI is registered opposed to the bill, which was approved by the House 68:31and is now assigned to the Senate State Government Committee <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?ga=87&groupID=702>

[**HF 573**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=hf573) **Home Rule:** House approved 61:38, now in Senate Education Committee. Needs subcommittee and Committee approval to move forward. Allows a school district to exercise any broad and implied power, not inconsistent with state law/administrative rules, related to the operation, control and supervision of public schools in their district. The flexibility does not apply to taxing authority. Impact:

* Schools must still do what’s required (must have contracts with teachers)
* Schools are still prohibited from doing what’s prohibited (eg., can’t use PPEL for staff)
* Applies to everything that is neither required nor prohibited
* RSAI is registered in support.

[**SF 455**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=sf455) **Formula and Transportation Equity:** the bill includes a 10-year phase-in to eliminate the $175 difference in the district and state costs per pupil:

* $5 per pupil beginning July 1, 2017
* $10 per pupil beginning July 1, 2018
* $20 per pupil beginning July 1, 2019 and annually until the gap is closed (by July 1, 2027, all districts will be at the same cost per pupil.)

The bill also includes a transportation formula that creates a supplementary weighting to generate funds for all net operating costs for transportation, based on three factors:

* 90% based on prior 3-year net operating transportation costs of getting students to and from school (excluding PPEL/SAVE expenditures)
* 5% based on enrollment
* 5% based on route miles per pupil
* Phases in over 10 years, at 10% per year, essentially providing $12.8 million in the first year and eventually covering $128 million in FY 2016 dollars when complete

Specifies that transportation funds are miscellaneous income and deposited into the school’s general fund. RSAI is registered in favor. The bill was approved in the Senate, 47:0, was approved in the House Education Committee, 21:1 and is now in the House Appropriations Committee <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?ga=87&groupID=683>.

Please reach out to your representatives on this committee and reiterate the urgency of beginning the work of closing these equity gaps in the formula and in transportation funding now.

[**SF 475**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=sSF475) **Education Omnibus**: Approved in the Senate, 33:15, now in House Education Committee, assigned the subcommittee of Reps. Wheeler (C), Hanusa, Moore, Nielsen, and Steckman. Must be approved by House Education Committee to move forward. The bill:

* Eliminates virtual academy caps, allows school districts to offer virtual education to resident students, may work with private providers or develop their own content, allows students who open enroll into virtual programs to participate in extra or co-curricular activities in resident district (resident district may withhold up to 15% of district cost from receiving district to cover costs of participation). Online content must align with Iowa core standards and requires an Iowa license teacher.
* Provides offer and teach flexibility for online learning if no teacher can be found or if less than 10 students take a course, either through Iowa Learning Online or content developed locally. Also allows community college course to provide CTE content in one subject area to meet offer and teach requirements for districts below 600 students enrolled.
* Creates a student health working group to study dental and vision screenings (the bill as approved in the Senate no longer eliminates the requirement that students be screened before enrollment as originally proposed)
* Creates a working group to study AEA essential services and report back a priority ranked list by Nov. 2017.
* Creates a Bi-literacy Seal for diplomas for students graduating proficient in two world languages (one of which must be English) in districts that choose to participate.
* Specifies that DE guidance may not be inconsistent with any statute, rule or other legal authority and shall not issue guidance that imposes any legally binding obligations or duties upon any person unless such legally binding obligations or duties are required or reasonably implied by any statute, rule or other legal authority. Exempts guidance that is necessary following the administrative rules process.
* RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill.

[**HF 291**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF291) **Collective Bargaining Update:** PERB issues request on their web site for employers to return contracts to PERB after approval, per HF 291, within 10 days of being approved. This requirement is effective for contract approved after Feb. 17, 2017. See more here: <https://iowaperb.iowa.gov/>

Senate Switchboard # 515.281.3371

House Switchboard # 515.281.3221

From links above or the legislative page <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators> , find email addresses, home mailing address and home/work phone numbers for your legislators.

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