**RSAI Legislative Update
Feb. 21, 2019**

In this Feb. 21, 2019 RSAI Report of the 2019 Legislative Session, find information about:

* **SSA and Equity Funding signed by the Governor**
* **Financial Literacy through the Senate**
* **SAVE through House Ways and Means Committee**
* **Student Opinion Editorial in DSM Register about SAVE extension**
* **Other bills of interest: online learning, STEM concurrent enrollment, radon mitigation, Praxis test, Operational Sharing SRO position, school bus exceptions, school quarterly reporting and charter schools**
* **Advocacy Resources**
* **Links to members of Key Legislative Committees**

**Find this week’s RSAI Capitol Recap Video:** [**HERE**](https://youtu.be/11Av0Dv3vzU)**:**

March 8 is the deadline by which House files must clear a House committee and Senate files must clear a Senate Committee to survive.  Expect emphasis on subcommittee and committee work again this week.

**Governor Reynolds Signs SSA and Transportation/Formula Equity:** See last week’s report for bill details, but it’s done. Governor signed HF 306 and HF 307 on Tuesday, Feb. 19. Look for updated budget software incorporating the changes. RSAI was registered in favor of both bills, especially when combined with SAVE extension, as a complete budget package for FY 2020. Thanks to those of you who made it to the Capitol to witness the bill signing!

**Financial Literacy through the Senate**: SF 139 was approved by the Senate on Monday. HF 420 is a companion bill now on the House Calendar. The bills extend the financial literacy graduation mandate to apply to incoming freshmen this fall, also known as the graduating class of 2022-23. RSAI is registered in favor.

**SAVE Extension Bills** [**HF 425**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=HF%20425) **and** [**SF 74**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf74)

**SAVE in the Senate:** State Penny for School Infrastructure extension, SF 74, is still in the Senate Ways and Means Committee assigned to a Subcommittee of Sen. Feenstra, Dawson and Jochum. If you have a Senator on that committee (see list below), continue to reach out regularly and see how they are coming along.

**SAVE in the House:** HSB 18 gets a new bill number, now HF 425. The bill is assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee, which held their first subcommittee on Thursday of this week. Reps. Bossman, Osmundson and Isenhart all showed support, but are going to work further to answer questions about the CTE academy grants and the maximum amount of property tax relief in the bill. Currently, 2.1% of SAVE revenue goes into the PTER (property tax equity and relief fund). The bill proposes a gradual increase to 12% if sales tax revenue annual growth triggers are met. The discussion was around increasing that 12% to 15%. RSAI is registered in favor of the bill. Let us know how you feel about the proposal to increase property tax relief to 15%.

**SAVE Advocacy**: Sibani Ram, a high school student from Dubuque, had an opinion editorial in Wednesday’s Des Moines Register, titled *Iowa Legislature should extend SAVE*.

See the editorial here: <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2019/02/18/iowa-legislature-should-extend-secured-advancement-value-education/2908253002/> Students can be great advocates with parents, communities and legislators for positive change.

**Other Bills Introduced or Moving through the Process:** 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 an undecided registration.

[HF 268](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf268) by Hinson, **Searchable School Database:** this bill requires Department of Management to put up on the internet a searchable database of school spending information by 2021 and includes requirements to schools to provide data. The bill requires schools to report the school district certified budget, all state audits or reports of the school district, school districts quarterly financial statements and other information including but not limited to accounts payable check registers and credit, debit, and purchase card statements, and any other information required as specified by the DOM director. The House Appropriations subcommittee of Reps. Hinson, Deyoe and Mascher met Thursday and listened to the concerns of school leaders about the challenges of complying with this requirement. We think there are some tools being created by DOM that will help with the transparency goal of this legislation without additional reporting duties placed on school leaders. We do not anticipate this bill will get out of Committee, but will keep you posted. *Registered opposed*.

[HF 349](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf349), by Best, **Radon Testing and Mitigation**: this bill requires school districts to conduct short term test for radon at least once by July 1, 2022, and every five years thereafter. The bill requires subsequent action if the test results meet or exceed four picocuries per liter. The bill requires reporting about testing to the DE via the BEDS data collection (we have requested this provision be removed) and requires schools to post results on their web site. The bill also requires the DPH and DE to approve standards for design and construction of school buildings to minimize radon, but we are hopeful that provision will be removed from the bill if it moves forward. The bill requires districts to hire certified radon professionals, but we have asked for the bill to include the use of trained employees or contractors. The bill expands the use of PPEL and State Penny to pay for both radon testing and mitigation costs. RSAI is monitoring this bill.

[SSB 1163](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=ssb1163), by Sinclair, **Concurrent Enrollment STEM Offer and Teach**: this bill increases the weighting for concurrent enrollment for liberal arts concurrent enrollment (community college) courses from 46 hundredths to 50 hundredths. The bill would allow school districts to meet offer and teach requirements for one science and one math course using community college courses. Although the bill originally included a provision to allow districts to assess parents the fee for participation in such courses if the student did not finish the course, significant concerns raised during the subcommittee meeting led the Senators to remove that provision, likely seen in an amendment in the Education Committee. The bill also allows students in districts below 600 to count for concurrent enrollment even while using the course to meet offer and teach requirements, if at least 5 students are enrolled in the course. For districts with enrollment greater than 600, the district may partner with a community college to provide one of the math or science offer and teacher requirements, but if the course is used to meet offer and teach, the district may not count the students for supplementary weighting. The bill sets up the possibility for nonpublic schools to offer concurrent enrollment directly, rather than through the public school enrollment and weighting process. RSAI is registered in support.

[SSB 1165](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=ssb1165), by Sinclair, **On-Line Learning**: this bill permits school district and nonpublic schools to offer on-line learning courses to meet the offer and teacher requirements by using Iowa Learning On-Line courses, by developing such courses themselves, or by working with a private provider approved by the department. RSAI requested an amendment to also allows districts to work together to develop such courses. RSAI is registered in support.

[HSB 17](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=HSB%2017), by Dolecheck, **Praxis Test requirements**: this bill creates a one-year temporary license for new teachers with a job offer and waives the requirement that they take the praxis test for one year. The bill requires that the district make a good faith effort to fill the position with a licensed teacher. Also changes the process for setting Praxis scores, so DE can set a score. Requires the DE to utilize scores required for similar tests in contiguous states and the supply and demand imbalance of content areas or teaching positions currently experienced in Iowa. The bill was approved with strong bi-partisan support of the House Education Committee (only 2 Reps. Mascher and Mattson voting no) and moves to the House Calendar. RSAI supports this bill.

[HF 499](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%20499&ga=88) **School Bus Exceptions**: this bill, as approved by the House Education Committee, excludes 10-passenger (including the driver) vans from the definition of a school bus. The bill requires the DOT administrative rules allow 10-passenger vans (including the driver) to operate as school buses. RSAI supports the bill.

[SF 284](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf284), by Lofgren, **Operational Sharing** **SROs:** this bill was approved by a subcommittee in the Senate, with Sens. Lofgren, Cournoyer and Ragan recommending approval. This bill would add the position of school resource officer to list of positions that could generate operational sharing weighting, equivalent to 5 students ($33-34K). RSAI supports this bill.

[HF 160](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf160), by Shipley, **Charter Schools:** this bill would require a school board to approve a charter school application, would still require the state board of education to approve, amend or deny such an application. The bill strikes the requirement that the state BOE makes its decision on the charter school based on the applications’ ability to meet several state and federal requirements, such as serving school lunch, educating special education students, following nondiscriminatory practices or providing transportation. Rep. specifically requests language from the lobbyists from Reaching Higher Iowa and Americans for Prosperity. RSAI is opposed to the bill.

**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>

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

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515.201.3755 Cell

**Legislator Contact Information follows:** Find out who your legislators are through the interactive map or address search posted on the Legislative Website here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>

You can click on any legislator to find their office phone and email address or search the Iowa Secretary of State’s general election candidate list for all House members and those Senators who were elected in November of 2018 to see their home address, local phone or cell phone number and email address.

That list is found here: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/candidates/generalcandidatelist.pdf>

To call and leave a message at the statehouse during session, the House switchboard operator number is 515.281.3221 and the Senate switchboard operator number is 515.281.3371. You can ask if they are available or leave a message for them to call you back.

**Key Committee Contacts (every name is linked to their legislative email address within the table):**

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| **Senate Education Committee Members:** [**Amy Sinclair**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=10729)**(R, District**[**14**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925098.pdf)**), Chair**[**Chris Cournoyer**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=27004)**(R, District**[**49**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925133.pdf)**), Vice Chair**[**Herman C. 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