



## RSAI Legislative Update January 23, 2025

This RSAI Weekly Report from the 2025 Legislative Session includes:

- More Details about the Governor’s Budget Recommendations: SSA and PK
- ESA Update: Enrollment and Cost Assumptions in the Governor’s Budget
- Subcommittee Motion: Civics Test for Graduation and Operational Sharing
- Advocacy Resources: Advocacy Handbook and List of Legislative Forums
- Advocacy Actions for the Week
- Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees & New Bills for the Week

### Governor’s Details on SSA and PK: (Source: LSA Analysis of the Governor’s Budget

Recommendation <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LAGR/1520305.pdf>

The LSA Analysis shows a statewide picture of the Governor’s 2% increase for SSA, setting a state cost per pupil of \$7,983. These tables confirm the 2% funding details, including categorical funds, property tax relief, and budget guarantee, impacting 17 different budget lines:

<b>Legislative Services Agency: FY 2026 School Aid Estimates (Statewide Dollars in Millions)</b>					
2.00%	<i>Set a State Percent of Growth</i>				
\$ 0	<i>Set additional dollars to SCPP separate from the SSA</i>			State Supplemental Aid (SSA) \$	157
Yes	<i>Select if the PTRP is renewed ("No" is current law)</i>			Additional Dollars \$	0
\$ 25,000,000	<i>Select AEA reduction in addition to current law (\$7,500,000)</i>			Total Change \$	157
\$ 21,881,303	<i>Transfer from Taxpayer Relief Fund FY 2026</i>			FY 2026 State Cost Per Pupil (SCPP) \$	7,983
				Total AEA Reduction \$	32,500,000
<b>Program Funding:</b>					
	FY 2025	Est. FY 2026	Est. Change	% Change	
Regular Program District Cost	\$ 3,790.5	\$ 3,842.2	\$ 51.7	1.36%	
Regular Program Budget Adjustment	15.5	25.0	9.5	61.56%	
Supplementary Weighting (District)	129.7	140.7	11.0	8.50%	
Special Education Instruction (District)	536.7	552.5	15.8	2.94%	
Teacher Salary Supplement (District)	401.1	450.1	48.9	12.19%	
Professional Development Supplement (District)	38.0	39.4	1.4	3.75%	
Early Intervention Supplement (District)	41.3	42.8	1.5	3.75%	
Teacher Leadership Supplement (District)	189.2	196.3	7.1	3.74%	
AEA Special Ed Support District Cost	188.9	191.8	2.9	1.55%	
AEA Special Ed Support Adjustment	0.8	1.2	0.3	40.50%	
AEA Media Services	33.1	33.6	0.5	1.39%	
AEA Ed Services	36.6	37.1	0.5	1.40%	
AEA Sharing	0.2	0.2	-0.0	-0.48%	
AEA Teacher Salary Supplement	18.6	18.9	0.3	1.72%	
AEA Professional Development Supplement	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00%	
AEA Statewide State Aid Reduction	-32.5	-32.5	0.0	0.00%	
Dropout and Dropout Prevention	149.5	149.5	0.0	0.00%	
Combined District Cost	\$ 5,536.3	\$ 5,688.8	\$ 152.5	2.75%	
Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program	\$ 91.4	\$ 91.1	\$ -0.3	-0.36%	

Note: the recommendation increases regular program district cost statewide by \$51.7 million. Budget Guarantee grows to \$25 million, and increase of \$9.5 million, or 61.6%. TSS is up \$48.9 million (over \$450 million total), which includes an assumption on the cost for

districts to meet the escalated teacher pay minimums of \$50K and \$62K plus a growth assumption on the number of students receiving Education Savings Accounts (school districts count those resident students receiving ESAs). We believe that the TSS assumption is based on Oct. 2023 Staff BEDS data, since 2024 is not yet available to DOM which would more accurately estimate the cost. Therefore, that number is likely to change. Notice that the PD, EICS and TLC are also increased by more than the 2% growth rate, also due to ESAs per resident student, which generate those funds for the public school district.

Since school formula funding comes from state and local funds, the next two tables break those down. In the following, notice that regular program district cost grows by \$36 million in state dollars. Special education weighting is up \$14 million. (Note: the FY 2024 special education deficit statewide topped \$200 million for the first time, now \$207 million, as the growth in per pupil cost in the formula has not kept pace over the last decade with the expenditures needed to provide services in students’ IEPs.) Supplementary weighting grows by \$10.4 million. Statewide Voluntary Preschool is down half a million, based on the enrollment count in last fall’s PK classrooms.

<b>State Aid:</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>Est. FY 2026</b>	<b>Est. Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Regular Program	\$ 1,989.4	\$ 2,025.4	\$ 36.0	1.81%
Supplementary Weighting	108.4	118.8	10.4	9.55%
Special Education Weighting	473.8	487.7	14.0	2.95%
Property Tax Adjustment Aid (1992)	6.4	6.2	-0.2	-3.64%
Property Tax Replacement Payment (PTRP)	126.8	136.7	9.9	7.82%
Adjusted Additional Property Tax - General Fund	24.0	24.0	0.0	0.00%
Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program	91.4	91.1	-0.3	-0.36%
Minimum State Aid	1.3	1.2	-0.1	
<b>State Aid from General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 3,787.6</b>	<b>\$ 3,889.7</b>	<b>\$ 102.0</b>	<b>2.69%</b>
Transfer from Taxpayer Relief Fund	\$ 13.9	\$ 21.9	\$ 8.0	57.63%
Transfer from Economic Emergency Fund	8.0	0	-8.0	-100.00%
*Adjusted Additional Property Tax - SAVE Fund	29.0	31.6	2.6	9.06%
Foundation Base Supplement (FBS)	9.7	10.2	0.5	5.63%
<b>Total State Aid (Includes Non-General Fund)</b>	<b>\$ 3,848.2</b>	<b>\$ 3,953.4</b>	<b>\$ 105.2</b>	<b>2.73%</b>

This table provides information about property taxes. The uniform levy of \$5.40 per \$1,000 of net, assessed taxable valuation grows by 3.7%, since that’s the agreed to assumption on valuation growth by DOM and the LSA. The additional levy grows less, at 2.6%, partially because of the property tax relief paid by state aid in the prior table.

<b>Local Property Tax:</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>Est. FY 2026</b>	<b>Est. Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Uniform Levy Amount	\$ 1,156.5	\$ 1,199.3	\$ 42.9	3.71%
Additional Levy	590.1	605.4	15.3	2.60%
<b>Total Levy to Fund Combined District Cost</b>	<b>\$ 1,746.5</b>	<b>\$ 1,804.7</b>	<b>\$ 58.2</b>	<b>3.33%</b>
Comm/Ind - Uniform Levy Adjustments	23.9	19.3	-4.7	-19.56%
Comm/Ind - Additional Levy Adjustments	10.1	0.0	-10.1	

The LSA analysis also reports that the 2% recommendation leaves 159 districts (out of 325 statewide) on the budget guarantee, costing property taxpayers \$25 million to provide a 1% growth in RPDC compared to the prior year’s RPDC. Budget enrollment declined just over 3,000 students. Statewide categorical funds grew in total, \$59 million, to \$747.5 million, which is a growth of 8.61%. The property tax relief payment per pupil also grew just over 8%, which

combined with the foundation base supplement per pupil, delivered \$23 million in property tax relief through the formula. This last table shows this information, plus the change in budget enrollment and growth in the transportation equity program:

<b>Miscellaneous Information:</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>Est. FY 2026</b>	<b>Est. Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Budget Enrollment	483,699	480,665	-3,033	-0.63%
Number of Districts with Budget Adjustment	140	159	19	13.57%
Percentage of Districts with Budget Adjustment	43.08%	48.92%		
Statewide Categoricals Total	\$ 688.2	\$ 747.5	\$ 59.3	8.61%
Property Tax Relief Payment Per Pupil	223	241	18	8.07%
Foundation Base Supplement Per Pupil	5	10	5	100.00%
Statewide AEA Funding	245.7	250.3	4.6	1.85%
Transportation Equity Program	31.1	31.7	0.6	2.00%

**Governor’s Policy Recommendations on Preschool - Grants for PK/childcare partnerships**

Although we are waiting for confirmation once a bill is available, the LSA explained the Governor’s proposal is an *“Early Childhood Continuum of Care Grant Program — The Governor is recommending a new Early Childhood Continuum of Care program to provide three-year grants for preschool providers and child care providers partnering to provide an all-day continuum of care for preschool-age children. Grants in the amount of \$16,000,000 would be funded with existing State Early Childhood Iowa funding and supported by federal funds through the Child Care and Development Fund. In addition, \$3,600,000 in existing Shared Visions funding, which is included in the State Child Development appropriation, would be used for preschool grants. Shared Visions programs would be required to participate in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.”*

Note: The State Child Development appropriation is contained within the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, Budget, not the Education Budget. It is found under the appropriation of Early Intervention and Supports.

**Update on ESAs (Enrollment and Funding Assumptions):**

ESAs are funded by a standing unlimited state general fund appropriation. Here are the costs by fiscal year, with FY 2026 being the Governor's estimated budget (2% SSA plus an estimate on how many will be awarded, either of which could change by the time school starts in August):  
 FY 2024 \$129.1 million 16,757 ESA recipients  
 FY 2025 \$218.0 million 27,862 ESA recipients  
 FY 2026 \$314.6 million 29,415 estimated appropriation and ESA recipients  
 Total nonpublic school enrollment reported on DE’s [Education Statistics](#) web page, FY 2025 is 42,898. That is an increase of 2,467 compared to the 2023-24 school year.

**Subcommittee Motion: Civics Test for Graduation and Operational Sharing**

A Subcommittee of the House Education Committee, including Reps. Henderson, Kniff McCulla and Levin met on Thursday and voted 2:1 on party lines to move **HSB 30** forward to the full Committee. The bill requires that high school students pass the test given to new citizens by the Immigration and Naturalization Service with at least 60% correct in order to demonstrate knowledge of civics as a condition for high school graduation. It allows students to retake the test as many times as necessary. It requires the State Board of Education to administer rules regarding administration of the test. The bill does not mention accommodations for students

with IEPs, 504 plans, or being served in English-Learner programs. RSAI shared our concerns at the subcommittee meeting regarding the high-stakes nature of the test, the unengaging method of multiple-choice tests, the lack of attention to students with special needs or test anxiety, and the potential cost of accessing the test and administering it. RSAI is registered opposed. The Senate has scheduled their subcommittee meeting for SSB 1030 Civics Test for Graduation for Thursday, Jan. 30, at noon. Subcommittee members include Sens. Green, Quirnbach and J. Taylor.

The changes to **operational sharing** have been introduced in [SSB1022](#) have been introduced. The bill amends existing laws regarding supplementary weighting for school districts that share operational functions with political subdivisions. The bill allows for supplementary weighting for the position of college and career transition counselor starting from budget years after July 1, 2024, and for mental health professionals, social workers and school resource officers starting from budget years after July 1, 2025, to be exempted from the 21-student cap. The maximum additional weighting a school district can receive remains at 21 pupils, but these four positions will not count towards this limit, generating as much as 29 pupils if maxed out. RSAI requested this bill and appreciates Sen. Lynn Evans, Education Committee Chair, for getting it introduced and assigned to a Subcommittee.

#### **New RSAI Advocacy Resources:**

Check out the updated 2025 Session Advocacy Handbook, with everything advocacy beginners and experienced pros can use to advocate with legislators, at the statehouse or back in your district. Find the handbook on the RSAI Advocacy Website at: <https://www.rsaia.org/2025-legislative-session.html>

The Iowa Senate Democrats publish a list of legislative forums, which they will continue to update throughout the Session. Find out if and when any forums are scheduled in your area by checking out the list here <https://iowasenedemocrats.com/events/>. If you decide to attend and want to discuss what you might share or let us know what you heard at the forum, please reach out to [margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com](mailto:margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com) or call my cell (515)201-3755.

#### **Advocacy Actions This Week:**

**Adequate School Funding:** Contact legislators regarding SSA. The Governor's recommendation of 2.0% falls short of inflation. The teacher salary investment last year was a really good start, but SSA has to keep pace or our staff and programs for students will be compromised. See the RSAI Issue Brief for additional information. The deadline for deciding SSA is Feb. 13, so the advocacy window is tightening. No bills sponsored by Republicans have yet been introduced to set the SSA rate. Additional Supports:

- Download the [RSAI 2025 Adequate School Resources Position Paper](#), providing education funding history, comparing total Iowa education expenditures per pupil, which most recently ranked our state as 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation, now spending more than \$2,000 per student LESS than the national average, and including some talking points to help you advocate with your legislators. *RSAI's Legislative Priority supports an SSA rate that at least matches the inflation rate schools are experiencing.*

- [ISFIS New Authority Calculator](#) allows users to set the SSA rate and calculate the impact for all districts for FY 2026 on your regular program (not including special education or other supplemental weightings or categoricals). Enter the SSA percentage increase and your Budget Enrollment and you can compare to the new money you'd receive if the SSA rate matched inflation (either 2.9% for CPI and 3.2% for Core Inflation) compared to the Governor's Recommendation of 2.0%.

**Quality Preschool and Other RSAI Priorities:** in every communication, find a way to mention Quality Preschool and Teacher and other Staff Shortages. Find Position Papers and other resources on the [RSAI 2025 Session](#) website to find talking points or as resources to share when you meet with policymakers.

**Connecting with Legislators:** To call and leave a message at the Statehouse during the legislative 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. You can also ask them what's the best way to contact them during session. They may prefer email or text message or phone call based on their personal preferences.

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>

#### **RSAI Advocacy Resources:**

Check out the RSAI Website at <https://www.rsaia.org/2025-legislative-session.html> to find Advocacy Resources such as Position Papers, RSAI Weekly Legislative Recap Reports and Videos, 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. Be sure to review the 2025 RSAI Advocacy Handbook which will be available soon (we just received email addresses for new legislators and are putting the finishing touches on committee assignments. We will send you an email as soon as the Handbook is linked.

#### **Bill Action This Week**

Check out the following pages for all the details.

#### **Contact Us**

Stay tuned for a thorough explanation of Statehouse actions this week .Contact us with any questions, feedback or suggestions to better prepare your advocacy work:

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515.201.3755 Cell

\*Dave Daughton, RSAI Grassroots Advocate, [dave.daughton@rsaia.org](mailto:dave.daughton@rsaia.org), 641-344-5205 Cell

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Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bills for the Week - 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Summary of the Bill	Declaration RSAI	Starting action	Ending action	No Action This week
HF1	House File 1 mandates that school districts permit students residing in their district and enrolled in nonpublic schools to participate in extracurricular interscholastic athletic contests that are not offered by their nonpublic school. This participation is contingent upon an agreement between the school district and the nonpublic school regarding the student's eligibility. Additionally, students from contiguous school districts are also allowed to participate under similar conditions. If a fee is established for participation, it must not exceed the fee charged to students enrolled in the public school district. The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment.	opposed	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 38.	subcommittee recommends passage.	
HF10	House File 10 amends the existing law regarding the attachment of territory from a school district that is subject to an approved dissolution proposal. The bill specifies that the attachment will be effective on July 1 of the calendar year following the year in which the attachment was approved. The bill applies to dissolution propositions approved by voters on or after its effective date.	undecided	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 40.	subcommittee meeting: 01/23/2025 12:15pm house lounge.	
HF101	House File 101 introduces a new regulation regarding the issuance of bonds for public projects in Iowa. For any project where a proposition to issue bonds is approved in an election after July 1, 2025, the total amount of bonds issued cannot exceed 80% of the project's total cost. The remaining 20% must be funded through other sources.	opposed	introduced, referred to ways and means. h.j. 109.	introduced, referred to ways and means. h.j. 01/22.	
HF102	Requires each school district and accredited nonpublic school to have at least one trained employee to assist with the administration of seizure medications and vagus nerve stimulation by July 1, 2025. By December 31, 2026, all school personnel must receive training on recognizing seizures and providing first aid. The bill outlines the development of individual health plans and seizure action plans for students with known seizure disorders, ensuring that schools maintain necessary documentation and collaborate with parents and healthcare professionals. Additionally, it provides liability protections for school personnel acting in good faith to assist students with seizure needs.	opposed	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 109.	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 01/22.	
HF11	House File 11 amends the existing law regarding the start date of the school calendar for school districts and accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa. The bill stipulates that the school year can begin no earlier than August 23 or the first business day that falls three days after the conclusion of the Iowa State Fair.	support	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 40.	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 40.	No Action This week
HF27	House File 27 introduces a tax deduction for the purchase of nonathletic school uniforms mandated for students attending public or nonpublic schools. Taxpayers can subtract the amount spent on these uniforms from their taxable income, up to a maximum of \$500. The bill is designed to alleviate some of the financial burden associated with school uniform requirements. It applies retroactively to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.	undecided	introduced, referred to ways and means. h.j. 42.	introduced, referred to ways and means. h.j. 42.	No Action This week
HF33	House File 33 creates an agriculture education grant program within the DE aimed at expanding student access to agriculture-related instruction. School districts can apply for grants to cover personal services costs associated with hiring teachers for additional instruction in agriculture education programs. Grants can cover up to 100% of costs for programs less than ten years old and 50% for older programs. The funding must supplement existing public funding and cannot replace it. The DE will also track teacher instruction time funded by these grants and establish rules for grant administration.	support	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 01/14.	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 43.	No Action This week

Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bills for the Week - 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Summary of the Bill	Declaration RSAI	Starting action	Ending action	No Action This week
HF34	Amends existing Iowa law to require that information about immunization exemptions and the requirements for obtaining them be included in public communications following immunization recommendations. Schools, child care centers, and institutions of higher education must provide this information in their communications to parents, guardians, and students. The bill specifies that this information must be made available on relevant websites and in registration documentation. The state will cover the costs associated with these requirements through	undecided	introduced, referred to health and human services. h.j. 01/14.	subcommittee recommends passage.	
HF36	House File 36 modifies the standards for judicial review of agency actions under the Iowa Administrative Procedure Act. It requires courts to interpret state statutes and agency rules de novo, without deferring to agency interpretations. The bill also mandates that courts exercise any remaining doubt in favor of interpretations that limit agency authority.	undecided	introduced, referred to judiciary. h.j. 01/14.	subcommittee recommends passage.	
HF39	The bill requires individual property tax statements to include a comparison of current and proposed tax amounts starting from fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026. Additionally, it mandates that cities must mail notifications regarding bond issuances to eligible electors, detailing the amount, purpose, and estimated tax impact of the bonds. Subcommittee members talked about a possible amendment to make reporting easier for local governments compared to current law.	undecided	introduced, referred to local government. h.j. 01/14.	tabled until future meeting.	
HF51	The bill defines 'obscene performance' and prohibits knowingly exposing minors to such performances. It establishes penalties for individuals who admit minors to premises where obscene performances occur, with aggravated misdemeanors for serious violations. The act also allows parents or guardians to file civil suits against those who disseminate obscene materials to minors, with a minimum damage award of \$10,000. Public institutions are barred from using state resources for obscene performances, and the legislation repeals previous exemptions for educational purposes.	undecided	introduced, referred to judiciary. h.j. 01/14.	introduced, referred to judiciary. h.j. 46.	No Action This week
HF52	House File 52 provides that sports officials officiating athletic contests in Iowa are not liable for civil actions related to their officiating duties, except in cases of intentional, malicious, or grossly negligent actions. The bill also defines 'sports official' and outlines various criminal penalties for assaults against them, including classifications of felonies and misdemeanors based on the severity of the assault. The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment and applies to legal actions	support	introduced, referred to public safety. h.j. 01/14.	subcommittee recommends passage.	
HF60	House File 60 amends the eligibility criteria for budget adjustments for school districts in Iowa that have been affected by natural disasters. It allows these districts to receive an additional budget adjustment equal to the amount they received in the base year if a major disaster has been declared by the president or the governor during the base year or the preceding budget year.	support	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 01/15.	subcommittee: johnson, c., boden and ehler. h.j. 01/22.	
HF67	House File 67 amends the current law that mandates school calendars in Iowa to begin no sooner than August 23. For the school year starting July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, the bill allows schools to start their calendars as early as August 20.	support	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 01/15.	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 63.	No Action This week
HF68	House File 68 requires every school district in Iowa to adopt a policy that defines 'insufficient classroom space' to include standards related to the capacity to provide instruction to English learners. Currently, school districts must approve open enrollment applications unless they can demonstrate insufficient classroom space, which is a decision typically based on special education services or inadequate facilities. This bill adds EL staffing considerations to the requirement.	undecided	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 85.	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 85.	No Action This week



Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bills for the Week - 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Summary of the Bill	Declaration RSAI	Starting action	Ending action	No Action This week
HF69	House File 69 amends existing laws regarding the use of alcoholic beverages on public school property. It allows school boards to authorize the sale, possession, and consumption of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer during social events or other non-school-related functions, provided that the premises hold a five-day retail alcohol license. The bill maintains restrictions on consumption during school-related functions and establishes penalties for violations. The legislation is effective immediately upon enactment.	undecided	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 85.	rereferred to state government. h.j. 104.	No Action This week
HF76	House File 76 requires school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools in Iowa to incorporate specific provisions related to pregnancy and fetal development into their human growth and development and health curricula. The curriculum for grades 7 and 8 must include human biology related to pregnancy, human development inside the womb, and visual aids such as a high-definition ultrasound video and computer-generated animations depicting fetal development. For grades 9 through 12, similar content is mandated in the health curriculum.	opposed	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 86.	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 86.	No Action This week
HF8	House File 8 mandates that school districts and accredited nonpublic schools create procedures for school nurses to administer broad-spectrum cannabidiol products to students. The bill defines broad-spectrum cannabidiol as a pharmaceutical-grade cannabinoid that contains no tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Parents or guardians must provide the product along with written instructions and documentation confirming its compliance with the definition. The procedures must include a form for parental authorization and specific usage instructions.	undecided	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 39.	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 39.	No Action This week
HF80	House File 80 aims to protect the rights of employees, contractors, and students in Iowa's school districts and charter schools by prohibiting disciplinary actions related to the use of legal names and the failure to use personal pronouns. The bill ensures that individuals can address others using their legal names as listed in school records without fear of punishment. Additionally, it allows individuals to refrain from disclosing or using personal pronouns in official communications without facing disciplinary measures. Violations of this legislation can lead to civil actions, including reinstatement and damages for affected employees. The bill defines 'disciplinary action' broadly, encompassing various forms of punishment, including termination and suspension.	undecided	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 87.	subcommittee: hayes, matson and stone. h.j. 123.	
HF88	The bill introduces significant changes to the state's education system, particularly focusing on private instruction and world language education. It allows parents to place children under competent private instruction with fewer requirements (no limit on the number of unrelated students in the home school program and allowing tuition to be charged), including the removal of immunization proof for first-time placements. The act also clarifies the definition of independent private instruction and ensures that diplomas from such programs are treated equally to traditional high school diplomas. Additionally, it prohibits the incorporation of gender-neutral language in world language instruction where applicable. The legislation increases the tuition tax credit for families with children receiving private instruction or attending accredited schools, retroactively applying to tax years beginning January 1, 2025.	opposed	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 01/17.	subcommittee meeting: 01/27/2025 11:30am rm 103.	
HF9	House File 9 provides grant funding for the school security legislation enacted last year for districts with fewer than 1,000 students. The program provides annual grants to match local funding for security personnel, with a maximum grant amount of \$50,000. The funds allocated for this program will not revert to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year, ensuring ongoing availability for future use.	support	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 39.	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 39.	No Action This week

Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bills for the Week - 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Summary of the Bill	Declaration RSAI	Starting action	Ending action	No Action This week
HF96	House File 96 creates the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive scholar program, administered by the college student aid commission to reimburse teachers for tuition costs associated with obtaining an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement. Eligible teachers must work in Iowa schools or area education agencies and apply for reimbursement annually. The total reimbursement is capped at 75% of tuition costs and is available for a maximum of two years. The bill also establishes a fund for the program and appropriates \$335,000 for the fiscal year 2025-2026.	support	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 108.	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 01/22.	
HF97	The bill creates a scholarship program aimed at supporting individuals with intellectual, developmental, or learning disabilities who are at least 18 years old and enrolled in comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs approved by the U.S. DOE. The program is administered by the college student aid commission in consultation with the division of vocational rehabilitation services. Scholarships can provide up to \$5,000 per academic year to help cover tuition and fees. Applicants must reapply annually, and priority is given to Iowa residents. The bill also establishes a dedicated fund for the scholarship program, ensuring that appropriated funds remain available for future use.	support	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 108.	introduced, referred to education. h.j. 01/22.	
HSB10	The bill amends existing laws regarding health services in Iowa schools. Beginning July 1, 2025, each school district is required to employ either a licensed school nurse or an athletic trainer to ensure health services are available to students in working toward a goal of one health professional for every 750 students. Additionally, the bill makes conforming changes to various code sections to incorporate athletic trainers into the framework of school health services.	support	by committee on health and human services	subcommittee recommends passage.	
HSB18	The Employment Appeal Board is established within the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing to handle contested cases under various Iowa Code chapters, which includes taking over the duties of the Iowa Public Employment Relations Board, PERB, eliminated during state government reorganization legislation enacted in 2024. The bill outlines the procedures for rehearing applications and judicial reviews, specifying that petitions can be filed in certain district courts. It also clarifies that the board and the department are not liable for unemployment benefits that are not due or if funds are unavailable.	undecided	by committee on labor and workforce	subcommittee recommends passage.	
HSB2	The bill amends the existing school attendance laws in Iowa to include exemptions for children who are either undergoing military entrance processing or are actively engaged in military service. This bill adds new provisions that exempt military applicants and service members absences from counting toward the determination of chronic	support	by committee on education	subcommittee recommends passage.	
HSB22	House Study Bill 22 introduces a new criminal offense of grooming, classified as a class 'D' felony in Iowa. Individuals convicted under this law will be required to register as tier I sex offenders. The bill stipulates a special sentence of 10 years in custody of the Iowa Department of Corrections, with eligibility for parole. Additionally, offenders must register as sex offenders for a period of 10 years upon release from incarceration, probation, or parole.	undecided	by committee on public safety	subcommittee recommends passage.	
HSB30	This bill requires all students in grades 9 through 12 in Iowa to pass a civics assessment based on the U.S. citizenship and immigration services naturalization test as a condition for graduation, starting from the school year beginning July 1, 2026. Students must correctly answer at least 60% of the questions to pass and can retake the assessment as many times as needed without incurring any fees. The bill also applies to individuals seeking a high school equivalency diploma. The state board of education is required to adopt rules to implement these requirements.	opposed	by committee on education	subcommittee recommends passage.	

Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bills for the Week - 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Summary of the Bill	Declaration RSAI	Starting action	Ending action	No Action This week
HSB31	House Study Bill 31 modifies the earliest possible start date for school districts and accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa. Under current law, the school calendar must begin no sooner than August 23. The proposed change allows for the school year to start on the earlier of August 23 or the first Wednesday following the conclusion of the Iowa	support	by committee on education	subcommittee recommends passage.	
HSB32	The bill requires public schools, including charter and innovation zone schools, to display the national motto of the United States and the state motto of Iowa prominently within school facilities. Additionally, it mandates that each school day starts with two minutes of silent time for students, which is to occur immediately before the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.	opposed	by committee on education	subcommittee meeting: 01/27/2025 12:30pm house lounge.	
HSB33	The bill establishes guidelines for school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools to conduct state assessments for students receiving online instruction. The bill mandates that assessments be administered in a manner similar to the students' regular academic environment, ensuring proper monitoring and verification processes. Key provisions include assigned assessment times, synchronous sessions managed by school personnel, and a maximum student-to-proctor ratio of ten to one. Additionally, the bill requires that assessment proctors monitor students via video feed throughout the assessment duration. The state board of education is required to adopt rules to implement these provisions.	support	by committee on education	subcommittee meeting: 01/28/2025 8:15am house lounge.	
HSB34	The bill requires school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools in Iowa to incorporate specific provisions related to pregnancy and fetal development into their human growth and development and health curriculum for students in grades 7 through 12. The curriculum must include human biology related to pregnancy, human development inside the womb, and visual aids such as a high-definition ultrasound video and a computer-generated animation depicting the stages of fetal development.	opposed	by committee on education	subcommittee: hayes, boden and wessel-kroeschell. h.j. 84.	
HSB43	The bill amends existing laws to streamline data reporting from community colleges to the DE. It requires annual submission of financial and educational outcome data, which will be included in a comprehensive report to the General Assembly. Additionally, the act establishes a national board certification program for teachers, providing financial support for those who achieve certification and stipends for advanced dyslexia specialists. The legislation also outlines employee compensation and benefits for staff at the Iowa educational services for the blind and visually impaired and the Iowa school for the deaf.	undecided	by committee on education	subcommittee meeting: 01/28/2025 12:00pm house lounge.	
HSB44	The bill mandates DE to create a list of industry-recognized credentials for high school students, which will be aligned with career and technical education service areas. It requires school districts to report students who attain these credentials and recognize them by affixing a seal to their transcripts or providing a certificate. Additionally, the bill modifies the curriculum for grades five through eight to include career planning and pathways, ensuring students are prepared for their future careers.	determining registration	by committee on education	subcommittee: kniff mcculla, bradley and ehler. h.j. 106.	
HSB45	The bill requires the director of the DE to create and manage a Purple Star School Initiative. This initiative aims to recognize schools that demonstrate a commitment to supporting military-connected students and their families.	undecided	by committee on education	subcommittee meeting: 01/23/2025 2:00pm house lounge.	
HSB46	The bill amends the definition of 'grooming behavior' in Iowa law to focus on actions that build trust and emotional connections with students for the purpose of exploitation. It requires school district officials and administrators to report any disciplinary actions against licensed employees for such behavior.	support	by committee on education	subcommittee meeting: 01/28/2025 12:30pm house lounge.	

Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bills for the Week - 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Summary of the Bill	Declaration RSAI	Starting action	Ending action	No Action This week
HSB47	The bill authorizes the creation of multidisciplinary threat assessment teams in school districts and accredited nonpublic schools. These teams are tasked with assessing and intervening when students exhibit behaviors that may pose a threat to safety. The bill allows for the sharing of information among covered entities, including schools and governmental agencies, to ensure the safety and well-being of students experiencing emotional disturbances or mental illness. Additionally, it provides immunity from civil liability for individuals who report credible	support	by committee on education	subcommittee meeting: 01/28/2025 12:00pm rm 304.1.	
HSB5	House Study Bill 5 amends existing laws to prevent school districts, charter schools, and innovation zone schools from including certain ingredients in their breakfast and lunch programs. Specifically, the bill prohibits the use of red dye 40, yellow dye 7, and margarine in meals served to students. This legislation applies to all schools that provide meal programs, ensuring compliance with the new standards.	undecided	by committee on education	subcommittee recommends amendment and passage.	
HSB7	The bill amends the existing law regarding the health examination requirements for personnel working in licensed or registered child care facilities. Previously, employees were required to complete a physical examination within six months prior to employment, which included tests for communicable diseases and was to be repeated every three years. The new bill eliminates this preemployment physical examination requirement, allowing for more flexibility in hiring practices. However, it maintains that controlled medical conditions that do not affect job performance will not prohibit employment.	undecided	by committee on health and human services	subcommittee recommends passage.	
HSB8	The bill directs the Iowa Department of HHS to revise its administrative rules. The amendment permits employees of child care centers who are at least 16 years old to provide flex care to children up to five years of age without needing supervision from older staff. Flex care is defined as child care during designated nap hours and brief periods when a qualified employee is absent.	undecided	by committee on health and human services	subcommittee recommends passage.	
SF100	The bill requires school districts and accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa to publish mental health resources on their websites, specifically those created by Your Life Iowa. Additionally, schools are tasked with partnering with students to explore further methods of increasing awareness about mental health resources.	determining registration	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 122.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 122.	
SF102	The bill requires school districts in Iowa to implement annual, evidence-based training on mental wellness for educators and students by July 1, 2026. The training for educators will focus on self-identification and mitigation of negative mental health symptoms and must occur within the first 60 days of the school calendar. Similarly, training for student social and emotional wellness will take place in January or February. Both training programs must adhere to nationally recognized best practices, and the state board of education will establish qualifications for trainers.	opposed	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 123.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 123.	
SF16	Senate File 16 amends the provisions regarding the effective dates of school district changes, including enlargements, reorganizations, and boundary adjustments. If a proposition is approved by voters before January 1, 2025, the change will take effect on July 1 following the election. Conversely, if approved on or after January 1, 2025, the change will take effect on July 1 of the following calendar year. The bill also addresses the effective date for the attachment of territory in dissolution proposals, with similar conditions based on the approval date. Additionally, the legislation is retroactively applicable to January 1,	support	introduced, referred to education.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 65.	NA

Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bills for the Week - 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Summary of the Bill	Declaration RSAI	Starting action	Ending action	No Action This week
SF22	The bill prohibits the use of hand-held electronic devices to write, send, or view messages while driving, with exceptions for voice-activated or hands-free modes. It allows the use of electronic devices when the vehicle is completely stopped off the roadway. The bill also outlines penalties for violations, including increased fines and potential license suspensions for repeat offenders. Additionally, it preempts local ordinances regarding electronic device use while driving, ensuring uniform enforcement across the state.	undecided	introduced, referred to judiciary.	subcommittee recommends passage.	
SF29	The bill introduces significant changes to property tax exemptions in Iowa, specifically targeting elderly homeowners and veterans. The bill transforms the homestead tax exemption for individuals aged 65 and older into a credit of up to \$6,500 on actual taxes payable. Additionally, it raises the military service tax exemption for veterans, allowing for a property tax exemption based on the lesser of the actual property value or a calculated amount equivalent to a \$4,000 credit. The changes take effect immediately upon enactment and apply retroactively to assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.	opposed	introduced, referred to ways and means.	subcommittee: rowley, dawson, and quirnbach.	
SF34	The bill establishes a requirement for physically able students in kindergarten through grade five to participate in at least thirty consecutive minutes of physical activity daily. This requirement is in addition to the existing physical education curriculum and cannot be fulfilled by physical education classes. Exceptions to this requirement include situations where a student poses a safety risk, inclement weather necessitates relocation of outdoor activities, early dismissal occurs due to unforeseen circumstances, or if a student is absent from	opposed	introduced, referred to education.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 68.	No Action This week
SF47	The bill creates a framework for individuals to seek expedited relief from civil actions that challenge their rights to free speech, assembly, and petition. Under this act, parties can file a special motion to dismiss such actions within 60 days of being served. The act stays all other proceedings while the motion is pending, ensuring that the focus remains on the protection of constitutional rights. The court is required to hold a hearing on the motion within 60 days and must rule on it promptly. If the motion is granted, the court may award costs and attorney fees to the prevailing party.	undecided	introduced, referred to state government. s.j. 88.	subcommittee: reichman, blake, and taylor.	
SF50	The bill provides that sports officials in Iowa are not liable for civil actions related to their officiating duties, except in cases of intentional, malicious, or grossly negligent actions. The bill also defines 'sports official' and outlines various criminal penalties for assaults against them, including classifications of felonies and misdemeanors based on the severity of the assault. The legislation takes effect immediately upon enactment and applies to legal actions commenced thereafter, including those alleging prior actions.	support	introduced, referred to judiciary. s.j. 89.	subcommittee recommends passage.	
SF58	The bill requires school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools in Iowa to provide free breakfast and lunch to students whose families meet specified income thresholds. For the fiscal year 2025-2026, meals will be free for families earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level, increasing to 400% in the following year. Starting in 2027, all students will receive free meals regardless of family income. The bill includes appropriations from the state general fund to cover costs not funded by federal programs. The state board of education is tasked with adopting rules to implement these provisions. The act takes effect immediately upon enactment.	undecided	introduced, referred to education.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 105.	No Action This week

Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bills for the Week - 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Summary of the Bill	Declaration RSAI	Starting action	Ending action	No Action This week
SF6	The bill amends existing Iowa law to require that information about immunization exemptions and their requirements be included in public communications following immunization recommendations. Schools, child care centers, and institutions of higher education must provide this information in their communications to parents, guardians, and students. Additionally, it specifies that this information must be available on relevant websites and registration documents. The legislation also outlines the responsibilities of various educational institutions in disseminating this information.	undecided	introduced, referred to health and human services. s.j. 35.	subcommittee recommends passage.	
SF60	Senate File 60 amends the existing framework for calculating foundation aid for Iowa school districts. It establishes a minimum foundation aid of \$300 per pupil unless the total aid exceeds the combined district cost per pupil. The bill also requires adjustments to the foundation property tax rate if the total aid and property tax exceed the combined foundation base. Applicable to budget years starting on or after July 1, 2026.	undecided	introduced, referred to education.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 105.	No Action This week
SF61	The bill focuses on enhancing robotics extracurricular activities in Iowa schools. It requires the Department of Education to provide technical assistance and educational resources to school districts for chartering career and technical student organizations related to robotics. Additionally, the bill authorizes high school athletic organizations to sponsor interscholastic contests and competitions in robotics, thereby promoting student engagement in this advanced technology field.	support	introduced, referred to education.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 105.	No Action This week
SF64	The bill amends the budget adjustment process for school districts in Iowa that have been affected by natural disasters. It allows these districts to receive an additional budget adjustment equal to the amount they received in the base year if a major disaster has been declared by the president or the governor during the base year or the year preceding	support	introduced, referred to education.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 106.	No Action This week
SF72	The bill creates the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive scholar program, administered by the college student aid commission to reimburse teachers for tuition costs associated with obtaining an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement. Eligible teachers must work in Iowa schools or area education agencies and apply for reimbursement annually. The total reimbursement is capped at 75% of tuition costs over a maximum of two years. The bill also establishes a fund for the program and appropriates \$335,000 for the fiscal year 2025-2026. Reporting requirements are included to track the program's outcomes and effectiveness.	support	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 112.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 112.	
SF78	The bill modifies existing programs to include skilled trades such as welding, carpentry, and plumbing in educational curricula across school districts. It establishes internship programs to assist students studying these trades in securing positions with Iowa employers, providing financial assistance to employers who hire interns. The act also emphasizes the importance of skilled trades in STEM education and aims to recruit and support skilled trades teachers. Additionally, it mandates data collection on the enrollment of females and minorities in skilled trades programs.	determining registration	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 110.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 110.	

Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bills for the Week - 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Summary of the Bill	Declaration RSAI	Starting action	Ending action	No Action This week
SF8	The bill prohibits school districts and charter schools from taking disciplinary actions against employees, contractors, or students for using legal names or names as listed in school records. It also protects individuals from penalties for not using personal pronouns in official communications. The bill defines 'disciplinary action' broadly, including termination, suspension, and reprimands. Employees who believe their rights are violated under this law can seek civil action for reinstatement and damages.	undecided	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 36.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 36.	No Action This week
SF80	The bill mandates that the lead special education teacher of a student's IEP is responsible for assessing the student's eligibility for participation in extracurricular athletic events at public or nonpublic schools. The teacher must consider the student's attendance record and academic performance when making this determination. Coaches and athletic directors are explicitly prohibited from making eligibility decisions for these students. The bill does not apply to students with severe and profound disabilities who require special education under chapter 256B.	undecided	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 119.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 119.	
SF82	The bill requires that school districts anticipating revenue from the SAVE fund, if the bond amount exceeds \$5 million, or if a petition is received, must submit the question to voters. A majority of 60% approval from voters is required for the bond to be issued.	opposed	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 120.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 120.	
SF86	The bill requires school district boards to develop and implement a process for appointing student liaisons. These liaisons will serve as a bridge between the board, administrators, teachers, and the student body, providing student perspectives on educational policies. The appointed student liaison will participate in regular board meetings in a nonvoting capacity and will have access to nonconfidential materials. However, they are prohibited from participating in special meetings or discussions related to disciplinary matters. The bill also mandates the development of a model application and selection process for the	opposed	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 120.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 120.	
SF88	Senate File 88 requires public school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to grant at least one excused absence per school year to students in grades 9 through 12 for participation in civic or political events. Students must notify school administrators in advance and demonstrate their understanding of the event through an essay or presentation. The bill defines civic or political events to include voting, serving as a poll worker, attending political forums, and more. Additionally, absences related to these events will not count towards	undecided	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 120.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 120.	
SF89	The bill mandates that the SICS board is responsible for processing all applications for access to the communications system without delegation. It ensures that applications are not delayed by any other committees or third parties and outlines eligibility for access, including public entities and various public service organizations. The act specifies that all associated costs for equipment and programming are the responsibility of the organizations, while the state will provide setup, training, and support at no cost. Additionally, it allows for appeals against decisions to deny or remove access. The act takes effect	undecided	introduced, referred to state government. s.j. 121.	introduced, referred to state government. s.j. 121.	
SF91	The bill changes provisions related to the determination of school enrollment in Iowa. The bill specifies that budget enrollment will be calculated annually based on averages from counts taken on October 1 and March 1 of the following year. It also outlines the process for determining additional enrollment due to special education and supplementary weighting, requiring school districts to certify their counts by specific deadlines. The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment and applies to school budget years starting after its effective date.	determining registration	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 121.	introduced, referred to education. s.j. 121.	

Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bills for the Week - 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Summary of the Bill	Declaration RSAI	Starting action	Ending action	No Action This week
SSB1013	The bill requires that candidates for city council and school board elections be nominated through primary elections, moving away from nonpartisan elections. The bill outlines the procedures for filing nomination papers, the number of signatures required for candidacy, and the timeline for conducting these elections. It also specifies that the costs of conducting these primary elections will be borne by the respective city councils and school boards. The act will take effect for elections held on or after January 1, 2027.	opposed	by committee on local government	subcommittee meeting: 01/23/2025 12:00pm senate lounge (cancelled).	
SSB1021	The bill outlines the requirements for lobbyists, including mandatory registration with the chief clerk of the house and secretary of the senate before engaging in lobbying activities. It specifies the need for lobbyists to declare their interests in specific legislation and prohibits various forms of unethical conduct, such as offering gifts or economic opportunities to members of the legislature. The rules also mandate electronic filing of information and ensure that all lobbyist-related documents are public records. Additionally, the legislation includes provisions for the reporting of lobbying activities and establishes	undecided	by committee on ethics	subcommittee: rowley, petersen, rozenboom, staed, westrich, and winckler.	
SSB1022	The bill amends existing laws regarding supplementary weighting for school districts that share operational functions with political subdivisions. The bill allows for supplementary weighting for the position of college and career transition counseling starting from budget years after July 1, 2024, and for mental health professionals, social workers and school resource officers starting from budget years after July 1, 2025, to be exempted from the 21-student cap. The maximum additional weighting a school district can receive remains at 21 pupils, but these four positions will not count towards this limit.	support	by committee on education	subcommittee meeting: 01/27/2025 2:30pm room 217 conference room.	
SSB1023	The bill clarifies the participation of students who open enroll for online education in cocurricular and extracurricular activities. It stipulates that these students may engage in activities offered by their district of residence under the same conditions as enrolled students, but only if their online school does not sponsor such activities. Current law limits participation to two activities per school year unless further approved by the resident district. Students must also adhere to the eligibility and conduct requirements set by the district.	support	by committee on education	subcommittee recommends passage.	
SSB1025	The bill allows school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools that provide online instruction to administer state assessments in an online format. The bill stipulates that assessments must be conducted under specific conditions, including assigned dates and times, synchronous sessions managed by school personnel, and monitoring by assessment proctors via video feed. Additionally, it mandates a maximum ratio of ten students per proctor and requires verification of assessment submission by an administrator.	support	by committee on education	subcommittee meeting: 01/29/2025 1:00pm room 217 conference room.	
SSB1027	The bill allows school districts to implement programs aimed at recruiting new teachers and retaining current ones by using funds from the district management levy. The bill stipulates that any recruitment or retention incentive cannot exceed 10% of an initial teacher's salary and can only be paid for a maximum of five school budget years. Additionally, school boards must choose between adopting early retirement benefits or teacher incentives, but not both concurrently. Public discussion and comment are required before any program adoption.	support	by committee on education	subcommittee meeting: 01/29/2025 11:00am room 217 conference room.	



Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bills for the Week - 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Summary of the Bill	Declaration RSAI	Starting action	Ending action	No Action This week
SSB1028	The bill requires school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools in Iowa to incorporate provisions related to pregnancy and fetal development into their human growth and development and health curricula. The bill specifies that students in grades 1 through 8 must receive instruction on human development inside the womb, including high-definition ultrasound videos and computer-generated animations depicting prenatal development. For grades 9 through 12, the health curriculum must also include similar content. The state board of education is required to adopt rules to administer these provisions, ensuring that the information provided is age-appropriate and research-based.	opposed	by committee on education	subcommittee recommends passage.	
SSB1030	The bill requires all students in grades 9 through 12 in Iowa to pass a civics assessment as a condition for high school graduation starting from the 2026 school year. The assessment will consist of multiple-choice questions from the U.S. citizenship and immigration services civics test, with a passing score set at 60%. Students who do not pass will have the opportunity to retake the assessment multiple times without any associated fees. Additionally, individuals seeking a high school equivalency diploma must also pass this civics examination. The state board of education is required to adopt rules to implement these	opposed	by committee on education	subcommittee meeting: 01/30/2025 12:00pm room 217 conference room.	
SSB1033	The bill proposes the repeal of Section 97B.53A of the Iowa Code, which mandates that the Iowa public employees' retirement system must send a notice to members who terminate their covered employment before retirement. This notice includes the balance and status of the member's accounts and outlines possible courses of action under the relevant code chapter.	undecided	by committee on state government	subcommittee meeting: 01/27/2025 3:00pm room 217 conference room.	
SSB1036	The bill stipulates that the school year must begin no sooner than the Monday immediately preceding the last Monday in August, rather than the previously established date of August 23.	support	by committee on education	subcommittee: shipley, gruenhagen, and trone garriott.	