



RSAI Position Paper

Operational Sharing Incentives: A 2015 Legislative Priority

Background: Operational sharing incentives were extended during the 2014 legislative session. Changes were made to both the positions covered and the amount of funding received by districts. School Counselors and Curriculum Directors were added to the positions covered. Funding was changed from a per student amount to a fixed amount per position. The funding is a level amount for five years. The fixed amount per position is as follows: Superintendent - 8 students, Human Resources, Business Manager, Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation - 5 students, and Counselors and Curriculum Directors – 3 students. Total additional students generated per district cannot exceed 21.

Current Reality:

- Sharing incentives create the capacity for districts to discuss efficiencies that may not otherwise be politically viable. The incentives promote good working relationships with neighboring districts and help smaller districts continue to meet accreditation demands with limited general fund resources.
- The amount of weighting generated, especially for those positions generating 3 students, may not be sufficient to justify sharing.
- Since the time frame for sharing is only five years, it provides less incentive for a district to engage in sharing in years two through five since the incentive is limited to a shorter time period.
- Although district may share other positions, there are no incentives available for those positions.

RSAI calls on the Iowa Legislature to maintain a commitment to **Operational Sharing:** Opportunities to achieve efficiencies, share capacity to operate, and redirect resources to educational programs, should be maintained and expanded to provide additional capacity to school districts to improve educational outcomes for students.

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