**RSAI Legislative Update
Jan. 13, 2017**

These updates are posted on the RSAI legislative web page at <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>.

The 2017 Session is off and running. This update includes our first Call to Action of the 2017 session concerning assessment, coverage of the Governor’s State of the State Speech and Budget Recommendation, introductory comments of new Education Committee Leaders, and bills introduced. Read below – action required! Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa’s children. margaret.buckton@isfis.net

**SSB 1001: State Assessment** by Sinclair: The bill strikes [Iowa Code 256.7](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/256.7.pdf), subsection 21, paragraph b, subparagraphs (2) and (3). These Code sections authorize the state Board of Education and DE to determine a set of core indicators for Math, Reading and Science and require a state assessment to measure progress. The bill also strikes the Assessment Task Force requirement from Iowa Code. A subcommittee was held Thursday at 12:30 in the Senate. Sen. Sinclair, Sen Rozenboom and Sen. Quirmbach heard from stakeholders concerning the SBAC assessment. Sen. Sinclair said her concern was the cost of the test and wanting to avoid an unfunded mandate. Most of the testimony from education stakeholders asked the legislators to not support the bill (ISEA, AEAs, ISEA, IASB, UEN and RSAI.) There were representatives from the Task Force who addressed the subcommittee. In the end, Sens. Sinclair and Rozenboom signed the subcommittee report, so the bill will move forward to the Senate Education Committee. See today’s call to action on Assessment Progress found [here](http://nebula.wsimg.com/89f3844e7c216fcbcd1473c165a9222b?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1) for additional explanation, talking points and advocacy actions. RSAI is opposed to this bill.

**Governor’s Budget:** Governor Branstad delivered what looks to be his final State of the State speech and released his budget on Tuesday of this week, Jan. 10. A full RSAI analysis of the speech and budget recommendation is found [here](http://nebula.wsimg.com/b036de4200592a80480cb9efc272f197?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1). In short, he recommends 2% increase in the state cost per pupil for FY 2018 and again for FY 2019 and encourages the legislature to set the rate for both years within 30 days. His budget has an appropriation for $6.1 million for LEA assessment, but not until FY 2019 (the DE requested $10 million for FY 2018 for SBAC implementation) further emphasizing the need for advocacy on assessment above. Particularly of note to rural districts, the governor’s budget partially restores funding for Iowa Learning On-Line, includes a line item requested by the DE for Reading Coaching and Professional Learning, cuts AEA’s support to LEA’s by $1.0 million, and contains no appropriation recommendation for summer school for nonproficient third-graders. There is also a recommendation for a Computer Science Professional Development Incentive Fund of $500,000 for FY 2019. Noteworthy: the only other two recommended increases are $35K for DE administration (they are deapproprated $5.5 million in FY 2017) and an increase of $90K for Nonpublic School Textbook Services.

**New Education Committees Convene**

The Senate held their first Education Committee meeting on Wednesday. During opening remarks, Chair Sen. Sinclair of Allerton, mentioned their intent to work on inequities in the current school finance system, including transportation costs and the inequity in the district cost per pupil in the formula. Sen. Quirmbach, Ames, Ranking Member, reviewed some bi-partisan work of the past, reiterated the importance of timeliness and adequacy of funding, also stated transportation costs in rural districts take away funds from your general fund and there are disparities in the district and state costs per pupil that must be addressed. Both of these are RSAI priorities. Although finding significant new resources in this budget may be difficult, it is important for them to take a first step this year and encouraging to hear both parties in the Senate committed to working on them.

In the House, their first Education Committee, Chair Walt Rogers, Cedar Falls, as new to the committee, expressed his gratitude for the experience around the table. He said that every one of the members cares deeply about education in the state of Iowa and wants it to be the very best it can be. Rep. Steckman, Ranking Member, Mason City, reiterated Gov. Branstad’s statement in his State of the State Speech, that education is the foundation of economic growth. She also reminded us that education is the great equalizer.

**Education Committee Members:**

**Senators**

* [**Amy Sinclair**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10729)**(R, District**[**14**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2014.pdf)**), Chair**
* [**Jeff Edler**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=18076)**(R, District**[**36**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2036.pdf)**), Vice Chair**
* [**Herman C. Quirmbach**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=161)**(D, District**[**23**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2023.pdf)**), Ranking Member**
* [Jerry Behn](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=140) (R, District [24](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2024.pdf))
* [Tod R. Bowman](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9665) (D, District [29](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2029.pdf))
* [Mark Chelgren](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9664) (R, District [41](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2041.pdf))
* [Jeff Danielson](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=785) (D, District [30](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2030.pdf))
* [Robert E. Dvorsky](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=125) (D, District [37](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2037.pdf))
* [Thomas A. Greene](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=18077) (R, District [44](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2044.pdf))
* [Rita Hart](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10734) (D, District [49](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2049.pdf))
* [Craig Johnson](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=18075) (R, District [32](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2032.pdf))
* [Tim Kraayenbrink](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=14812) (R, District [5](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2005.pdf))
* [Mark S. Lofgren](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9406) (R, District [46](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2046.pdf))
* [Liz Mathis](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10318) (D, District [34](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2034.pdf))
* [Ken Rozenboom](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10731) (R, District [40](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/Senate/Senate%20District%2040.pdf))

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 you legislators.

**Representatives**

* [**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)**), Chair**
* [**Greg Forristall**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6288)**(R, District**[**22**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2022.pdf)**), Vice Chair**
* [**Sharon S. Steckman**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6580)**(D, District**[**53**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2053.pdf)**), Ranking Member**
* [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))
* [Jim Carlin](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=18041) (R, District [6](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2006.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))
* [Joel Fry](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9409) (R, District [27](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2027.pdf))
* [Ruth Ann Gaines](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9413) (D, District [32](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2032.pdf))
* [Tedd Gassman](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10748) (R, District [7](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2007.pdf))
* [Kristi Hager](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=18045) (R, District [56](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2056.pdf))
* [Curt Hanson](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9018) (D, District [82](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2082.pdf))
* [Mary Ann Hanusa](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9412) (R, District [16](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2016.pdf))
* [Megan Jones](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10747) (R, District [2](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2002.pdf))
* [Kevin Koester](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6582) (R, District [38](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2038.pdf))
* [Mary Mascher](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=46) (D, District [86](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2086.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))
* [Tom Moore](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=17112) (R, District [21](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2021.pdf))
* [Amy Nielsen](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=18050) (D, District [77](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2077.pdf))
* [Sandy Salmon](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10754) (R, District [63](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2063.pdf))
* [Ras Smith](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=18048) (D, District [62](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2062.pdf))
* [Art Staed](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10743) (D, District [66](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2066.pdf))
* [Skyler Wheeler](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=18040) (R, District [4](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/districtMaps/2013/House/House%20District%2004.pdf))

**Bills Introduced this week:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bill | Title | RSAI comments |
| [SSB 1001](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=SSB%201001) | Repealing statewide assessments of student progress and assessment task force (Education Committee bill by Sinclair) | Opposed: See Jan. 13 Call to Action |
| SJR1 | Budget Amendment: Calls for constitutional amendment to limit GF spending (the lesser of 99% adjusted REC estimate or 104% of the net revenue estimate for the current year. (by Schneider and 28Rs) |  |
| SF 6 | ELL Supplemental increase to 7 years and 0.3 weighting (by Quirmbach) | RSAI supports |
| SF 7 | Radon Testing in Schools, requires testing and expands PPEL and SAVE purposes to include radon testing costs (by Quirmbach)  | RSAI is monitoring |
| SF 8 | Low-income School Programs, creates a new 0.04 weighting based on number of Free and Reduced Price Lunch eligible students (by Quirmbach)  | RSAI supports |
| SF 9 | SAVE Fund, extends sunset until Jan 1, 2050 (by Quirmbach) | RSAI Supports |
| SF 13 | SAVE Fund, eliminates the sunset (by Johnson) | RSAI Supports |
| SF 15 | SAVE Fund, extends sunset until Jan 1, 2050 (by Johnson) | RSAI Supports |
| SF 29  | Abolish DE and establish Education Savings Accounts (vouchers) for nonpublic and home school students (by Zaun) | RSAI opposes |
| SF 30 | Repealing Core Curriculum, Repeals core curriculum requirements and references. Requires the State BOE to adopt high graduation and assessment requirements (by Zaun) |  |
| SF 31 | Allows schools to adopt a mandatory uniform policy for health, safety or positive education environment of the school. States that student free speech is not violated if the policy is viewpoint neutral, reasonable related to legitimate pedagogical concerns or protects students from sexually explicit, indecent or lewd speech (by Zaun)  |  |
| SF 34 and SF 36 | These bills exclude retirement income, the first over 5 years and the second over 10 years, from state income tax (by Zaun) | RSAI Opposes |
| SF 37 | Union offices: prohibits employer from giving or leasing space to unions at less than market value (by Zaun) |  |
| SF 38 | Eliminates income tax and increases sales tax to 11% (by Zaun) |  |
| SF 45  | Defined Pension Plans: requires state retirement plans to develop defined contribution plans for new hires as of July 2019 (by Zaun) |  |
| SF 58 | Exclusion of Social Security income when calculating net income to determine if a return must be filed or for alternative tax calculations (by Chelgren) |  |
| SF 69  | PK enrollment Weighting adds another 0.5 weighting applied to the number of PK enrollees who’s families are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (by Petersen) | RSAI supports |
| SF 82 | Inheritance tax repeal phase in over 10 years (by Zaun) | RSAI opposes |
| SF 83 | Sexual exploitation by school employees broadened to include contract employees and volunteers, excluding those less than 4 years older than the student (by Zaun) |  |
| SF 87  | Carrying guns on school grounds by peace or reserve officer if they have a professional carry permit (by Kinney) |  |

**RSAI Contacts** RSAI Professional Advocate, Margaret.buckton@isfis.net 515.201.3755

Brad Breon, Moravia/Seymour, Superintendent, brad.breon@rsaia.org Paul Croghan, East Mills, Superintendent, pcroghan@emschools.org , Dan Smith, Harmony, Board President, dan.smith@rsaia.org

Kevin Fiene, I-35, Superintendent, kevin.fiene@rsaia.org , Lee Ann Grimley, Springville, Board President, leeann.grimley@rsaia.org ,Robert Olson, Clarion-Goldfield/Dows, Superintendent, robert.olson@rsaia.org ,Dennis McClain, Clay Central Everly, Superintendent, dmcclain@claycentraleverly.org