

RSAI news to share at AEA Superintendents Meetings September 2025

Back to School: Congrats on the start of a new school year. The bustle and excitement is invigorating and the workload staggering. Do not forget to reach out to legislators about something exciting you are doing this year for students. Do you have a new CTE or WBL program? How has attendance improved? Are there any challenges with the new state Math plan implementation? Remind them in September of the students in your school district and how your staff are setting students up for success. It's also a good time to thank them for legislation based on RSAI suggestions in the 2025 Session. See suggestions on RSAI's [2025 Legislative Successes](#) page to inform your outreach. Additional resources to help you with Legislative Advocacy this fall:

- [2025 RSAI Advocacy Handbook](#) – includes committee membership, contacts and committee assignments. Also has a worksheet to plan your best outreach
- Show & Tell With Legislators - Planning Resource (joint effort of RSAI & SAI) includes [Samples](#) and [Reporting Form](#)

Is the Staff Shortage Over? We've heard state level leaders declare the teacher shortage is over. Now that school has started, share some information with your legislators. Were there any positions you weren't able to fill? Are there teachers assigned courses under conditional licensure? Did you have to share with another district, community college or provide online learning due to lack of applicants? Gather this information while it's fresh and keep reminding legislators that Iowa's work in attracting and retaining school staff is not done. Remind them about the issue of salary compaction related to new teacher salary minimums, too, which may impact on your school's ability to keep the teachers you have.

RSAI Legislative Policy Development: Regional Meetings are over, answers to the advocacy survey are compiled, informing your RSAI Legislative Committee which met on August 14. This group of RSAI leaders had great conversations about our mission, our key values and suggestions for legislative priorities as we prepare for your input at the RSAI Annual Meeting. Speaking of. . .

RSAI Annual Meeting: Mark your calendars and [register now](#) for **Thursday, October 9, 2025, from 4:30 – 7:30 pm in Des Moines**. We have a new location this year, at the Solution Tree Learning Center at 611 5th Avenue in Des Moines (directly across Park Street just south of the Hilton Des Moines Downtown).

During this meeting, RSAI members will network and connect about important legislative issues, and chart the advocacy course for the 2026 Session by adopting the priorities that are the most critical to rural schools and students. Attendees will discuss adequate funding, the ability to attract/retain quality staff, preschool funding and flexibility, the priority of public education, the importance of local control and flexibility, implications of property tax reform (new priority suggested by the Legislative Committee) and others. Your voice is critical to our success and has never been more important for Iowa students.

Guest speaker, Dr. Melissa Sadoft, Executive Director of the National Rural Education Association, will present data and information on "Why Rural Matters", an annual analysis of the condition and quality of the nation's rural education. She will share Iowa specific information about rural schools and students.

Attendance is complimentary to RSAI members. We encourage Superintendents and Board Members to attend. Non-members or others who are interested in learning more about RSAI and our legislative platform are also welcome to attend, watch the process, and ask questions.

Contact us with any questions, feedback or suggestions to better prepare your advocacy work.
Thanks to all of you for your energy and voice on behalf of the students in your schools!