

## **RSAI news to share at AEA sups Meetings in December 2021**

### **Preparing for the 2022 Legislative Session:**

RSAI Leadership Group met in November and revised the priority language for the PK and Operational Sharing Priorities, as directed by the members at the annual meeting.

The priorities in final form now read:

***Quality Preschool:*** *funding of quality PK at the 1.0 per pupil cost for full time or prorated proportionally and formula protections against budget and program impacts of PK enrollment swings (budget guarantee/on-time spending authority).*

***Sharing Incentives/Efficiencies:*** *extension of Whole Grade Sharing, Reorganization and Operational Sharing Incentives. The 21-student cap should expand to allow access to any new flexibility. Weightings should be sufficient to encourage and support sharing opportunities.*

### **RSAI Position Papers:**

An RSAI Position Paper for each priority issue (and one for School Choice) have been recently updated and will be posted this week on the RSAI 2022 Session Legislative Webpage at <https://www.rsaia.org/2022-legislative-session.html>.

In the RSAI Staff Shortage Position Paper you can write down your own district's staffing challenges on a page – vacant positions, staff in conditional licensure, work arounds you've undertaken to get kids to content and comply with accreditation. Schedule a meeting with your Representative and Senator to discuss your district's situation and the statewide information from the Position Paper. Ask for their support of:

- Loan Forgiveness program expansions to include geographic scarcity as a condition for teachers to qualify
- Ability to rehire retirees without IPERS consequences – subs and shortage area teaching positions
- CTE Strand for education degrees – fast track to recruit local students into teaching in your district (Education internships, AA degree with high school, support at university for two years, pay while student teaching, and loan forgiveness – all modeled on Indiana program)
- On-the-job training combined with coursework for paras to become teachers.
- Oh, and there's a para shortage too, so this creates an additional burden more closely related to competitive hourly pay which depends on adequate SSA. Iowa's economy is outpacing school funding.

### **Additional Advocacy Resources:**

Find a PPT with the status of the 2021 Legislative Priority actions from the last Session, the RSAI Advocacy Handbook, and other advocacy resources on the RSAI legislative Website:

<https://www.rsaia.org/2022-legislative-session.html>

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## 2022 Legislative Session

Sample questions for legislators, 2021 Legislative Successes, Talking Points on State GF Surplus and Education and the 2021 Legislative Digest are new this Fall.

Also, new testimony provided to BOEE and DE regarding charter school proposed administrative rules.

### Weekly Updates & Calls to Action

- Updates will be posted regularly during the 2022 legislative session, beginning January 2022. First day of 2022 session is January 10, 2022.

### 2021 Legislative Digest

- [About RSAI Section](#)
- [2021 Legislative Priorities & Status Section](#)
- [Legislative Session Process Section](#)
- [Executive Summary Section](#)
- [Bill Registration List Section](#)

### Advocacy Resources

- [RSAI Advocacy Handbook](#) - tools to help you advocate for Iowa rural schools
- [Sample Questions for Legislators](#) - Updated Summer 2021 - download and personalize for your district's fall 2021 legislator discussions
- [RSAI 2021 Legislative Session Successes](#)
- ISFIS [Talking Points on State General Fund Surplus & Education Funding](#) (updated Nov 2021)
- [RSAI Priorities & Advocacy Actions - Nov 2021](#)

### Testimony

- [RSAI Memo re OCR letter to Dir. Lebo on Mask Mandates](#) - 8/30/2021
- [RSAI Comments re Cybersecurity Equipment and Services as part of E-Rate](#) - 10/12/2021
- [RSAI Testimony on Charter School Proposed Rules](#) - 10/26/2021
- [RSAI Testimony on Charter School Administrator Credential Proposed Rules](#) - 10/26/2021

## 2022 Legislative Priorities

RSAI 2022 Legislative Priorities as approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting on Oct. 26, 2021 and the Nov. 19, 2021 Leadership Group.

[Download a printable version of the RSAI 2022 Legislative Priorities.](#)

**Adequate School Resources:** the increase in SSA should be no lower than 3.75% in FY 2023 due to abundant state surplus, maintain balanced state and local resources, be predictable, and assure adequate time for budget planning and staffing.

**Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction:** maximum flexibility to hire staff to provide great instruction, including several strategies to attract and retain quality staff; flexibility to meet offer and teach requirements, loan forgiveness programs, a special education generalist credential, creation of a Public Service CTE strand, hire retirees without IPERS impact, and elimination of barriers to licensure.

**Local School Board Authority:** locally elected leaders closest to the community are in the best position to determine the

### 2021-22 Leadership Group Regional Reps:

- Paul Croghan, CAM/Nodaway Valley CSD, Sup. (Vice Chair, SW Region 4 Director)
- Laurie Noll, Fairfield CSD, Sup. (Secretary/Treasurer, SE Region 4 Director)
- Justin Daggett, Manson NW Webster CSD, Sup. (NW Region 1 Director),
- Nick Trenkamp, Central CSD, Sup. (NE Region 2 Director)

### 2021-22 Legislative Committee Members:

- Dennis McClain, Adair-Casey/Guthrie Center CSD, Sup. (Chair, At-large Director),
- Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD, Sup., (At-large Director)
- Scott Williamson, Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont CSD, Sup.
- SW - Tim Mitchell, Riverside CSD, Sup. (Committee Vice-Chair)
- NE - Barb Schwamman, Osage CSD and Riceville CSD, Sup.
- SE - Joel Pedersen, Cardinal CSD, Sup.
- NW - Brian Johnson, Prairie Valley CSD and Southeast Webster Grand CSD, Sup.

### RSAI Professional Advocates:

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