

2026 Session Timeline: The 2026 Session kicks off on Mon., Jan. 12. The Governor's Condition of the State speech is scheduled for Tues., Jan. 13 at 6 pm. (Televised live by Iowa PBS, broadcast on many regional television stations and streamed online, including at [Facebook.com/IAGovernor](https://www.facebook.com/IAGovernor).)

Governor Reynolds' budget will then be released, including recommendations on school aid (SSA per pupil increase), other funding priorities, and any policies the Governor intends to push. The first RSAI Weekly Report and Video for 2026 Session at the end of next week will provide details of the Governor's FY2027 budget. The release of the Governor's budget starts the 30-day countdown for setting SSA, which is required by [Iowa Code §257.8](#). ISFIS has updated the FY 2027 [ISFIS New Authority Calculator](#) so you can set an SSA rate to determine the impact on your district's regular program district cost, categorical funds, media and educational service funds for FY 2027 (*updated January 5, 2026*).

The second year of a biennium, which is the Session preceding the General Election, is set for 100 days, scheduled to adjourn on April 21. The Legislature sometimes shortens the timeline in the election year, so we will watch for any changes. Of course, April 21 is not necessarily the last day, rather it is the final day for which legislators receive per diem payments. The Session can (and has) gone longer to finish their work.

RSAI 2026 Legislative Priorities: See the list of priorities on [RSAI's website](#).

Advocacy Actions: Check RSAI Website for advocacy resources including Priority Position Papers, and a strategy to engage community members in advocating for public school funding included in the RSAI Advocacy Handbook. Tune into the ISFIS SitRep Webinar (or access the recording) to learn about new legislative leaders, committee assignments, where to find bios of your legislators, and get links to websites with advocacy supporting materials. Find registration information on ISFIS Webinar Webpage here: <https://www.iowaschoolfinance.com/webinars>

Reach out to your local legislators and ask what their plans are for adequate school funding and property tax reform. Engage in discussions about what problem they are trying to solve, what impacts will property tax reform have on different classes of property, and what limitations on local revenue could mean for your district and students.

Reach out to your local legislators and discuss implementation of new policies approved over the last several years (examples: attendance policy, cell phone policy, new reading and math initiatives, civics test mandated for graduation, etc.). Let them know how it's going. We encourage school advocates to specifically ask legislators for adequate timelines for implementing anything new. Something becoming law on July 1 provides very little preparation time to coordinate with the many plans schools already have in place for a school year that starts just 6-7 weeks after the start of the fiscal year.

Is the Staff Shortage Over? Continue to share information about staffing challenges and keep reminding legislators that Iowa's work in attracting and retaining school staff is not done. Google Iowa Teacher Shortage 2025 to see many news stories as school started, reporting 660 vacant positions this Fall. Remind legislators 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.

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!