**RSAI Legislative Update
April 11, 2019**

In this RSAI Report of the 2019 Legislative Session, find information about:

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**Find this week’s RSAI Capitol Video Update here:** <https://youtu.be/ork4Sq3_G3c>

This week, the House and Senate considered only bills on the chambers’ Unfinished Business Calendars, the budget, and tax policy. The final day of per diem for legislators’ expenses is May 5, and they will strive to finish before that deadline.

**RSAI Priorities Still in Play**

[**HF 546**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf546) **SAVE Status in Senate Ways:**

The SAVE Extension, HF 546, is in the Senate Ways and Means Committee, still being discussed behind the scenes. The Senate Committee schedule for next week shows an April 17 meeting, but no agenda yet posted. Sen. Jochum asked in today’s committee meeting the status of SAVE. Sen. Feenstra, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, said “conversations with the House and Governor’s office are ongoing and the bill is a big bill with a lot of moving parts.” *Continue outreach to all Senators to support the bill as 96 of 99 Representatives did in February, without additional amendments which will delay final action, and get it to the Governor. Senate Ways and Means Committee members are listed at the end of this report.*

The March 21 RSAI Report detailed the specifics of the property tax relief provisions of the bill. The March 28 RSAI Report provided a summary of the bill’s provisions. Prior reports are posted on the RSAI Legislative Updates page here: <http://www.rsaia.org/2019-legislative-session.html>

Just a reminder - the House passed the bill as amended on March 13, 2019, 96-3. RSAI supports this bill. Here’s a link to the fiscal note which provides a detailed bill explanation and fiscal impact. <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FN/1039167.pdf> Share the RSAI Position Paper on SAVE extension found here [Updated State Penny Paper](http://nebula.wsimg.com/a99d111955eb868137ac0ec7c59f5dbc?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1).

[**HF 596**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF596&ga=88) **WGS and Reorganization Incentives:** this bill extends the incentives for five more years. This bill is now on the House calendar. Companion bill, [**SF 602**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf602) **WGS & Reorg Incentives Extension** is on the Senate Calendar. Since both bills have cleared their respective Appropriations Committees, they are exempt from the funnel deadlines. RSAI supports these bills as a priority.

[**SF 159**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf159) **Praxis Test Score:** this bill authorizes the DE to set a minimum passing score for the Praxis test for completion of a teacher preparation program to receive an initial teaching license. The bill requires DE to consider passing scores in neighboring states and supply and demand imbalance of teachers in the

content area in setting the minimum score. The bill allows a one-year waiver for a new teacher with an Iowa school district job offer to complete the test, and defines good faith efforts to school districts to show they were not able to hire a qualified licensed applicant. The bill was approved 48:0 in the Senate, House 71:28. It is awaiting the Governor’s signature. RSAI is registered in support.

[**SF 394**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/billTracking/billHistory?billName=SF%20394&ga=88) **Online Learning:** this bill allows school districts flexibility to meet accreditation requirements four ways in addition to teaching courses at the high school; offer Iowa Learning Online courses, develop online courses by the school district, develop online courses in partnership with other schools or through private provider approved by DE. The bill was approved unanimously in the Senate 49:0, amended by the House Education Committee to strike a vague phrase about good faith effort, moving it to the House Calendar where it awaits action. RSAI supports.

[**SF 603**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf603) **Concurrent Enrollment/STEM:**  this bill allows school districts who enter into concurrent enrollment agreements with Community Colleges and the Community College provides the instructor or the program, to use one math and one science course to meet Offer and Teach accreditation requirements under certain conditions. The bill is on Senate Calendar. RSAI supports.

**Action This Week**

[**HF 592**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf592) **PK Young Children:** this bill was considered in a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee this morning, with Reps. Brink, Kerr and Mascher sitting on the subcommittee. This bill would allow 5-year-old students to attend state-funded preschool and generate the 0.5 weighting in the formula. RSAI expressed concerns about lack of funding for PK enrollment growth. Unlike K-12 enrollment growth, there is no ability to request spending authority from the School Budget Review Committee for increasing enrollment of PK. Additionally, districts are not allowed to use school general fund revenues for any preschool costs, including for 5-year-olds. The bill is in the House Appropriations Committee. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[**SF 304**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf304) **Student Loan Defaults:** this bill requires licensing boards to adopt rules prohibiting the suspension or revocation of a license solely due to the license holder being in default on student loans. The bill was approved 46:0 in the Senate and 96:0 in the House. The Governor signed the bill on April 8. RSAI was registered as undecided.

**Policy Bills Important to RSAI and their Status**

[**HF 690**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf690) **Children’s Mental Health**: this bill sets up a mental health services system for children. As of this form, there is no mandate on schools for mental health screenings or other requirements of schools. There are benchmarks for mental health providers to deliver attendance and academic performance targets for students. SF 479 is attached and on the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[**HF 730**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf730) **Conflict of Interest Threshold:** this bill increases the threshold of a school board member’s income from a district or interest in a contract to no more than $6,000. The current threshold is $2,500. This bill is now on the House Calendar with SF 283 attached. RSAI supports.

**Ways and Means Bills:** two bills in the works (in addition to the SAVE extension above)

[**SF 307**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=sf307) **Repeal Inheritance Tax:** this bill would repeal of the State inheritance tax and the State qualified use inheritance tax. It is projected to reduce net General Fund revenue by $30.2 million in FY 2020 and $86.9 million in FY 2021. The revenue reduction is projected to grow by 2.5% per year after FY 2021. The bill is on Senate Calendar, but similar ideas have not been approved in the House Ways and Means Committee. RSAI is opposed.

[**SSB 1249**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SSB1249&ga=88) **Tax Administration & Changes:** this bill makes many tax policy changes, but RSAI is particularly concerned with Division XI. Division XI of this bill expands School Tuition Organization tax credits to $17 million (currently at $13 million) beginning in tax years starting on or after Jan 1. 2020. That equates to a 31% increase in state funds for private school tuition in a year in which public schools received a 2.06% per pupil increase. The bill is in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. RSAI is opposed.

**Advocacy Resources**

To find Advocacy Resources such as Calls to Action, Position Papers, RSAI Weekly Legislative Reports and video updates, RSAI Calls to Action when immediate advocacy action is required, testimony presented to the State Board of Education, the DE or any legislative committee or public hearing, and links to fiscal information that may inform your work, visit the RSAI legislative web page here: <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>

Contact us with any questions, feedback or suggestions to better prepare your advocacy work:

Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate

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515.201.3755 Cell

**Legislator Contact Information follows:** Find out who your legislators are through the interactive map or address search posted on the Legislative Website here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>

To call and leave a message at the statehouse during session, the House switchboard operator number is 515.281.3221 and the Senate switchboard operator number is 515.281.3371. You can ask if they are available or leave a message for them to call you back.

**Key Committee Contacts (every name is linked to their legislative email address within the table):**

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| **Senate Education Committee Members:** [**Amy Sinclair**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=10729)**(R, District**[**14**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925098.pdf)**), Chair**[**Chris Cournoyer**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=27004)**(R, District**[**49**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925133.pdf)**), Vice Chair**[**Herman C. Quirmbach**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=161)**(D, District**[**23**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925107.pdf)**), Ranking Member**[Jerry Behn](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=140) (R, District [24](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925108.pdf))[Claire Celsi](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=27000) (D, District [21](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925105.pdf))[Jeff Edler](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18076) (R, District [36](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925120.pdf))[Craig Johnson](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18075) (R, District [32](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925116.pdf))[Tim Kraayenbrink](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=14812) (R, District [5](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925089.pdf))[Mark S. Lofgren](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=9406) (R, District [46](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925130.pdf))[Amanda Ragan](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=110) (D, District [27](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925111.pdf))[Ken Rozenboom](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=10731) (R, District [40](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925124.pdf))[Jackie Smith](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=26998) (D, District [7](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925091.pdf))[Annette Sweeney](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=6585) (R, District [25](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925109.pdf))[Zach Wahls](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=27002) (D, District [37](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925121.pdf))[Brad Zaun](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=788) (R, District [20](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925104.pdf)) | **Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:**[**Randy Feenstra**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=6565)**(R, District**[**2**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925086.pdf)**), Chair**[**Dan Dawson**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18072)**(R, District**[**8**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925092.pdf)**), Vice Chair**[**Pam Jochum**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=35)**(D, District**[**50**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925134.pdf)**), Ranking Member**[Jerry Behn](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=140) (R, District [24](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925108.pdf))[Joe Bolkcom](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=123) (D, District [43](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925127.pdf))[Waylon Brown](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18074) (R, District [26](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925110.pdf))[Jim Carlin](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18041) (R, District [3](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925087.pdf))[Jake Chapman](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=10728) (R, District [10](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925094.pdf))[William A. 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