

RSAI's 2022 Legislative Digest is Posted: See all of the actions of the 2022 Legislative Session, including a list of successes (helps to initiate a conversation with incumbent legislators so you can start with a "thank you"). It also has a status summary of all RSAI priorities that received (or didn't receive) action. There's a description of all of the bills that were approved in the 2022 Session that impact education and a dead bills list in case you want to get more information about something that didn't get through the process. There is a thank you to RSAI sponsors and a bill tracking list (Excel file) of all of the RSAI's bill registrations throughout the Session. The last section includes some suggested advocacy actions during the Interim. Find the individual sections or complete 2022 Legislative Digest at: <https://www.rsaia.org/2022-legislative-session.html>

Interim Advocacy: check out the Iowa Secretary of State list of General Candidates found here <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/Candidates/generalcandidatelist.pdf> to confirm if you have new faces that might be representing your school district leading up to and following the Nov. 8, 2022 General Election. Candidate contact information (cell phone and personal email) are included on this link. Use the advocacy tools provided during the Session to review issues with candidates before the General Election on Nov. 8, 2022. Sit down with candidates from both parties and discuss the impact of education savings accounts or vouchers on your school district and students. Use the RSAI Position Paper on school choice or contact us and we will get you information to share about the experience of vouchers in other states. Teacher shortage and competitive teacher pay are also topical issues for the 2023 Session.

Send a note to your legislators: this is a good time to circle back and reinforce your local connections. Thank them for working on teacher shortage policies and for being there to represent you and your district. If they had committed to you their opposition to vouchers, you could thank them for that as well.

Legislative Committee: first, thanks to RSAI members for filling out the RSAI survey of legislative priorities. That information, along with reports from the four summer regional meetings, provide information to the Legislative Committee members to help them draft a set of priorities. These draft priorities will be used at the Annual Meeting on Oct. 25, to create the RSAI Legislative Platform for the 2023 Legislative Session.

Annual Meeting (Oct 25th at 4:30pm) Keynote: in addition to creating the legislative platform and conducting other business, participants at the RSAI Annual Meeting (and anyone via zoom) on **October 25, 2022**, will hear a great presentation by Benjamin S. Winchester, Extension Educator, Evaluation & Rural Sociology, Extension Center for Community Vitality, University of Minnesota. Winchester will discuss a different way of thinking about changes to rural communities in a positive light, to help dispel the myth of exaggerated rural decline. Emails announcing the Annual Meeting will provide more information. Make sure to share the invite, especially to the zoom session that evening, with board members. More details at: <https://www.rsaia.org/annual-meeting.html>

2022 Legislative Session Review Webinar (Sept 14th at 6 p.m.): as we prepare for the Annual Meeting, RSAI will hold an evening webinar to review the actions from the 2022 Legislative Session and set the stage ahead of the October 25th Annual Meeting. More details coming via email, but share this invitation with your board members. If you are not able to attend live, a recording will also be circulated after the Webinar. More details at: <https://www.rsaia.org/annual-meeting.html>

Teacher and Paraeducator Registered Apprenticeship (TPRA) Grant: Cherokee CSD submitted the grant as fiduciary on behalf of about 40 RSAI member districts. This consortium was awarded a total of \$6.4 million, with the capacity to develop up to 184 paraprofessionals and teachers through a registered apprenticeship program approved by the federal Department of Labor, Iowa Workforce Development and DE. Thanks to everyone working hard to get this plane built while we are flying it.

Resources: check out the RSAI website for Position Papers, weekly updates and other advocacy supports. Contact Dave Daughton or Margaret Buckton with any requests for assistance or specific advocacy responses to your legislators. See www.rsaia.org for contact information and advocacy supports.

Thanks for all you do for the students of your districts!