

RSAI Regional Meetings Almost Done: NW Region meets May 2 in Pocahontas following the Prairie Lakes AEA sups meeting and the SE Region meets May 3 in Fairfield at 10:00. Look to the RSAI website for meeting minutes and more info: <https://www.rsaia.org/region-meetings.html>.

Advocacy Survey: Watch your inboxes after the close of the legislative Session for an RSAI Advocacy Survey, to ask members about level of interest in legislative issues and gather feedback on advocacy services and supports of the organization. The RSAI Legislative Committee will meet later this summer to consider all of the issues discussed at the Regional Meetings. The data in this survey is very helpful as they develop a draft legislative platform to be considered by members at the Annual Meeting.

Membership Renewal: Expect information in May regarding renewal of RSAI membership for the 2023-24 school year. If your district is undertaking a change in leadership, please set up your incoming folks with the supports and networking that comes from RSAI membership.

RSAI Annual Meeting: Save the date for the RSAI Annual Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. More details coming soon and posted on the RSAI website at: <https://www.rsaia.org/annual-meeting.html>!

RSAI Legislative Update: Per diem payments expired on April 28, but we expect at least one more week of Session. Our Representatives and Senators must complete work on the state budget (appropriations bills) including Education Appropriations which includes funding for mental health training and therapeutic classrooms and for early childhood. The Standings Appropriations bill includes state school aid and is typically the bill where additional cuts to AEAs have been made. There is also an Iowa Code requirement to provide \$10 million to high needs schools that has been cut via this bill every year since 2014. Even if there are no advocacy asks left of your legislators, this week is a good week to send them a thank you for the Chapter 12 Flexibility and for several bills dealing with teacher licenses to help schools address the teacher shortage.

RSAI 2023 Legislative Digest: Gov. Reynolds will have 30 days after the close of the Session to sign or veto any legislation. After her work is completed, the RSAI Legislative Digest will be posted to give you details of all of the bills enacted that impact schools. There will also be a list of bills that failed to survive the funnel and were referred back to their committees for consideration next session. Some RSAI priorities will likely be on this list, including changes to preschool weighting, operational sharing, dropout prevention and poverty. RSAI will provide advocacy resources over the Interim to aid school leaders in connecting with legislators at home on these and other critical issues.

Thanks to all of you for your voices this last Session on behalf of the students in your schools!