

If you are in Des Moines for tournaments, spring break, or meetings and can stop by the Statehouse, look us up. We can fill you in on things happening, perhaps get you hooked up with your legislators, or if there are subcommittee or committee hearings, there are great opportunities to talk to legislators and represent rural school interests.

SHARING GOOD NEWS ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL:

Look for this opportunity in your email or through RSAI weekly reports through the Session. Share your story through the link below or just click the red highlighted text:

<https://airtable.com/shrxmEycplvww4Cvm>

[\[Public School Proud Submission Form\]](#)

Share some good news with your community/media about something amazing happening in your school district for students. An extraordinary student achievement. A staff member going above and beyond. A new opportunity for students. How the system accommodated a parent's request or individualized attention. Participate in this "Public School Proud" initiative by the Parents for Great Iowa Schools. Gratitude will keep us going through the rest of this Session and school year.



Public School Proud

In time for Public Schools Week (Feb 21-25) help us share the great stories about Iowa's Public Schools.

Parents for Great Iowa Schools is collecting stories about Iowa's public schools from students, teachers, staff, alumni, school board and community members. You can write about yourself or share the story of another person at your school or in your district. We want to spread the word of the great people and activities in all of Iowa's public schools. Keep an eye on Parents for Great Iowa Schools' website and social media for your story.

CALL TO ACTION; WE NEED YOUR STORIES!

Please share this email with parents, staff, students, school board members, community members and business leaders. Encourage them to share their stories! Thank you for participating in the "Public School Proud" campaign.

INTERSECTION OF SCHOOL FUNDING, TAX CUTS AND SCHOOL CHOICE:

- SSA at 2.5% and significant tax cuts are done and (as of Tuesday, March 1) both signed by the Governor.
- **HF 2315 Supplemental Funding** of \$19.2 million is sitting in Senate Ways and Means. Contact Senators about the need for that funding to help with inflationary costs of staff, services, supplies and transportation.
- **School Choice:** SF 2349 (formerly SSB 3080) Governor's School Choice Bill is on the Senate Appropriations Committee agenda upon adjournment for Monday. We have heard about a new carve-out for rural schools that could be amended onto the bill. (expanding operational sharing rather than the low enrollment supplement). Watch your email for an updated call to action when the bill moves. Its next stop will be the Senate Calendar for debate. No action has yet taken place on HSB 672, which is in the House Appropriations Committee. RSAI is registered opposed to both of these bills. Although you can check out the call to action for talking points, keep repeating: Public money is for public schools, period. Public money requires a level playing field, with the same

regulations and requirements as public schools. The State isn't keeping up with adequate funding for public schools, so it's ill-advised to create a second system of education and try to fund that too. Iowa already has competition and plenty of school choice options.

STAFF SHORTAGES:

Ideas to address teacher, substitute, and staff shortages are plentiful in both the House and Senate. RSAI is in support of many, with one glaring exception. HF 2500 writes into Iowa Code a different alternative pathway with the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, and entirely online program with self-study for individuals with BA degrees and very little oversight or support. This Iowa option includes the least amount of quality control compared to the other 14 states that currently authorize this program. We do expect many of these bills to move forward this week and HF 2500 is the only one we are opposing. Here's the list:

Bill Number	Details addressing Teacher Shortages, Substitute Shortages, Licensing changes, etc.	Status (2.24.22 1:00 PM)
SF 2291	Para-educator Substitutes with Waiver from BOEE 2021-22 school year (ARRC) <i>RSAI Supports</i>	Senate Education
SF 2296	IPERS income Threshold for Re-employment \$50,000 and \$20,000 school board member conflict of interest threshold. <i>RSAI Supports</i>	House Calendar
HF 2170	IPERS income Threshold for Re-employment \$50,000 (amendment by Siegrist to add the \$20K board members conflict of interest to the bill, to conform with the Senate bill H-8047) <i>RSAI Supports</i>	House Calendar
SF 2202	Teach Iowa scholar program eligibility with half going to districts greater than and half less than 1,200 enrollment. New teacher intern licenses issued by the BOEE (participants must have BA from accredited institution, 3 years of post BA experience, offer of employment from a school, completed pedagogy training and supported with teacher leader in the district.) Allows a CTE secondary authorization without requiring an offer of employment from a school district. Allows the use of revenues from the district management levy for teacher recruitment costs. (Formerly SSB 3067.) <i>RSAI Supports</i>	Senate Ways and Means Committee
SF 2356	Allows school boards to engage certain specified individuals to serve without compensation as substitute teachers. (Formerly SSB 3085.) <i>RSAI Supports</i>	Approved by Senate. In House Ed.
HF 2083	Changes eligibility for Teach Iowa Scholar Program (no longer must be in top 25% of class) and specifies that half of the grants go to teachers in districts, charter and private school below 1,200 enrollment and half above. (Formerly HSB 519.) <i>RSAI Supports</i>	Senate Education Committee
HF 2081	Eliminates requirement for PRAXIS test for entry to college education program and requires BOEE to notify graduates with PRAXIS challenges who did not become teachers. (Formerly HSB 520.) <i>RSAI Supports</i>	House Calendar for debate 2.28
HF 2398	Permanent Teacher License for master's or doctoral degree educators (no CEU's required.) (Formerly HSB 656.) (Working on some amendment to require ongoing background checks) <i>RSAI Undecided</i>	House Calendar
HF 2421	New teacher intern licenses issued by the BOEE (participants must have BA from accredited institution, 3 years of post BA experience, offer of employment from a school, completed pedagogy training and supported with teacher leader in the district.) Allows a CTE secondary authorization without requiring an offer of employment from a school district. (Formerly HSB 632.) <i>RSAI Supports</i>	House Calendar

[HF 2500](#)

Establishes a new temporary initial license to be issued by the BOEE for a specific alternative licensure program (American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence) which is an online program for individuals with BA degrees currently operating in 14 states. The Education Community is concerned about lowering standard with little rigor or support for pedagogy and the science of teaching included. This bill also has fewer quality controls than in the other states using this program for alternative licensure. (Formerly HF 2085.) *RSAI Opposes*

House Calendar

RESOURCES:

Check out the RSAI website for Position Papers, weekly updates and other advocacy supports. Copy Margaret Buckton on outreach to your legislators or share what you submit to your local press. 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!