RSAI Regional Meetings Coming Soon: Mark your calendars for the upcoming RSAI Regional Meetings **during April and May**. Whether you are an RSAI member district there to express your voice about rural school matters, or are not a member district but interested in listening and learning more about legislative issues and RSAI, we'd love to have you attend. These Regional Meetings are an important step in the work of advocating for rural school districts and the students we serve across Iowa. Register here: https://www.rsaia.org/region-meetings.html

Rather than a full legislative session update presentation during the meeting, we have prepared short videos by topic for review before attending. Listening to these short videos will prepare attendees to discuss issues that should be priorities for the 2024 Session. Please watch them before the meeting, if you can, a total of 50 minutes for all 7 videos: Introduction (2 minutes) About RSAI (5 minutes) Funding (7 minutes) School Choice (15 minutes) Teacher & Staff Shortage (6 minutes) Mandates & Flexibility (11 minutes) Other Issues & Advocacy Actions (4 minutes). These videos are also posted at: https://www.rsaia.org/region-meetings.html

RSAI Region	Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Meeting Start Time	Regional Meeting Host
NE Region	April 4, 2023	1400 N 2nd St NW, Elkader	11:45 lunch; 12:30 meeting	Nick Trenkamp Central
SW Region	April 5, 2023	212 E Coolbaugh St, Red Oak	11:30 lunch; 11:45 meeting	Paul Croghan CAM/Nodaway Valley
NW Region	May 2, 2023	500 NE 6th Street, Pocahontas	12 lunch; 12:30 meeting	Justin Daggett Manson NW Webster
SE Region	May 3, 2023	Fairfield Arts & Conv Center, 200 N Main St, Fairfield	10 meeting; 12 lunch	Laurie Noll Fairfield

At each Regional Meeting, RSAI Legislative Committee liaison(s) are elected by the members for the upcoming year. At the SE and NW Regional Meeting, there will also be an election for the RSAI Leadership Group representative, as these region's three-year term is up this year.

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!

RSAI Legislative Update: Now that the second funnel is behind us, the House and Senate will concentrate on passing bills on their calendars. Work on Appropriations bills (including Education Appropriations) and property tax relief (if the House and Senate can come to agreement) will become the focus in this final month of the session. Per diem payments expire on April 28, but the Session could go longer. We hope not. Any bills that failed to survive the funnel get referred back to their committees for consideration next session. Thanks for your advocacy on SF 251 Administration Expenditure Limit of 5%. That bill did not advance in the House. Thank your representatives for listening.

RSAI priorities still on the table:

SF 391 **Governor's Changes to Chapter 12 Flexibility is on the Senate Calendar:** ask Senators to refuse the House Changes and send the bill back to the House. There are many good things in that bill regarding district flexibility, offer and teach, and more local control. RSAI is registered in support. See the March 9 RSAI Weekly Report for details of the bill and the House Amendment.

SF 496 **Governors Transparency and Parents' Rights:** House has a big amendment to be discussed on the floor. See the March 30 weekly report for lots of details. Our biggest concerns are
1) Change to the BOEE (5 parents, 5 educators and 1 school board member, which significantly alters the Board. Licensure boards are primarily made up of professionals with 1-2 public members.)
2) Temporary Initial Alternative License, an online educator license with no student teaching or practicum required, from HF 255, died in the Senate. RSAI opposed that bill.
3) Seizure action plans, which is an unfunded mandate and requires all staff to have Seizure detection and first aid training (let the health care trainings work group consider that before adding another training requirement)
4) Thank the House for striking the INS Civics test requirement for either reporting or graduation. Encourage senators to accept that change from the House.

HF 604 **Disruptive Students and Ombudsman Complaints:** RSAI Is opposed to this one-size-fits all mandate for in school suspension for disruptive students. The Senate has promised to amend the bill. Encourage Senators to require school boards to have a policy, but don't dictate exactly what that policy must include.

HF 256 **Minimum Licensure Age** and **HF 614** **Licenses for educators from other states/countries**: RSAI supports these two bills, both on the Senate Calendar.

SF 392 **Teach Iowa Scholar, BOEE Intern License, Management Levy for Teacher Recruitment and Retention.** This bill is still in Senate Ways and Means. Although exempt from the funnel, it has a long way to go to get to enactment. Encourage Senators to get it moving.

SF 390 **Education Omnibus Clean-up Bill** by IASB: modernizes processes, cleans up old language on SAVE and bonding, allows electronic notice, creates a task force to study mandated health trainings, and provides other flexibility options for school boards. On the Senate Calendar with HF 370 Companion. The Health Trainings Work Group from this bill has been amended on to SF 496.

HF 459 **Operational Sharing:** restores original weightings plus increases the cap to 25 students. The bill is on the House Calendar and a Ways and Means bills, so exempt from the funnel deadline but has a long way to go. Encourage House members to move it forward. RSAI supports.

SF 246 **Dropout Prevention Equity:** gradually increases the DoP capacity from the minimum of 2.5%, increasing by half a percent annually, until all districts are at the full 5% cap. The bill was approved unanimously by a subcommittee of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Since it's a Ways and Means bill, it is exempt from funnel deadlines. RSAI is registered in support.

Thanks for all you do for your students and communities!