

ADVOCACY DURING AN ELECTION YEAR



CONNECT WITH A POLICYMAKER BEFORE (AND AFTER) THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

Go to the Iowa Legislative Website and look up your Senator/Representative:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>, or

Check out the Iowa Secretary of State's Candidate Listing to determine who is running to represent you, which includes home address, phone, and email contact information:

<https://sos.iowa.gov/general-election>

Do one (or more) of the following:

1. Send them a thank-you note, for their service (if they are in office) or thank them for running (if they are a new candidate). Let them know their job is tough, and you can empathize. Ask them to support one or two key education issues important to your district. Check out the RSAI Position Papers for one or two sentences to say about the issue. Find Position Papers associated with many of the RSAI priorities on this page: <https://www.rsaia.org/2026-legislative-session.html>
2. Sign up to receive their newsletter.
3. Learn about their educational background and experience. Click on their name from the websites above, go to their personal website, use the Legislative Bios posted on the ISFIS website (www.IowaSchoolFinance.com), or just do a Google search.
4. Send them an email or letter asking a question about education. (It could be as simple as, "How do you best like to get information about how issues before you may impact your schools?")
5. Find sample questions to ask candidates, whether planning an individual conversation or an organized local event, on the RSAI website at: <https://www.rsaia.org/2026-legislative-session.html>
6. Contribute to their campaign (\$25 or more gets your name on a list of contributors).
7. Volunteer for a campaign (you can have a public-facing role or a role behind the scenes, just stuffing envelopes or doing any number of other tasks).
8. Follow them throughout the 2026 General Election.
9. Send a "Congrats Letter" after the election and offer to meet to discuss key issues impacting your students and communities.

Reach out to RSAI staff for assistance in crafting messages, writing letters to the editor, planning legislator visits to your school, or help in responding to messages you receive back from legislators. See contact information below.