**RSAI Legislative Update
Mar. 9, 2017**

**Floor work following funnel week:** lots of floor work in both the House and Senate occurred this week, and there were also some subcommittee meetings of interest. New bill numbers have been assigned to school flexibility, operational sharing, home rule and online learning bills. The Senate approves RSAI priorities in SF 455, formula equality and transportation equity. State penny extension, HF 230 gets approved in a subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee. The next funnel date of March 31 is approaching, by which time, bills must clear the committee of the other chamber to state alive (senate bills out of house committee and vice versa.)

Here’s the latest:

[**HF 508**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=hf508) **Operational Sharing Incentives:** this bill removes the sunset of the operational sharing incentives and removes the 5-year limitation on the positions used to generated supplementary weighting. The 21-student cap on the weighting is not adjusted and no additional positions are added in the form of the bill approved in Committee. RSAI is registered in support. It is on the House Calendar.

[**HF 565**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF565&ga=87) **Education Flex Fund:** this bill allows schools to establish a flexibility fund for various dedicated categorical ending balances that are still unspent at the end of the school year. The categorical balances allowed to be transferred into the fund include professional development supplement, preschool, dropout prevention/at-risk, home school assistance program, and talented and gifted (although an amendment to remove TAG is anticipated during floor debate.). Allows school boards to spend the money as miscellaneous income after a public hearing on the funds. RSAI is registered in support. The bill is on the House Calendar.

[**HF 564**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF564&ga=87) **Categorical Flexibility**: this bill allows for categorical fund flexibility beginning July 1, 2017. Flexibility is specified in each of the following areas:

* Allows funds for professional development to be spent on textbooks, curriculum used for classes and assessments, if they include professional development. Strikes the requirement that specific allocations of PD funds must be used for implementing the core curriculum.
* Strikes the 5% cap on the amount of dropout prevention/at-risk funds that can be used district-wide or building-wide programs. Allows the salaries and benefits of guidance counselors to be paid through at-risk funds and authorizes school districts to allocate a percentage of staff time to be spent on the program.
* Requires the DOE to give deference to the decisions of schools in regards to spending dedicated funding streams (professional development, categorical funding, early intervention, teacher leadership).
* Allows preschool funds to be used by local providers for any purpose approved by the school board as meeting the requirements for high-quality preschool and specifically allows for translators, snacks, playground equipment and repair.
* Strikes the requirement that a school vehicle repair exceed $2,500 before being an eligible PPEL expenditure.
* Allows the use of gifted and talented funds for students not designated as TAG if the needs of TAG students are met.
* Allows school districts to pay for safety equipment out of general fund in addition to student activities fund.

RSAI is registered in support. This bill is on the House Calendar.

[**SF 427**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF427&ga=87) **ELL Eligibility**: this bill extends English Language Learner eligibility for students beginning ELL services in the 2017-18 school year to 6 years and for those beginning ELL services in the 2018-19 school year to 7 years. The bill states that the years need not be consecutive and eligibility can be transferred between school districts. RSAI supports the bill, now on the Senate Calendar.

[**SF 455**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=sf455) **Formula and Transportation Equity:** the bill includes a 10-year phase-in to eliminate the $175 difference in the district and state costs per pupil (RSAI Priority):

* $5 per pupil beginning July 1, 2017
* $10 per pupil beginning July 1, 2018
* $20 per pupil beginning July 1, 2019 and annually until the gap is closed (by July 1, 2027, all districts will be at the same cost per pupil.)

The bill also includes a transportation formula that creates a supplementary weighting to generate funds for all net operating costs for transportation (RSAI Priority):

* Sets up a transportation supplement per pupil based on three factors:
	+ 90% based on prior 3-year net operating transportation costs of getting students to and from school (excluding PPEL/SAVE expenditures)
	+ 5% based on enrollment
	+ 5% based on route miles per pupil
	+ Phases in over 10 years, at 10% per year, essentially providing $12.8 million in the first year and eventually covering $128 million in FY 2016 dollars when complete
* Specifies that transportation funds are miscellaneous income and deposited into the school’s general fund. (RSAI requested this provision)
* Requires the department of management and DE to estimate impact of reorganization on district transportation costs for purposes of calculating the supplement if the newly reorganized district does not have sufficient history for the formula. (RSAI requested this provision). RSAI is registered in favor. The bill was approved in the Senate, 47 in favor, 0 opposed, with 3 absent. It moves to the House, next stop in the House Education Committee.

[**SF 240**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF240&ga=87) **Assessments:** the bill requires the DE to issue a new request for proposals (RFP) no later than April 30, 2017, for the selection of a statewide assessment to measure student growth and student achievement toward the Iowa core academic standards. The selected assessment will be available for grades three through eleven for English language arts and math, grades 5, 8, and 10 for science. All three content areas must be in the same proposal, but the bill specifies that providers would be allowed to work together to submit a proposal.) The bill limits the DE to only consider the following in the RFP process:

* Feasibility of implementation by school districts
* Cost to the State and school districts.
* Costs of acquiring the infrastructure necessary for technology readiness
* Degree of alignment with the Iowa core academic standards.
* Ability to measure both growth and proficiency.
* Ability to comply with federal law (Every Student Succeeds Act – ESSA).

The bill requires that the DE/state Board of Education implement the selected assessment through administrative rule before the 2018-2019 school year. The bill allows but does not require private schools to use the assessment. The bill eliminates the Iowa code reference to the assessment task force. RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill, now in the House Education Committee.

[**HF 507**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF507) **and** [**SF 274**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%20274&ga=87) **Computer Science Education:** these bills require the state BOE to adopt computer science education standards. Requires the BOEE to establish a computer science teacher endorsement. Makes findings on the importance of computer education and states the intent to appropriate for an incentive fund for the 2018-19 school year. Requires the state BOE to adopt rules on high-quality computer standards for schools that receive money from the incentive fund. Requires the DE to establish a computer science education workgroup to develop incentives for schools to offer high-quality computer courses and specifies members of the workgroup. Participation in the program is voluntary. RSAI is monitoring the bills, with SF 274 having been approved by the Senate and both bills assigned to the House Education Committee.

[**HF 515**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF515) **School Security Plans**: this bill requires school boards to develop school security plans for each school building by December 31, 2018. The bill requires the school board to consider the recommendations of the school security task force, and to consult with law enforcement and emergency management. Requires that the plans be updated at least every four years, be available to all school employees and that students and parents be notified annually. Requires the DE to establish the school security task force, and for the task force to make recommendations on school security by December 2017. RSAI is monitoring this bill, now on the House Calendar.

[**HF 230**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF230) **SAVE Extension:**  this bill would extend the SAVE sunset from 2029 to Jan .1 2050. There are no proposed changes to the process or the use of the funds in this bill. RSAI is registered in support. A subcommittee of Reps. Forristall, Carlin and Jacoby recommended approval in the ways and means committee. The bill is exempt from the funnel date. See the RSAI web site for a position statement regarding the priority of extending the sunset and talk to House Ways and Means Committee members about moving this bill forward. [Position paper found here.](http://nebula.wsimg.com/c6f25fa52d9da14421dfe628662fe880?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1)

[**SF 475**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=sSF475) **Education Matters**: this bill was amended and approved by the Senate Education Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar. This bill includes

* **Division I Online Education:** allows the DE to waive the offer and teach requirements if a school district makes every reasonable effort to hire a teacher but was not able to hire one or if fewer than ten students typically register for instruction in a specified subject at the school district or school, allowing the course to be delivered electronically through the Iowa learning online program. The bill also allows school district authority to work with private providers or develop their own online learning course content deliver courses primarily over the internet via open enrollment. RSAI requested that districts be able to work with others, not necessarily private providers, to offer such content. The amendment requires online courses to align to the Iowa teaching standards and taught by Iowa licensed teachers.
* **Division II:** Concurrent Enrollment: CTE Exception: The bill allows up to two courses delivered via community college sharing/dual enrollment to supplant rather than supplement the offer and teach requirements in 256.11, subsection 5.
* **Division III:** changes from a mandate to permissive authority allowing school districts to administer dental and vision screening authorizations or provide dental health clinics.
* **Division V:** Open Enrollment Extracurricular Activity Fee: Allows a student to participate in district of residence extracurricular and co-curricular activities, under the same conditions and requirements as the pupils enrolled in the district of residences. The district of residence is allowed to withhold a fee from payment to the receiving district, capped at 15% of the state cost per pupil. The bill gives both districts authority over student code of conduct and eligibility for activities.
* **Division IX**: Limitation on DE Guidance; Requires the DE to go through administrative rules rather than issuing informal guidance in administering education programs, stating that such guidance, if issued, is not legally binding, and is solely advisory in nature.

RSAI is registered as undecided, in favor of some provisions (requested the CTE course language) and concerned about others. The bill is on the Senate Calendar.

[**HF 566**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF566) **Combining Election Dates:** this bill moves school elections to the same day as city elections, in November of the odd-numbered year. Makes changes to various deadlines, school districts in multiple counties and other matters. The bill was approved in State Government Committee with 12 in favor and 10 opposed. Although this action would lower election costs to schools and may increase voter turnout, RSAI is concerned about board turnover and the limited time for training and orientation between a December organizational meeting of the board and the deadlines for setting school budgets and bargaining requirements. RSAI is registered opposed to the bill, now on the House Calendar.

[**HF 496**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF497) **Driving Instruction:** this bill limits the amount of street and highway driving instruction to 60 minutes per week for students who need a car with adaptive equipment. Limits the number of students to two per driving session, if one student needs adaptive equipment. Requires that a camera that can film the view from the front seats be recording and that the film be made available to a law enforcement agency on request. RSAI is monitoring this bill, which was approved with 98 votes in favor in the House and none opposed. It goes over to the Senate.

[**HF 291**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF291) **Collective Bargaining:** PERB issues guidance on payroll dues deductions, now an prohibited subject of bargaining, meaning it cannot be included in a contract that becomes effective after Feb. 17, 2017. See more here: <https://iowaperb.iowa.gov/>

**RSAI Website:** Legislative tab contains weekly reports, position papers, and other information to assist your advocacy efforts.

[**http://www.rsaia.org/**](http://www.rsaia.org/)

Senate Switchboard # 515.281.3371

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From links above or the legislative page <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators> , find email addresses, home mailing address and home/work phone numbers for your legislators.

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