

## **RSAI Legislative Update** Mar. 16, 2017

**Preparing for the Next Funnel:** SF 240 Assessments is approved by House Education Committee. House flexibility proposals are approved with 96 votes in favor and move over to the Senate. The REC lowers the estimate for FY 2017 and FY 2018, challenging the legislature to find resources to balance the budget. By March 31, bills must clear the committee of the other chamber to stay alive (senate bills out of house committee and vice versa.)

Specific advocacy is required to House Education Committee and Appropriations Committee members regarding formula equality and transportation equity. See SF 455 below. Also, connections with House Way and Means Committee members regarding extension of the State Penny, see HF 230 below.

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

<http://www.rsaia.org/>

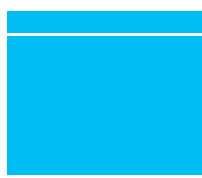
**Revenue Estimating Conference Lowers Growth Estimate:** The REC met on March 14 and lowered the FY 2017 (current year) revenue growth estimate to 2.7%, which when combined with a \$25 million transfer previously approved in SF 130 deappropriations, requires a \$131 million reduction to the FY 2017 balance sheet. Both the Governor and Legislative leaders have suggested dipping into the state's cash reserve funds to cover the shortfall. The Governor has stated his intention to replenish the cash reserve funds in FY 2018. That action, combined with the lower FY 2018 revenue estimate of 3.6% growth, would leave new FY 2018 revenue at an estimated \$101.5 million (of which, \$30 million is obligated for 1.11% SSA increase in the state cost per pupil.) The REC also set the FY 2019 estimate at 3.6%. Rep. Grassley, House Appropriations Chair, issued a statement indicating that "every tax credit is on the table." He has introduced a bill, HSB 187, which has its first meeting scheduled on Monday. We will learn more about the intentions of the bill during the subcommittee meeting, but are initially concerned that savings from tax credit caps may be directed into a taxpayer trust fund rather than restored to the state General Fund.

Here's the latest activity on bills of interest to RSAI members:

**[HF 563 Collision Sports Training and Protocol:](#)** Regarding CPR training, this bill requires coaches to have training in CPR and the use of an automated defibrillator. Current coaches have until July 2018 to get training. Regarding concussions, this bill requires:

- Athletic associations must work together to develop training materials on concussions and coaches/referees must complete such training every two years.
- Athletic associations are to develop information sheets for parents and guardians and districts must provide the info sheets to parents.
- Coach/official or health care professional must remove a student from the competition if the student shows any sign of brain injury. Requires the athletic associations to develop a return to competition protocol. Requires districts to adopt the protocol.

House approved the bill as amended 96-0; sending it to the Senate. RSAI is opposed, although this language has softened considerably through the process. We remain concerned that the



protocol developed by the athletic associations is mandated and may have a cost associated with it.

**HF 565 Education Flex Fund:** this bill allows schools to establish a flexibility fund account 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, home school assistance program, and funds remaining after programs are discontinued. The bill allows school boards to spend the money as miscellaneous income after a public hearing on the funds. RSAI is registered in support. The bill was approved in the House 96:0, and is now assigned to the Senate Education Committee.

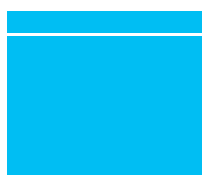
**HF 564 Categorical Flexibility:** this bill allows for categorical fund flexibility for ending balances of the budget year beginning July 1, 2017. Flexibility is specified in each of the following areas:

- 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 in the areas of teacher salary supplement, professional development and early intervention/class size.
- 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 school districts to pay for safety equipment out of general fund in addition to student activities fund (this provision is retroactive to July 1, 2016).

RSAI is registered in support. This bill was amended and approved in the House, 96:0, and is now assigned to the Senate Education Committee.

**SF 475 Education Omnibus:** this bill was amended and approved by the Senate Education Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar. The bill addresses many things, including online learning, Concurrent Enrollment/CTE courses, vision/dental health screenings, an extracurricular activity fee for participation in a resident district when open enrolled to an online learning program, exceptions for nonpublic schools accredited through an independent accrediting agency, bi-literacy seal on a diploma, and limitations on DE guidance. A new fiscal note is available to explain the costs of this bill. See the fiscal note [here](#). See last week's report for details about the bill. RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill.

**SF 240 Assessments:** the bill as approved by the Senate was amended and approved in the House Education Committee, 22 in support, 1 opposed. The bill, as amended, requires the DE to issue a new request for proposals (RFP) no later than July 1, 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. 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 to be first administered by spring of 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 on the House Calendar.

**HF 508 Operational Sharing Incentives:** this bill removes the sunset of the operational sharing incentives and removes the 5-year limitation on the positions used to generate supplementary weighting. The 21-student cap on the weighting is not adjusted and no additional positions are added as approved in the Education Committee. RSAI is registered in support. The bill is now in House Appropriations Committee.

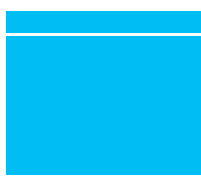
**SF 455 Formula and Transportation Equity:** the bill includes a 10-year phase-in to eliminate the \$175 difference in the district and state costs per pupil (RSAI Priority):

- \$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. Requires the DOM 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, formerly approved in the Senate, 47 in favor, 0 opposed, is now in the House Education Committee. Subcommittee of Reps. Rogers, Gassman, and Hansen is assigned.



Members of the House Education Committee and House Appropriations Committee will be critical to determining the next steps of this legislation. If your district is contained in any of their legislative districts or you know them personally, please reach out in the next few days and reiterate the urgency of beginning the work of closing these equity gaps in the formula and in transportation funding now.

### House Education Members

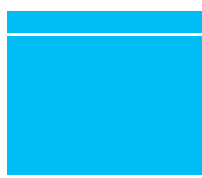
- **Walt Rogers (R, District 60), Chair**
- **Greg Forristall (R, District 22), Vice Chair**
- **Sharon S. Steckman (D, District 53), Ranking Member**
- [Wes Breckenridge \(D, District 29\)](#)
- [Timi Brown-Powers \(D, District 61\)](#)
- [Jim Carlin \(R, District 6\)](#)
- [Cecil Dolecheck \(R, District 24\)](#)
- [Joel Fry \(R, District 27\)](#)
- [Ruth Ann Gaines \(D, District 32\)](#)
- [Tedd Gassman \(R, District 7\)](#)
- [Kristi Hager \(R, District 56\)](#)
- [Curt Hanson \(D, District 82\)](#)
- [Mary Ann Hanusa \(R, District 16\)](#)
- [Megan Jones \(R, District 2\)](#)
- [Kevin Koester \(R, District 38\)](#)
- [Mary Mascher \(D, District 86\)](#)
- [Norlin Mommsen \(R, District 97\)](#)
- [Tom Moore \(R, District 21\)](#)
- [Amy Nielsen \(D, District 77\)](#)
- [Sandy Salmon \(R, District 63\)](#)
- [Ras Smith \(D, District 62\)](#)
- [Art Staed \(D, District 66\)](#)
- [Skyler Wheeler \(R, District 4\)](#)

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- **Pat Grassley (R, District 50), Chair**
- **Ashley Hinson (R, District 67), Vice Chair**
- **Chris Hall (D, District 13), Ranking Member**
- [Bruce Bearinger \(D, District 64\)](#)
- [Brian Best \(R, District 12\)](#)
- [Wes Breckenridge \(D, District 29\)](#)
- [Timi Brown-Powers \(D, District 61\)](#)
- [Dave Deyoe \(R, District 49\)](#)
- [Cecil Dolecheck \(R, District 24\)](#)
- [Dean Fisher \(R, District 72\)](#)
- [David E. Heaton \(R, District 84\)](#)
- [Lisa Heddens \(D, District 46\)](#)
- [Jake Highfill \(R, District 39\)](#)
- [Daniel A. Huseman \(R, District 3\)](#)
- [John Landon \(R, District 37\)](#)
- [Norlin Mommsen \(R, District 97\)](#)
- [Jo Oldson \(D, District 41\)](#)
- [Walt Rogers \(R, District 60\)](#)
- [Kirsten Running-Marquardt \(D, District 69\)](#)
- [Mike Sexton \(R, District 10\)](#)
- [Rob Taylor \(R, District 44\)](#)
- [Todd E. Taylor \(D, District 70\)](#)
- [Phyllis Thede \(D, District 93\)](#)
- [Cindy Winckler \(D, District 90\)](#)
- [Gary Worthan \(R, District 11\)](#)

**HF 566 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 230 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.](#)

### House Ways and Means Members

- **Pat Grassley (R, District 50), Chair**
- **Ashley Hinson (R, District 67), Vice Chair**
- **Chris Hall (D, District 13), Ranking Member**
- Bruce Bearinger (D, District 64)
- Brian Best (R, District 12)
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- Cindy Winckler (D, District 90)
- Gary Worthan (R, District 11)

**HF 217: Disciplinary actions** taken against a licensed school employee required to be reported to the board of educational examiners (BOEE). The bill was approved by the House, 94-5 and the Iowa Senate, 49-0. The governor signed it this week. RSAI is registered in favor of this bill.

**HF 291 Collective Bargaining Update** PERB issues request on their web site for employers to return contracts to PERB after approval, per HF 291, within 10 days of being approved. This requirement is effective for contract approved after Feb. 17, 2017. See more here: <https://iowaperb.iowa.gov/>

**Contacts** RSAI Professional Advocate,  
[Margaret.buckton@isfis.net](mailto:Margaret.buckton@isfis.net) 515.201.3755

### RSAI Leadership Group;

Robert Olson, Chair, Clarion-Goldfield/Dows, Superintendent, [robert.olson@rsaia.org](mailto:robert.olson@rsaia.org)  
Dennis McClain, Vice-Chair, Clay Central Everly, Superintendent, [dmcclain@claycentraleverly.org](mailto:dmcclain@claycentraleverly.org)  
Kevin Fiene, Secretary/Treasurer, I-35, Superintendent, [kevin.fiene@rsaia.org](mailto:kevin.fiene@rsaia.org)  
Brad Breon, Moravia/Seymour, Superintendent, [brad.breon@rsaia.org](mailto:brad.breon@rsaia.org)  
Paul Croghan, East Mills, Superintendent, [pcroghan@emschools.org](mailto:pcroghan@emschools.org),  
Dan Smith, Harmony, Board President, [dan.smith@rsaia.org](mailto:dan.smith@rsaia.org)  
Lee Ann Grimley, Springville, Board President, [leeann.grimley@rsaia.org](mailto:leeann.grimley@rsaia.org)

Senate Switchboard # 515.281.3371  
House Switchboard # 515.281.3221

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