

UEN Legislative Update March 28, 2014

School Per Pupil Funding Decision for FY 2016 Still in Limbo But Education Appropriations Discussions Begin

Find the current issue and archive issues posted on the UEN legislative web page, including a tracking list of bills UEN is following, at <http://www.uen-ia.org/legislation.htm>

Education Budget Work in Progress

The Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee held a meeting on Thursday, March 27 and approved the line-item budget for FY 2015 education appropriations. The Subcommittee approved a total of \$986.1 million, which is \$87.2 million above FY 2014 and \$111,830 above the Governor's Recommendation.

During the subcommittee discussion, Sen. Schoenjahn expressed his thanks for the close bi-partisan work and leadership from Rep. Dolecheck in preparing this budget. He stated they were in agreement of over 90% of line items. Sen. Quirnbach expressed disappointment that the \$10 million anticipated for High Needs Schools Grants included in last year's HF 215, Education Reform, was not included in the Governor's budget recommendation. He acknowledged the difficulty of finding cuts within the existing budget large enough for the grants to be included in this year's appropriations bill. He also stated disappointment that the per-pupil funding decision for FY 2016 had not yet been acted upon in the House, although that discussion is not part of the FY 2015 education budget.

Common Core Funding: Also noteworthy in this budget is the elimination of the line item appropriation for the Common Core. Budget staff confirmed the funding was rolled into the DE administration budget. We anticipate seeing language in the bill next week that maintains the DE responsibility for supporting implementation of the Core.

Reading Research Center: In FY 2014, the Center was funded at \$1,331,000. The DE originally requested \$2.0 million in funding for the Center, which would be an increase of \$669,000. The Governor's recommendation was \$3,931,000 to include funding to scale up provision of free assessment tools for screening of reading in early elementary (FAST assessments.) For those districts planning on training teachers this summer and implementing the FAST screening assessments this fall, this difference in appropriation may be significant and worthy of contacting your legislators.

Bullying Prevention: the Senate includes a new appropriation of \$1,000,000 to fund bullying prevention efforts including funding for DE to analyze data and provide supports to districts and grant resources to support district training efforts to improve culture and climate/bullying prevention. The conversation on anti-bullying legislation has not moved forward in the House.

Administrator Mentoring: The Senate includes a new appropriation of \$1,000,000 for principal and administrator coaching and mentoring. We anticipate the policy language will be similar to proposals seen earlier in the session to support and develop administrator instructional leadership skills.

AEA Support for Teacher Leadership: The Senate includes a new appropriation of \$1,000,000 for AEA support of the first round of TLC grants awarded to 39 districts to begin participation in the program for FY 2015.

Specific appropriations of interest to PK-12 include:

	Estimated FY 2014	Dept Request FY 2015	Gov Rec FY 2015	Senate Co-Chair	Senate Co-Chair vs. FY14
Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness	\$ 392,452	\$ 392,452	\$ 392,452	\$ 392,452	
Teach Iowa Scholars	0	0	2,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
DE Administration	6,304,047	7,692,747	6,304,047	7,304,047	1,000,000
Vocational Education Administration	598,197	598,197	598,197	598,197	
Vocational Education Secondary	2,630,134	2,630,134	2,630,134	2,630,134	
Food Service	2,176,797	2,176,797	2,176,797	2,176,797	
ECI (Early Childhood Iowa) General Aid	5,386,113	5,386,113	5,386,113	5,386,113	
ECI Preschool Tuition Assistance	5,428,877	5,428,877	5,428,877	5,428,877	
ECI Family Support and Parent Ed	12,364,434	12,364,434	12,364,434	12,364,434	
Special Ed. Services Birth to 3	1,721,400	1,721,400	1,721,400	1,721,400	
Nonpublic Textbook Services	600,214	600,214	600,214	650,214	50,000
Iowa Core	1,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	0	-1,000,000
Student Achievement/Teacher Quality	6,307,351	6,800,000	6,307,351	56,791,351	50,484,000
Jobs For America's Grads	670,000	670,000	670,000	700,000	30,000
Education Reform	6,840,000	72,000,000	57,100,000	0	-6,840,000
Iowa Reading Research Center	1,331,000	2,000,000	3,931,000	2,000,000	669,000
Midwestern Higher Education Compact	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
Early Head Start Projects	400,000	400,000	400,000	600,000	200,000
Successful Progression for Early Readers	8,000,000	18,200,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	
Competency-Based Education	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000	
Iowa Learning Online Initiative	0	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	1,500,000
Regional Telecommunications Councils	0	992,913	992,913	992,913	992,913
Bullying Prevention	0	0	25,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Administrator Mentoring			0	1,000,000	1,000,000
English Language Learner Pilots			0	500,000	500,000
TeachIowa Job Board/Licensure System			0	250,000	250,000
Attendance Center/Data Systems			0	500,000	500,000
Council and Task Force Support			0	50,000	50,000
AEA Support System for TLC			0	1,000,000	1,000,000
UI - IA Online Advanced Placement Acad.	481,849	497,268	481,849	481,849	
UNI - Math and Science Collaborative	5,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	
ISD/IBS - Licensed Classroom Teachers	82,049	85,331	82,049	82,049	

Governor Signs Some Bills

- HF2271 Modifying Supplementary Weighting re: Shared Operational Functions:** The bill rewrites the operational functions shared weighting. The new law would allow sharing a curriculum director, school counselor, and the management functions of superintendent, business, human resources, transportation or operations and maintenance, for at least 20% of the school year. The weighting is calculated as an equivalent number of students; 8 pupils for shared superintendent, 3 pupils for curriculum or school counselor, and all other positions at 5 pupils. The bill limits the maximum total shared weighting for all positions to no more than 21 students. (Multiply the student count by \$6,121 to calculate the impact in 2013-14 dollars.) The shared position doesn't have to provide the same duties to both school districts sharing. The weighting applies to both preexisting and new agreements. The weighting is available for the budget year beginning July 1, 2014 through the

budget year July 1, 2019. The bill also requires the DE to pass rules to set criteria for determining qualification to share through consideration of increased student opportunities (removes last year's requirement to quantify long term savings.) The bill also sets the range of sharing revenues for AEAs to a minimum of \$30,000 and a maximum of \$200,000. The bill was signed by the Governor on March 26.

- [HF 2389 Code of Conduct](#): The bill requires the BOEE to include in educators code of conduct a prohibition of sexual or romantic relationship between a licensed staff member and a student they taught or supervised or coached for at least 90 days after the student graduates or leaves the school. UEN is registered in favor of the bill which was signed by the Governor on March 26.
- [SF 2056: WGS Incentives](#): extends whole grade sharing/reorganization incentives to 2019, for up to three years for WGS and three years following reorganization. Fiscal impact is estimated at \$1.6 million. This bill was signed by the Governor on March 26.
- [SF 2228 School Special Drivers' License and Sharing](#): This bill allows a person with a special minor's license to drive to a school for the purpose of participating in extracurricular activities conducted under a sharing agreement with the student's school of enrollment. This bill was signed by the Governor on March 26.

Chamber Action

- [SF 220 Early Retirement Incentives](#): this bill addresses early retirement and management funds, which currently pay for the costs of early retirement for employees participating in the program who are at least 55 years old but not more than 65. A court ruling prohibited school districts from setting an upper age limit on participants, so benefits for any teachers or administrators wanting to retire early must be paid out of the school general fund. This bill, as amended, would allow the management fund to cover the costs of retirees over age 65 that elect to participate in the program and is retroactive to early retirement programs in existence on July 1, 2013. The Senate concurred in the House amendment. The bill goes to the Governor. UEN is in favor of the bill.
- [SF 2319 Defining Dyslexia](#): The bill requires the Reading Research Center to work with the DE and AEAs to provide no cost professional development to early elementary teachers to improve skills of all students in reading, conditional on an appropriation in the budget. The bill requires districts provide assistance to students to include but not be limited to strategies that formally address dyslexia, when appropriate and defines dyslexia as a specific and significant impairment in the development of reading, including but not limited to phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, that is not solely accounted for by intellectual disability, sensory disability or impairment, or lack of appropriate instruction. A [fiscal note](#) details the costs of the bill including training. UEN is registered as monitoring. The bill was amended and approved by the House and sent back to the Senate.

Advocacy Plan: Continue contacts from grassroots networks, staff and school leaders. Request that the Legislature set the state cost per pupil for FY 2016 before adjourning this Session. This discussion isn't over until they adjourn.

Send email and make phone calls striving for three contacts per advocate (more if your district is represented by several legislators). Use a pyramid model where each advocate encourages another to also contact their legislators and the Governor. Engage your grassroots and parent

groups. Link the call to action on your personal and district Facebook page. The Mar. 12 UEN Call to Action includes a sample letter from parent to legislator/Governor to get started. **School Funding Decision Needed Now (w/parent letter) found on the UEN legislative web page:** <http://www.uen-ia.org/legislation.htm>

Contact information:

Call or email Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds and your legislators and leave a message: schools need sufficient school funding, at least 6% per pupil for the 2015-16 school year, determined this session.

- Office of the Governor: State Capitol | 1007 East Grand Ave. | Des Moines, Iowa 50319, Phone: 515.281.5211 | Contact Us (<https://Governor.iowa.gov/contact/>)
- To reach members of the Iowa House and Senate:
 - Find your legislator here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislators/find.aspx>
 - Email your legislators. The correct email address configuration is: `firstname.lastname@legis.iowa.gov` and can be verified at the above link.
 - Call the Switchboard. Leave a message for your representative at 515.281.3221 or for your senator at 515.281.3371

Write a letter to your local newspaper explaining the impact of a delayed decision on your district or share details from one of the education coalition funding facts of the week. The latest issue of the Funding Fact of the Week detailed budget cuts highlighted in the news. If your district is eliminating positions or programs, please let the media know and share the funding fact linked below.

Education Coalition Joint Advocacy: Thanks to ISEA, IASB, SAI, and Iowa AEAs for working with UEN in this collaborative effort!

Funding fact of the week: This weekly funding fact is designed to help local advocates generate conversations and fuel the enthusiasm for setting the state percent of growth for FY 2015-16 during the 2014 Session. The first issue detailed Iowa's 37th in the nation ranking in total per pupil expenditures, now \$1,514 below the national average. All issues are linked on the UEN legislative page. Here's the link to the last publication: [03/25/2014 - School Budget Cuts Show Stress of Low State Funding, REC Estimate and Impact of HF 2194 on ATB Cuts](#)

Sign up to receive the Education Funding fact of the week here: <http://us5.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=e0acb6236d9a5dbd136a38ef4&id=815d3aa83c>

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