**2021 List of Successes**

Despite the overall funding and school choice policy challenges of the 2021 Legislative Session, there are some notable successes for urban schools and students worthy of mention and significant enough to include when thanking Legislators and the Governor for their service:

* **Preschool:** New process, for this fall only, to apply to the SBRC for modified supplemental amount for PK enrollment growth compared to Oct. 2020 provided ([HF 868](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=hf868)). (*At the time of this writing, we have not yet confirmed the Governor intends to dedicate GEERS federal funding to cover the cost of any awards by the SBRC, which are contingent on a funding source.*)
* **Limited English Proficient Tiered Weighting:** sets two weightings to generate funding for students served in limited-English proficient programs based on proficiency ([HF 605](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=hf605)). The bill set an intermediate level with a weighting of .21 and an intensive level of .25, compared to the current weighting for all LEP students at .22. The 2013 ELLTask Force recommended tiered weighting. This bill gets the policy in place and sets the stage to increase the weightings based on need going forward.
* **A Broadband Grant Fund** was created ([HF 848](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=hf848)) and $100 million was appropriated as a down payment for first-year implementation ([HF 867](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=hf867)). Access to high-speed, affordable Internet is critical for student and staff access to resources for education as well as for quality of life and entrepreneurial growth across Iowa.
* **Equity:** An additional reduction of $10 per pupil in the formula equity gap was accomplished and transportation equity payments for above average transportation costs were continued ([SF 269](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=sf269)).
* **Student Mental Health:** $3.2 million appropriation to AEAs for mental health training and student supports and services ([HF 868](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=hf868)). New investment of $2.1 million to begin implementation of therapeutic classrooms (SF 2360 in 2020 and HF 868 in 2021). Parity for insurance payments for telehealth services and state funds to reduce property taxes for Iowan’s mental health system ([SF 619](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=sf619)).
* **Flexibility for Staffing**: to help with education workforce shortages, several actions expanded flexibility, including a greater pool of substitutes (AA degree or 60 hours of post-secondary credit and process to extend beyond 10 days in a classroom in [HF 675](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=hf675)), allowing occupational therapists to provide concussion management services ([SF 466](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=sf466)), and direction that BOEE develop a statement of professional recognition for licensed behavior therapists and mental health professionals ([SF 532](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=sf532)).
* **Local Control:** expanded flexibility to transfer TLC ending balances to the Flexibility Account and creation of a new FS3 (Flexible Student and School Support Program) which allows innovative programs and waivers of some offer and teach and other regulations ([HF 847](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=hf847)).