



UEN Legislative Action 2023 Session

Timelines for Implementation

There are several significant policy bills this year, including SF 496 Parents' Rights/Transparency, HF 604 Discipline and Removal from the Classroom, SF 391 Chapter 12 Flexibility, SF 482 Bathroom Use by Gender, and HF 68 Education Savings Accounts, that require time, attention and interpretation by the State Board of Education and the DE.

The DE is also complying with Gov. Reynolds Executive Order #10 to review all administrative rules, which will require significant staff time at the Department and should include opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback. Only a few of the bills, such as HF 68 Education Savings Accounts and SF 482 Bathroom Use by Gender, were effective on enactment. Stay tuned to your email inbox for more information throughout the Summer and likely into Fall as details become available.

Policy and Procedure Mandate Tracker

ISFIS has prepared a document to track all of the mandates in bills enacted this year (and cautionary reminder, as of this writing, they are not yet all signed by the Governor). We will update this document and share any changes as we learn more, but it will hopefully serve as a good reminder of the policy implementation steps that are required in the many policy changes approved in the 2023 Legislative Session. [Find the Link to Tracker Here.](#)

Bills in the 2023 Session

Below is a list of bills enrolled and sent to the Governor UEN was tracking. Page down to see detailed bill descriptions of all the bills sent to and signed by the Governor.

- HF 68 Education Savings Accounts/School Choice - *Signed 1/24/2023*
- HF 143 Ransomware Prohibited - *Signed 5/11/2023*
- HF 256 Minimum Age of BOEE Licensure - *Signed 5/3/2023*
- HF 430 Mandatory Reporter and BOEE Makeup - *Signed 5/26/2023*
- HF 602 Suicide prevention info on school ID cards – *Signed 6/1/2023*
- HF 604 Discipline and Removal from Classrooms - *Signed 5/26/2023*
- HF 614 BOEE Licensure for individuals from Other State/Nations - *Signed 5/26/2023*
- HF 672 MA+ Permanent Teacher Licensure - *Signed 5/26/2023*
- HF 707 Childcare Assistance Reform – *Signed 5/18/2023*
- HF 718 Property Tax Reform - *Signed 5/4/2023*
- SF 157 Drivers Ed Final Field Test Authorization - *Signed 3/22/2023*
- SF 181 Property Tax Valuation Error Correction - *Signed 2/20/2023*
- SF 192 3% SSA - *Signed 2/07/2023*
- SF 250 Computer Science PD Disbursements - *Signed 5/3/2023*
- SF 318 Office of Apprenticeship - *Signed 5/10/2023*
- SF 391 Chapter 12 Flexibility - *Signed 5/26/2023*

- SF 482 Use of Bathroom by Gender - *Signed 3/22/2023*
- SF 496 Transparency and Parents' Rights - *Signed 5/26/2023*
- SF 514 State Government Reorganization - *Signed 4/04/2023*
- SF 560 Education Appropriations – *Signed 6/1/2023*
- SF 578 Standings Appropriations – *Signed 6/1/2023*

Enrolled Bill Descriptions

HF 68 Education Savings Accounts/School Choice was approved in the House, 55:45. Republican Representatives Bergan, Best, Bloomingdale, Ingels, Lohse, G. Mohr, T. Moore, Sieck, and Siegrist voted no, along with all House Democrats. Republican Senators Evans, McClintock, and Shipley joined the Senate Democrats in voting no, with the final Senate vote 31:18. Governor Reynolds signed it on Jan. 24, 2023. The bill includes:

- ESAs equal to the State Cost per Pupil to pay tuition and fees to accredited private schools and other expenses (\$7,598 based on the Governor's 2.5% SSA recommendation). *Note: SF 169 enacted a 3% SSA per pupil increase, for a State Cost per Pupil of \$7,635. The ESA accounts will be equal to this enacted State Cost per pupil.*
- Fund controlled by DE sets up the ESAs and allows a contract with a 3rd-party provider to manage the fund (application, eligibility, accounts, audits, and fraud prevention). If a parent commits fraud, DE is to recover funds and the parent is prohibited from participating.
- Allows unspent ESA money to be retained until graduation or age 20, whichever happens first. (*Note: SF 572, which remains alive for consideration in the 2024 Session, would require transfer of remaining funds back to the state if a student withdraws, is expelled or does not reenroll in an accredited nonpublic school in a subsequent year.*)
- Excludes the scholarships from income taxes (retroactive to Jan. 1, 2023).
- Requires recipients of an ESA to be tested by mandated state and federal assessments. The assessments for state and federal compliance posted on DE's webpage include: ISASP, DLM, ELPA21, ELPA 21 Screener. PK GOLD (doesn't apply, no ESAs for preschool), Early Literacy Universal Screener and Progress Monitor, ELAA for IEP Students, Diagnostic Lit Assessment, End-of-unit assessment for students taking ½ unit U.S. Government
- **Eligibility:** Students must be enrolled in an accredited private school to apply for ESA before June 30. Students in homeschool settings do not qualify for an ESA in this legislation unless they enroll in a private accredited school. ESAs will be available based on the following eligibility:
 - Year 1: School Year 2023-24
 - All entering kindergarten students
 - All students not enrolled in a private school for the prior two semesters (could be either homeschool, from a public school, or potentially new to Iowa).
 - A student enrolled in a private school with a household income at or below 300% of the federal poverty line, \$83,250 for a family of four.
 - Year 2: School Year 2024-25
 - All entering kindergarten students
 - All students not enrolled in a private school for the prior two semesters

- A student enrolled in a private school with a household income at or below 400% of the federal poverty line, \$111,000 for a family of four.
- A prior year recipient of an ESA

Year 3: School Year 2025-26

- **All K-12 students in Iowa, regardless of income**
- **Categorical Funds:** includes students receiving an ESA who are residents of a public school in the enrollment count for categorical funding purposes, an average of \$1,205 per student, for TSS, PD, EICS, and TLC. The exact amount will be determined by the district’s aid and levy worksheet per pupil amounts. Such students will first be counted Oct. 1, 2023, with funds first available in the budget beginning July 1, 2024. This includes all ESA recipients, even if they have never attended the public school.
- **Qualified educational expenses:** includes tuition and fees at a nonpublic school, textbooks, fees or payments for educational therapies, including tutoring or cognitive skills training, curriculum fees, software, and materials for a course of study for a specific subject matter or grade level, tuition or fees for nonpublic online education programs, tuition for vocational and life skills education approved by the Department of Education, education materials and services for pupils with disabilities from an accredited provider, including the cost of paraprofessionals and assistants who are trained in accordance with state law, standardized test fees, and advanced placement examinations or examinations related to postsecondary education admission or credentialing. Qualified educational expenses are limited to these items and rules adopted by DE to implement this section. Expenses made from the ESA are prohibited from including transportation costs for the pupil, the cost of food or refreshments consumed by the pupil, the cost of clothing for the pupil, or the cost of disposable materials, including but not limited to paper, notebooks, pencils, pens, and art supplies. Private school expenditures are not audited and likely could be used for transportation or any of these other items once tuition is paid to the private school.
- **Private School Authority:** Private school is not under any additional regulation. No required change in academic or enrollment requirements. Private school is to be given maximum freedom to meet the needs of students. No regulation on expenditures once the private school receives tuition and fees. No prohibition to raising tuition. The only requirement is state and federal assessments given to students with an ESA (eventually all who apply) see above.
- **Compliance requirements Chapter 284:** Requires any Teacher Salary Supplement (TSS) distributions to follow Chapter 284 provisions (TQ Committee, etc.), however, allows relief from the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) mandates in Chapter 284 if used for TSS. DE’s [guidance document](#) describes the possibilities. This particular provision looks to be broader relief from the mandates than if the district just uses the funds for TSS (Language from HF 68 Sec. 17 on the right):

Sec. 17. Section 284.15, subsection 7, Code 2023, is amended to read as follows:

7. The department shall establish criteria and a process for application and approval of the framework established under subsection 1, and for comparable systems that meet the requirements of section 284.16 or 284.17, which a school district may implement pursuant to subsection 6 ~~in order to receive teacher leadership supplement foundation aid calculated under section 257.10, subsection 12.~~

This language states that districts may participate in the TLC plan but are not required to in order to receive TLC per pupil distributions. In addition to this new flexibility allowing TLC funds and/or ending balances to be used for TSS purposes, districts still retain authority to transfer TLC funds and/or ending

balances to the Flexibility Account, to be directed by the school board for any general fund purpose or several other specific purposes.

- **Flexibility:** allows TLC, PD and TAG (Talented and Gifted) funds and/or ending balances to be used for any TSS purposes. (TLC and PD can both already be used via the flexibility account for any general fund purpose and a few others. This action does NOT allow TAG funds to be transferred to the flexibility account).
- **Operational Sharing:** extends Operational Sharing through 2034. (This action does not change the 21-student cap or repeal the supplementary weighting roll-back, so any position which would generate a 3-student count will continue to be lowered to a value of 2 students and a 5-student count position will generate a count equal to 4 students.)
- **Appropriation:** sets a standing, unlimited appropriation equal to the amount necessary to pay for the ESAs (and beginning July 1, 2024, state aid will include the amount for categorical funds for resident private school students.)

Reflections on the legislative process: The process was so shortened by procedural exceptions (committees of the whole rather than subcommittee meetings, allowing legislation from the Education Reform Committee to bypass consideration by Appropriations or Ways and Means Committees, and amending big policies on the floor rather than in Committee). The expedited process removed some opportunities for public and lobbying input that would otherwise have occurred. With so many new legislators in both the House and Senate following the November 2022 Election and little opportunity for input, it is important that education advocates continue to educate policymakers about the fiscal impact of this bill on public school districts. UEN was registered opposed to this legislation.

[HF 143 Ransomware Prohibited:](#) This bill prohibits individuals from participating in unauthorized access to computers, known as ransomware. The bill was approved by the House 97:1 and by the Senate 50:0 and the Governor signed it on 5/11/2023. Prohibits a person from the following:

- Accessing, attempting to access, causing to be accessed, or exceeding the person’s authorized access to all or a part of a computer network, computer control language, computer, computer software, computer system, or computer database.
- Copying, attempting to copy, possessing, or attempting to possess the contents of all or part of a computer database accessed as described above. A person is prohibited from committing the acts listed above with the following intent:
 - To cause the malfunction or interruption of the operation of all or any part of a computer, computer network, computer control language, computer software, computer system, computer service, or computer data.
 - To alter, damage, or destroy all or any part of data or a computer program stored, maintained, or produced by a computer, computer network, computer software, computer system, computer service, or computer database.

A person is also prohibited from intentionally, willfully, and without authorization engaging in the following activities:

- Possessing, identifying, or attempting to identify a valid computer access code.

- Publicizing or distributing a valid computer access code to an unauthorized person. A person is prohibited from committing an act prohibited by the bill with the intent to interrupt or impact the functioning of various entities, as listed in the bill. The bill creates an exception for the use of ransomware for research purposes. However, a person is prohibited from knowingly possessing ransomware with the intent to introduce it into the computer, computer network, or computer system of another person without the authorization of the owner. A violation of the provisions of the bill is punishable as follows:

- A violation that causes pecuniary losses involving less than \$10,000 to the victim is an aggravated misdemeanor.
- A violation that causes pecuniary losses involving at least \$10,000 but less than \$50,000 to the victim is a Class D felony. Fiscal Note Fiscal Services Division 2
- A violation that causes pecuniary losses involving at least \$50,000 to the victim is a Class C felony.

The bill also permits a person injured by a violation of the bill to bring a civil action. UEN was registered in support.

HF 256 Educator License Minimum Age: the bill allows the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) to issue a teaching license or substitute license to an individual at least 18 years of age, as long as the individual has completed all necessary degrees and certification requirements for the license or certificate. It also applies to paraeducators, substitutes, and coaches. The House passed the bill 95:0, Senate agreed 49:0. Signed by the Governor 5/03/2023. UEN was registered in support.

HF 430 Mandatory Reporter and BOEE Board Makeup: establishes a process for investigations of employee conduct, hiring practices and changes membership of the Board of Education Examiners (BOEE), including the following provisions:

- Requires school employees to be mandatory reporters for children of all ages and applies to all employees over age 18 (mandate also applies to charter schools).
- Requires DE to develop and implement a process for reporting and investigating an employee’s commission of a felony or violation of IC 272.15 (1) “a” regarding inappropriate relationship or contact with a student. Requires this process to:
 - Prohibit written or oral agreements between school districts and employees which prohibits the employer from discussing any employee behavior or incidents with officials or prospective employers as a condition of resigning.
 - Prohibit a written or oral agreement that waives liability of a licensed employee related to or arising from an incidents, past performance, action or allegations of wrongdoing.
 - Requires a school district to provide all documentation and information related to the incident to BOEE for investigation if a contracted employee resigns or the contract is terminated.
 - Requires school districts to complete an investigation for unlicensed employees no longer working for the district.
 - Requires the school district to review an applicant’s employment history, including contacting the applicant’s previous employers listed on the application for employment and by viewing the BOEE’s

public license information to determine if there is a case pending with a finding of probable cause or any licensure sanction. (This applies to all employees, regardless of contract status.)

- Requires district to keep information on forms prescribed by the Department of Education (DE) and respond to any request from a potential employer (but not required to reveal information about unfounded, closed investigations). Gives school leaders immunity from criminal or civil liability arising from disclosure as long as the shared information is not knowingly false.
- Requires BOEE to conduct a hearing if a licensed employee fails to follow this process or intentionally conceals information from any governmental agent, officer or potential employer.
- Requires an annual report by BOEE to the General Assembly with the number and types of disciplinary hearings, trends, and investigations related to administrator reporting of incidents or failure to follow this process.
- Requires BOEE to finalize an investigation, even if the practitioner resigns or surrenders their license.
- Requires BOEE to adopt rules that:
 - require collection and retention of written complaints. If a complaint is unfounded, requires all records associated with it be kept confidential.
 - notify the public if an ongoing investigation has a case pending with a finding of probable cause. (BOEE is not required to disclose unfounded, closed investigations.)
 - evaluate unfounded complaints if similar complaints are filed against the same practitioner.
 - require BOEE to investigate an administrator of a school that employs a licensed practitioner subject to investigation involving reporting of an employee incident, requiring the board to investigate whether the administrator failed to file a required written complaint or report to the BOEE.
- BOEE Membership is increased to 13 members:
 - Four are members of the general public with an interest in education but not a license, Two of the four are parents and one of those two shall have been or is a school board member,
 - Eight members are licensed practitioners. Three of these must be administrators and one must be from a nonpublic school. Remaining four are selected from among elementary or secondary teachers, special education teachers, counselors/special purpose practitioners, school service personnel.
 - One member shall be the DE director or designee.
 - Additional language specifies terms, quorum and other necessary conforming changes.

The bill passed the Senate, 48:0, was approved in the House 92:1, and it was signed by the Governor 5/26/2023. UEN was opposed to the original bill, but with significant changes made in the Senate prior to final passage, changed our registration to support.

HF 602 Suicide Hotline: requires school districts to publish the phone number and website of a suicide hotline on Student ID Cards for grades 7-12 and may include them on ID cards for students in grades 5-6. Allows but does not require districts to use up existing card stock before being required to include the information. The Senate passed the bill 48:0, the House concurred 94:1, and it was signed by the Governor 6/1/2023. UEN is registered in support.

HF 604 Student Discipline Policies:

- Requires DE to produce a list of code/rule references for all required professional development (PD) and training. Requires schools districts to notify staff of the state/federal requirement for the PD (including Chapter 284 Teacher Quality).
- Requires school districts to give copy of Iowa Code [280.21](#) to teachers with an initial contract and annually with contract renewal. (*280.21 is the Corporal Punishment statute which identifies under what conditions it is appropriate for school employees to lay hands on students.*)
- Requires the student handbook provided annually to parents of students to include the discipline policy. Requires the parent to acknowledge receipt of the handbook, either in writing or electronically.
- Requires the Iowa State Ombudsman to investigate a complaint by a BOEE licensed individual related to violence in the classroom, including retaliation regarding reporting. The Ombudsman must provide a report to DE & BOEE and keep the complainants' identity secret.
- Requires classroom teachers to report threats or incidents of violence resulting in injury, property damage or assault by enrolled students to either the principal or a lead administrator within 24 hours. Allows the teacher to notify the parent of the offending student or the parent of a student threatened or injured. Requires principal/lead administrator to notify parents, of both offending the student and the student threatened or injured, within 24 hours after the classroom teacher reports the incident.
- Prohibits retaliation for disclosing information to any public official or law enforcement agency, including the Ombudsman, if the employee/contractor reasonably believes the information evidences a violation of law, rule, mismanagement, gross abuse of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. Defines "disciplinary action".
- Requires school boards to adopt, in collaboration with teachers and administrative staff, policies for different grade levels describing how the district may discipline a student for a threat of violence or causing such an incident. Requires board policy to include the following:
 - Strategies designed to correct the student's behavior.
 - Provide for a parent conference, counseling or mental health counseling sessions, when appropriate, including prior written parent consent for mental health counseling.
 - Must be consistent with special education law.
 - Provide for escalating levels of discipline.
 - Allows the district to select the appropriate level of discipline corresponding to the severity of the incident.
 - Allows the district to suspend the student, permanently remove the student from a particular class, expel, or place student in alternative learning environment, including a therapeutic classroom if appropriate and available.
 - Requires an Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting if offending student has an IEP.
 - Requires the district to publish the policy on the school district's website.

The bill as amended, was approved in the Senate, 49:0, the House concurred 94:0. The Governor signed it on 5/26/2023. UEN was opposed to the bill by the House, but with changes in the Senate prior to final passage, is now registered as undecided.

HF 614 BOEE Out-of-State Licensing: allows individuals from other states or countries to get an Iowa teaching license if the individual has any of the following: 1) a full license from another state or country that is not temporary or an emergency license, 2) verification from an institution in another state that the applicant completed all program and licensure requirements with the exception of any assessments required by the other state, and 3) transcripts indicating that the applicant completed a teacher preparation program located in another country. The bill was approved by the House 95:0 and the Senate agreed, 49:0. It was signed by the Governor on 5/26/2023. UEN is registered in support.

HF 672 MA+ 10-Years Teacher License: allows a license renewal for teachers with masters' degree or higher and at least ten years of experience without any requirement to complete Continuing Education Units (CEUs) contingent on a background check. Applies background check requirements to accredited private schools and requires the BOEE to undergo a background check for these individuals every five years. Allows the BOEE to charge an appropriate fee. Still requires an evaluator licensure update every ten years. Approved by the House 98:0, by the Senate 49:0 and signed by the Governor on 5/26/2023. UEN is registered in support.

HF 707 Childcare Assistance Requirements: establishes work and income requirements for state childcare assistance. Establishes income requirements for initial eligibility for State child care assistance at 155.0% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for a family with children needing basic care, 200.0% of the FPL for a family with children needing special needs care, or 85.0% of the State median gross monthly income. Modifies eligibility requirements for the CCA Program waitlist by increasing minimum hours of employment or participation in an approved training or educational program from 28 hours per week to 32 hours per week for a family with children needing basic care and 28 hours a week for families with special needs children. The Senate amended and approved the bill 48-0; House concurred 92:1, and signed the Governor on 5/18/2023. UEN did not register on this bill. The Governor signed it May 18, 2023. *This information is important for school districts to consider scheduling and hours of regular work for employees, to avoid inadvertently making a school employee ineligible for state Childcare Assistance.*

HF 718 Property Tax Reform: the House and Senate came to a compromise on property tax reform in the final days of the 2023 Session. The compromise includes the following:

- Changes budget certification for schools from April 15 to April 30.
- Changes budget appeal deadline from April 25 to May 10.
- Prohibits any new Public Education and Recreation Levy (PERL) votes but does not impact those currently in place.
- Creates a Taxpayer Statement that must be mailed to taxpayers and requires a public hearing on that notice. Schools must submit the information to Department of Management (DOM) by March 15 necessary for DOM to prepare the report.
- Requires DOM to prescribe the form for the above report, the statements required to be mailed to taxpayers, and the public hearing notice required to allow for public input.
- Taxpayer statements are provided to county auditors by DOM and required to be mailed to property owners by March 20.
- An additional public hearing must be held prior to adoption of the school district budget (schools must follow normal publication requirements of a 10 to 20-day window). Notice of the hearing shall also be posted and clearly identified on the school district's website for public viewing beginning on the date of the newspaper publication and shall be maintained on the district's website with all such prior year notices and copies of the statements mailed to taxpayers. If the school district has other social media accounts, the information must also be communicated via those social media accounts. Taxpayers can submit comments at the hearing or in writing.
- School districts must provide proof of publication of public hearing notice to the county auditor.
- The regular public hearing on the budget must still occur after the taxpayer statement hearing.
- Taxpayer statements are required to include the following:
 - Tax levy and tax rate for current fiscal year.
 - Effective property tax rate for the subdivision.
 - Property tax dollars for the budget year and the tax rate.
 - If the budget year amounts are higher, a detailed statement of the major reasons for the increase and the specific program or purpose.

- Example with a residential property of \$100,000 value.
- Example of a commercial property of \$100,000 value.
- School’s percentage of total property taxes.
- Detailed explanation of the reason for increase if it is greater than last year.
- Date and time of this public hearing.
- Public hearing is required per the date and time published in the taxpayer statement. The public hearing must allow oral and written testimony from residents or property owners. The public hearing must be separate from any other meeting on budget or any other school district purpose. The taxing authority can reduce levies at this point, but is prohibited from further increasing levies after the public hearing. Taxing authorities are prohibited from establishing a tax rate prior to mailing of the statements and holding the public hearing.
- Bond Issue Election Changes:
 - Bond issue elections will only be allowed during November elections (includes all Novembers, not just during the school board election). *Note: since this applies to all local governments, it is advised that school districts work with cities, counties and community colleges to coordinate bond elections and avoid conflicts or confusion for voters when possible.*
 - Auditor must send not less than 10 nor more than 20 days prior to the bond election, to each registered voter, a notice of election that includes the full text of the public measure that will be included on the ballot.
- Establishes a new Homestead tax exemption in addition to the homestead credit for an owner that has attained the age of sixty-five years by Jan. 1 of the assessment year, with the exemption equal to \$3,250 additional exemption for Jan. 1, 2023 assessments, which increases to \$6,500 additional exemption for Jan. 1, 2024 assessments. Increases the military exemption of \$4,000.
- *Note: the bill in its final form does not lower the uniform school levy or limit growth of every taxing parcel to 3%, both of which were provisions in earlier versions of property tax reform.*

The Senate approved the bill 49:0. The House agreed 94:1. Governor Reynolds signed it on May 5, 2023. UEN was registered opposed to the original House file.

SF 181 Property Valuation Error Correction: This bill corrects the property valuation error that miscalculated some residential property values associated with multi-residential property. The bill extends the budget certification deadline to April 30 and allows for local governments to recertify if they previously certified their budget before these changes are implemented. The Senate approved the bill 49:0 and the House agreed, 86:13. The Governor signed it on 2/20/2023. UEN registered as undecided.

SF 192 SSA was approved by the Senate, setting a 3% increase in the State Cost per Pupil. The bill was approved 34:15 in the Senate. The House agreed, 59:40. The Governor signed it on Feb. 7, 2023. UEN is registered as undecided on the bill – even though it did not match our funding request, the 3% is the second highest in 14 years. The following information comes from the LSA [Fiscal Note](#):

The bill has three provisions with a fiscal impact:

- Establishes a 3.00% State percent of growth rate to be applied to the State cost per pupil (SCPP) for FY 2024, for an SSA of \$222 per pupil.
- Establishes a 3.00% State percent of growth rate to be applied to each of the State categorical cost per pupil amounts for FY 2024.
- Provides additional property tax replacement funding based on the per pupil increase that results from the establishment of the State percent of growth in FY 2024. The bill requires the additional levy portion of the FY 2024 SCPP amount to be frozen at \$685 per pupil, regardless of the per pupil increase for FY 2024.

The FY 2024 dollar amounts in the third column of the following chart (FY 2024 Supplemental State Aid) will be added to each district’s (and AEA’s) per pupil amounts from FY 2023:

Table 1 — SF 192
FY 2024 State Cost Per Pupil Calculations

	FY 2023 State Cost Per Pupil	FY 2024 State Percent of Growth	FY 2024 Supplemental State Aid	FY 2024 State Cost Per Pupil
Regular Program	\$ 7,413	3.00%	\$ 222	\$ 7,635
Special Education Program	7,413	3.00%	222	7,635
AEA Special Education Services	323.87	3.00%	9.72	333.59
AEA Media Services	60.38	3.00%	1.81	62.19
AEA Education Services	66.63	3.00%	2.00	68.63

The same process applies to per pupil categoricals, with the dollar amounts from the FY 2024 Supplemental State Aid column added to the district’s (and AEA’s) FY 2023 per pupil amounts. Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) is the only per pupil categorical amount consistent across districts.

Table 2 — SF 192
FY 2024 State Categorical Cost Per Pupil Calculations

	FY 2023 State Cost Per Pupil	FY 2024 State Percent of Growth	FY 2024 Supplemental State Aid	FY 2024 State Cost Per Pupil
Teacher Salary – Districts	\$ 635.61	3.00%	\$ 19.07	\$ 654.68
Professional Development – Districts	71.99	3.00%	2.16	74.15
Early Intervention – Districts	78.41	3.00%	2.35	80.76
Teacher Leadership and Compensation – Districts	357.80	3.00%	10.73	368.53
Teacher Salary – AEAs	33.26	3.00%	1.00	34.26
Professional Development – AEAs	3.88	3.00%	0.12	4.00

The following table shows the fiscal impact to the state general fund and property taxpayers. *Note the \$114.3 million increase in state aid, which includes \$17.1 million more for AEAs which was later reduced. That is typically removed in the standings appropriations bill at the end of Session. This year, SF 578 Standings Appropriations, lowered the AEA amount by an additional \$5 million, for a total of \$22.1 million. Additionally, SF 181 Property Tax Error Correction detailed above changes both the state total (increase) and the local property tax total (decrease), but was not yet enacted at the time this fiscal note was written.*

Table 4 — SF 192

Legislative Services Agency: FY 2024 School Aid Estimates (Statewide Dollars in Millions)					
State Percent of Growth		3.00%	Statutory AEA Reduction	\$	7,500,000
State Supplemental Aid	\$	222	Additional AEA Reduction		0
State Cost Per Pupil	\$	7,635	Total AEA Reduction	\$	7,500,000
Program Funding:		FY 2023	Est. FY 2024	Est. Change	% Change
Regular Program District Cost	\$	3,605.1	\$ 3,719.3	\$ 114.3	3.17%
Regular Program Budget Adjustment		8.9	5.4	-3.4	-38.73%
Supplementary Weighting (District)		111.1	120.6	9.4	8.47%
Special Education Instruction (District)		501.0	525.0	24.0	4.80%
Teacher Salary Supplement (District)		308.3	317.9	9.6	3.12%
Professional Development Supplement (District)		34.9	36.0	1.1	3.10%
Early Intervention Supplement (District)		37.9	39.1	1.2	3.08%
Teacher Leadership Supplement (District)		174.0	179.4	5.5	3.14%
AEA Special Ed Support District Cost		179.2	185.3	6.0	3.37%
AEA Special Ed Support Adjustment		1.0	0.6	-0.4	-39.29%
AEA Media Services		31.4	32.3	1.0	3.17%
AEA Ed Services		34.6	35.7	1.1	3.16%
AEA Sharing		0.2	0.0	-0.2	-100.00%
AEA Teacher Salary Supplement		17.6	18.2	0.6	3.43%
AEA Professional Development Supplement		2.1	2.1	0.1	3.51%
AEA Statewide State Aid Reduction		-24.6	-7.5	17.1	-69.46%
Dropout and Dropout Prevention		139.9	139.9	0.0	0.00%
Combined District Cost	\$	5,161.8	\$ 5,349.5	\$ 187.7	3.64%
Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program	\$	88.3	\$ 90.2	\$ 1.9	2.21%

In this next section of Table 4, the Property Tax Relief Payment (PTRP) grows at 15.43% or \$15.3 million of the total State Aid amount. Additional excess from the state penny for school infrastructure, also known as SAVE, and the Foundation Base Supplement (FBS) are also property tax relief. Note the total percent change of state vs. local money. Table 4 Continued:

State Aid:	FY 2023	Est. FY 2024	Est. Change	% Change
Regular Program	\$ 2,118.7	\$ 2,155.4	\$ 36.7	1.73%
Supplementary Weighting	98.1	106.4	8.3	8.46%
Special Education Weighting	442.2	463.4	21.2	4.80%
Property Tax Adjustment Aid (1992)	6.9	6.5	-0.4	-5.45%
Property Tax Replacement Payment (PTRP)	99.4	114.8	15.3	15.43%
Adjusted Additional Property Tax - General Fund	24.0	24.0	0.0	0.00%
Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program	88.3	90.2	1.9	2.21%
State Aid from General Fund	\$ 3,568.6	\$ 3,692.5	\$ 123.9	3.47%
*Excess from SAVE Fund	23.4	24.7	1.2	5.28%
Foundation Base Supplement (FBS)	2.8	5.7	2.9	100.99%
Total State Aid (Includes Non-General Fund)	\$ 3,592.0	\$ 3,722.9	\$ 130.8	3.64%
Local Property Tax:	FY 2023	Est. FY 2024	Est. Change	% Change
Uniform Levy Amount	\$ 1,069.5	\$ 1,127.8	\$ 58.3	5.45%
Additional Levy	598.9	589.1	-9.9	-1.65%
Total Levy to Fund Combined District Cost	\$ 1,668.4	\$ 1,716.9	\$ 48.4	2.90%
Comm/Ind - Uniform Levy Adjustments	-6.1	0.0	6.1	-100.00%
Comm/Ind - Additional Levy Adjustments	-4.4	0.0	4.4	-100.00%

This last section of Table 4 from the Fiscal Note provides additional information: 3% SSA leaves 71 districts on budget guarantee. Lastly, the transportation equity fund grows by the SSA rate of 3%. *Again, the AEA statewide funding is overstated since the Standings Appropriations bill, SF 578, later reduced the funding by \$22.1 million.*

Miscellaneous Information:	FY 2023	Est. FY 2024	Est. Change	% Change
Budget Enrollment	485,630	486,476	845	0.17%
State Cost Per Pupil	\$ 7,413	\$ 7,635	\$ 222	2.99%
Number of Districts with Budget Adjustment	81	71	-10	-12.35%
Percentage of Districts with Budget Adjustment	24.77%	21.85%		
Statewide Categoricals Total	\$ 574.7	\$ 592.7	\$ 18.0	3.13%
Property Tax Relief Payment Per Pupil	175	201	26	14.86%
Foundation Base Supplement Per Pupil	5	10	5	100.00%
Statewide AEA Funding	241.5	266.7	25.3	10.47%
Transportation Equity Fund	29.5	30.3	0.9	3.00%

What is not in this bill? In the last several years, the Senate has insisted on a small amount (either \$5 or \$10 per pupil) to continue to close the gap in differences between the state cost per pupil and higher district costs per pupil. The current gap is \$140 per pupil. There are 224 districts at the state minimum and 103 at a higher DCPP. Additional Transportation Equity funding has also been included by the Senate in years past, with an amount sufficient to reimburse all districts down at least to the state average. *It is unknown at this time of publication if the \$30.3 million is sufficient to accomplish that goal.*

Note: The FY 2024 increase of 3% per pupil is the second highest in 14 years, yet still well below (less than half) of the current year inflation rate.

SF 250 Computer Science Grants: allows recipients of computer science professional development grants to use the money in the fiscal year of the grant and into the subsequent fiscal year, through Sept. 30. Effective on enactment. The Senate passed the bill 50-0, the House approved it 95-0. It was signed by the Governor 5/03/2023. UEN registered in support.

SF 318 Office of Apprenticeship: Defines terms and establishes an Iowa Office of Apprenticeship within the Iowa Department of Workforce Development. Sets the purposes of the Office:

- 1) serve as the state registration agency
- 2) establish labor standards for quality pre-apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships and apprenticeships
- 3) to establish Administrative Rules regarding the registration of the above in the State when the sponsor of such programs chooses to certify or register the programs with the Office
- 4) to resolve disputes between parties to an apprenticeship agreement.

The bill also establishes duties of the Office, creates an Iowa Apprenticeship Council and defines requirements for licensing authorities. Passed by the House 64:33 and the Senate 34:15. It was signed by the Governor May 10, 2023. UEN registered as undecided.

SF 391 Chapter 12 Flexibility: This bill includes many opportunities for local district flexibility and discretion, many of which were requested by UEN over the last several years. The bill includes the following six divisions:

Div. I: Eliminates the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). Districts will no longer be required to submit a CSIP to the DE and the DE will not be required to monitor or report on CSIPs. *However, many of the individual components of the CSIP, such as a school districts professional development (PD) plan, or early childhood plan or the requirement to set student learning goals for school improvement, to name just a few, are still required. Stay tuned for more information with the notice of requirements for accreditation as the DE implements this change.*

Div. II: Teacher Librarian and Counselor Flexibility: allows school districts to hire a librarian previously employed as a public librarian, specifies the BOEE shall not require a masters’ degree for a teacher librarian credential, and requires the state BOE to establish by rules, library standards including a collection and updating process. Also defines the counselors Job: “The program shall be designed to ensure that the guidance counselor can work collaboratively with students, teachers, support staff and admins to support the curricular goals of the school by offering responsive services that address the growth and development needs of students and the attainment of student competencies in academic, career and social areas.”

Div. III: Virtual Learning Days: allows up to 5 days or 30 hours of virtual learning in the school calendar. These days may be used to make up for days canceled due to snow or other emergencies, or could be embedded throughout the year for other purposes. *UEN requested this provision.*

Div. IV: Educational Standards – Agreements with Community Colleges

- Flexibility for a Community College instructor to teach any unit to meet offer and teach requirements – all courses under 256.11 (5).
- Strikes the requirement in Iowa Code to make a good faith effort to hire a teacher in that content area before allowing the Community College Instructor to teach it.
- Removes the requirement that it only applies to districts below 600 students and is limited to courses with fewer than 5 students participating. *UEN requested this provision.*
- Specifies that students enrolled in that course do not count for supplementary weighting (concurrent enrollment) if the course is used to meet an offer and teach requirement.

Div. V: Sequential units in one classroom

- Allows an appropriately licensed teacher to teach two or more sequential units of one subject area in the same classroom at the same time in grades 9-12 (including AP if the teacher meets certification requirements). This would allow AP credit, community college credit and high school credit to be offered by the same teacher at the same time.
- Also allows a community college instructor to teach multiple sequential units.
- Requires the district to offer high school credit for the course.
- *UEN requested this provision.*

Div. VI: Education Standards:

- Strikes from current standards:
 - Technology literacy from 21st Century learning skills.
 - Requirement to teach kindergarteners about role of family, sense of self and perception of others.
 - AIDS/HIV references throughout.
- Adds to career exploration a duty to facilitate career readiness and introduce students to career opportunities within the local community and across Iowa.
- Requires two sequential units of world languages and two units of fine arts (which may include any of: dance, music theater or visual art). Current law states four units.
- Mandates excusing a high school student from physical education requirements if:
 - Student is seeking waiver to enroll in academic courses otherwise not available, or enrolled in a work-based learning program or other educational program authorized by the school which requires the student to leave the school premises for specified periods of time during the school day, or activity sponsored by the school which requires at least as much activity at 1/8th unit per week.

- Removes all of the process for principal in consult with counselor. States student shall be excused if parent requests and the student meets any of the above requirements.
- Does not alter the religious exemption process.
- Changes financial literacy: must offer ½ unit, which MAY be offered and taught through dedicated units of coursework or through units of coursework that also meet the requirements of the coursework required under other offer and teach areas (Science, Social Studies, ELA, Math first 4 units or Math 2 more unit, and CTE). District must still meet all of the financial literacy standards and may meet the requirements through any combination of courses. Strikes the requirement that a student complete a financial literacy course to graduate. *UEN requested this provision.*
- Senate accepted the House’s amendment on CPR certification, so current law remains and high school students must complete CPR certification to graduate. *UEN supported the Governor’s language to remove the CPR requirement.*

This bill was changed significantly along the way. The Senate resisted the House’s action to require 3 units of world languages and fine arts (current law requires 4 and the final bill requires 2), and the House’s action to remove PE flexibility from the bill. The Senate accepted the House’s amendment language on CPR, which means that students will still need to participate in CPR content at school or obtain a CPR certificate in order to graduate from high school. The Senate approved the bill as amended, 34:16. The House concurred, 60:36, sending the bill to the Governor, who signed it on 5/26/2023. The bill is effective on Jul. 1, 2023. UEN registered in support.

SF 482 Use of School Bathrooms by Birth Gender: The bill was effective on enactment, which means when signed by the Governor, on March 22, 2023. The bill does the following:

- Amends Iowa Civil Right Code to state that it is not discriminatory to regulate bathroom use. That may or may not be a factor that a judge would consider if there is a legal challenge, which we expect will happen. The court could grant an injunction prohibiting implementation until a decision is made, but until that happens, the bill is the law of the land.
- Defines “multiple occupancy restroom or changing area” as an area in a school building designed or designated to be used by more than one person at a time, in which students may be in various stages of undress in the presence of other students or persons. Includes but not limited to restroom, locker room, changing room or shower room. Defines “school” means a public school or nonpublic school. Defines “sex” meaning biological sex as listed on an official birth certificate issued at or near the time of birth. Specifies that a “single occupancy restroom” is for one person at a time.
- Requires schools to designate multiple occupancy restrooms or changing areas only for and used by persons of the same sex. Prohibits a person from entering a multiple occupancy restroom or changing area, or a single occupancy restroom or changing area designated only for persons of the same sex, that does not correspond with the person’s sex.
- Applies to any other school facility, facility used for extra-curricular activity, overnight accommodations, or any other setting where a student may be in various stages of undress in the presence of other students or persons, school personnel shall provide separate, private areas designated for use by students based on the students’ sex.
- Accommodations: students desiring greater privacy, with written parent consent to school officials, may request access to alternative facilities. To the extent reasonable, the school official shall offer options (but cannot include an option for access to a restroom not aligned to sex at birth while students of the opposite sex are present or could be present.)
- The Act includes list of reasonable accommodations: 1) access to a single occupancy restroom or changing area, 2) access to a unisex single-occupancy restroom or changing area by only one student at a time, and 3) controlled use of faculty multiple occupancy restroom or changing area or a single occupancy restroom or changing area.

- Requires the district to adopt policies to accommodate disabled persons or young children in need of physical assistance. Permits access for custodial or maintenance purposes when such facility is not occupied by a member of the opposite sex, or for rendering medical assistance, for safety during a natural disaster, emergency or when necessary to prevent a serious threat to student safety.
- Allows Iowa citizens to file a complaint of a school not complying with the law, by providing written notice to the school describing the violation. If the school does not cure the violation within 3 business days, allows the citizen to file the complaint with the Iowa Attorney General. Requires the AG to investigate and allows the AG to initiate legal court action if warranted.

The bill was approved in the Senate 33:16 and the House agreed 57:39. Gov. Reynolds signed it on 3/22/2023. UEN registered opposed to the bill.

SF 496 Transparency and Parents' Rights: includes the following:

- Prohibits any program, curriculum, test, survey, questionnaire, promotion, or instruction relating to gender identity or sexual orientation to students in K-6. Requires age-appropriate materials (defined below). The language specifically excludes private schools from these requirements.
- Deletes HIV and HPV/Vaccine from K-12 health curriculum (still requires instruction on STDs in grades 7-12). Does not prohibit such instruction, but removes it from the requirement that it must be taught.
- Requires districts to have a K-12 library program, consistent with educational standards, with age-appropriate materials, and supporting student achievement goals. (Note re: *SF 391 Chapter 12 Flexibility. SF 391 requires the State Board of Education to have administrative rules establishing library standards. It is unknown at this time if the State BOE will define "age-appropriate", gender identity or sexual orientation content through the administrative rules process.*)
- Districts have until Jan. 1, 2024 before penalties regarding library provisions are effective. If a DE investigation determines the district or an employee has violated the provision prohibiting content in library books that was not age-appropriate, specifies these consequences:
 - First violation results in a written warning to the school board or employee.
 - Second and subsequent violation, if DE finds the district knowingly violated the requirements, subjects the Superintendent to a BOEE ethics investigation.
 - Second and subsequent violation, if pertains to a licensed employee which knowingly violated the requirements, subjects that employee to BOEE ethics investigation.
 - BOEE investigations could lead to disciplinary action.
 - *Note: there were no provisions in the bill regarding a process to initiate a DE investigation into library materials. At this time, it is unknown if State BOE rules will further define a process.*
- Defines "Age-Appropriate" to mean topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group. "Age-appropriate" does not include any material with descriptions or visual depictions of a sex act as defined in section [702.17](#). *Note: The House version of this language prohibited "graphic descriptions or visual depictions of a sex act as defined in section 702.17". The final version of the bill did not include the adjective "graphic" to describe sex act, leaving school leaders, librarians and staff somewhat confused about the intent of the legislation.*
- Excludes human growth and development grades 7-12 (sex education classes) from the prohibition to describe a sex act. Requires research-based content and defines "research-based" according to Iowa Code [279.50](#), which includes the requirement that information is verified or supported by the weight of research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods. . . and is free of racial, ethnic, sexual orientation and gender biases.
- Requires each school board to provide age-appropriate and research-based instruction in human growth and development including instruction regarding self-esteem, stress management, interpersonal relationships, and domestic abuse in grades 1-6.

- Prohibits schools from a formal examination or survey of a student designed to assess the students' mental, emotional or physical health that is not required by state or federal law without first getting written parent consent. Requires written notice to parents, at least 7 days prior, to administering an exam or survey required by state or federal law. Requires the notice to include a copy of the survey or link to where the parent can access it. Does not apply to vision or hearing exams and makes exceptions for emergent care situations and for cooperating in a child in need of assistance process.
- Requires schools to publish on the district's website:
 - A detailed explanation of the procedures or policies in effect for the parent of a student enrolled in the school district to request removal of a book, article, outline, handout, video or other education material available to students in the classroom or library. Requires the policy to be prominently displayed on the district's website.
 - A detailed explanation of procedures or policies to request a review of decisions made by the school board, including the petition process for a public hearing.
- Requires school board to adopt a policy describing how parents of an enrolled student or residents of the school district can review instructional materials used in classrooms. Requires that the policy be posted on the district's website and include the process for a parent to opt their child out of material. Access to the policy must be provided to parents annually in writing or electronically.
- Defines instructional materials as "printed or electronic textbooks and related core materials that are written and published primarily for use in elementary and secondary instruction and required by the state or district for use by students in the student's classes by the teacher of record." Excludes lesson plans.
- Requires posting a comprehensive list of books available to students in libraries. If the district does not use an e-catalog yet, the bill allows the districts to request a waiver from the DE for school years before July 1, 2025.
- Requires identity of a parent requesting removal of materials from the classroom or library shall be confidential.
- Requires charter schools to be subject to these same requirements as public schools districts:
 - Restrictions on health screenings and formal examinations or surveys designed to assess a students' mental, emotional, or physical health.
 - Prohibitions related to gender identity.
 - Requirements relating to sexual orientation and gender ID instruction.
 - Restrictions prohibiting a student from serving on a reconsideration committee.
- Specifies parents' rights.
 - Prohibits the school district from knowingly giving false or misleading information to parents of a student regarding the student's gender identity. Defines gender identity per IC 216.2, subsection 10. "Gender identity" means a gender-related identity of a person, regardless of the person's assigned sex at birth.
 - If a student requests accommodation from a licensed practitioner to affirm gender identity, including use of a name or pronoun different than that on the school district's registration forms or records, the practitioner must inform an administrator who must inform the parent.
 - Specifies the same enforcement mechanism for violation of any of the above that applies to the library and age-appropriate regulations.
 - Requires DE to adopt rules to implement this section.
- Protection of student rights; requires written parent consent before requiring a student to take part in any survey, analysis, activity or evaluation that reveals personal information about the student or family and lists all of the personal information to which this applies, including the student's or family's political affiliations, mental problems, sexual behavior/orientation/beliefs, illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior, critical appraisals of close family relationships, privileged relationships, religion or income. There is an exception for income when needed for eligibility in a program.

- Requires prior written notice to the parent to include detailed information about the survey, including the person who sponsors it, how the information it generates is used, and how such information is stored.
- Requires prior written parent consent for an employee to answer any questions or share student information from the survey (except when developing or implementing an IEP).
- Allows students in homeschool (CPI) to receive special education services without the approval of AEA special education director and allows homeschool parents to request special education services for their children. Requires that the process must still follow federal and state law (chapter 256B and administrative rules for 256B.)
- States that parents have the ultimate responsibility to make decisions affecting their child. Makes exceptions for medical emergencies, child abuse assessment, court orders, and specifies that this law does not allow any illegal activity.
- Exempts this bill from Iowa Code 25B.2 (state unfunded mandate law).
- IN an earlier version of the bill, the House included policy language from several House bills that were not considered, so died, in the Senate Education Committee. In the final version of the bill, the Senate kept the following House policy language:
 - Includes the language from HF 429 on an open enrollment request within a district if a student is a victim of bullying or harassment. Allows a parent of a student to enroll their child in another attendance center in the district that offers classes at the student's grade level, if, as a result of viewing a recording created by a video surveillance system or report from a school district employee, and consistent with the requirements of FERPA, the school district determines that any student enrolled in the district has harassed or bullied the student. Requires the DE to have forms to process such a parent request. Requires the school district to enroll the student in another attendance center unless there is insufficient space. Requires the request is for a period of not less than one year, but allows the parent to return to the original attendance center at any time. Further regulates if the student requires special education, the attendance center must maintain a special education program appropriate to meet the student's needs and does not cause the size of the class or caseload in the special education program to exceed the maximums established in rules adopted by the state BOE. If the student would be assigned to a general education class, there must be sufficient classroom space. If the student has been suspended or expelled, they must fulfill the terms of their suspension or expulsion, but can then request open enrollment to a new attendance center in the district through this process. The decision of the school district may be appealed to the school board. The transferred student is immediately eligible to participate in varsity athletic contests. States that this policy does not prohibit transfer to another attendance center in the district pursuant to a policy adopted by the school board allowing transfer for reasons in addition to this action. Requires the state BOE to adopt rules to administer this section.
 - Allows a school district, following their anti-bullying/harassment policy, to notify parents in writing or by email within 24 hours after an employee witnesses, either directly or from viewing a recording from a video surveillance system, any student enrolled in the district harassing or bullying the student. Requires charter schools to have such a policy.
 - Requires charter schools to have an anti-bullying anti-harassment policy and procedure.
 - These provisions on inter-district transfer open enrollment requests are effective on enactment. The State Board of Education is required to implement Administrative Rules to govern this section, which typically take about 180 days.

The Senate removed most of the education policy bill language that the House had amended on to this bill, shortening the legislation from 38 to 18 pages. The Senate approved the bill as amended, 34:16, on party lines.

The House voted to concur, 57-38, with a few Republicans joining the Democrats in opposition. Governor Reynolds signed it on 5/26/2023. UEN Registered opposed to the bill.

Note: Along the way, this bill was improved measurably. Other improvements not mentioned above include: although included in the Governor’s original bill, the final bill did not include a graduation requirement for a high-stakes civics test. Advocates also shared concerns about the costs of a searchable database of all instructional classroom materials, which was removed along the way. The original bill required lists of all contractors or others with whom students might be in contact be published on the district’s website. Many other provisions were eliminated or improved. We appreciate the strides made in the House and Senate to craft policy that is more easily understood, affordable and possible to implement.

SF 514 State Government Reorganization: this bill consolidated much of the executive branch into fewer units of governance. The bill was approved in the Senate 34:15. The House agreed 58:39. The Governor signed it on 4/04/2023. UEN registered as undecided on the bill. Makes the following changes of interest to school leaders:

Function/Division/Board	Former Location	New Location
Early Childhood Iowa	Department of Human Services	Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Library Services/State Librarian	Department of Education (DE)	Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
Workers’ Compensation Division	Department of Labor	Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing (DIAL)
Fire Control Licensing and Building Code Regulation	Department of Public Safety (DPS) and State Fire Marshall	DIAL
School Infrastructure Fund \$\$ and Structure Evaluation	State Fire Marshall	DIAL
Administrative Law Judges (DE, special ed, BOEE and others)		DIAL
Management of State’s interest in arts, history & cultural matters	Department of Cultural Affairs	Iowa Economic Development Authority
Statewide Work-based Learning Intermediary Network Program	DE	Iowa Department of Workforce Development (IWD)
Vocational Rehabilitation	DE	IWD
Apprenticeship Training Program	DE	IWD
Future Ready Iowa	IDEA	IWD
Adult Ed/Literacy Programs	DE	IWD
STEM Initiative	University of Northern Iowa	NEW - Innovation Division DE: STEM
Community Colleges, Postsecondary Readiness, CTE/Perkins, College Student Aid Commission, BOEE	DE	NEW – Higher Education Division and Higher Ed Division Administrator

Education and Standings Appropriations Bills:

SF 560 Education Appropriations: the line-item appropriations in this bill are mostly status quo appropriations equaling the FY 2023 level but for a few differences. The overall package increase was 2.65%. Community Colleges received 3.25% increase. Notable items include:

- I-JAG (Iowa Jobs for America’s Graduates): \$9.1 million, which is an increase of \$1 million for the IJAG program (12% increase over last year.)

- No increase for Therapeutic Classrooms or Mental Health services/training through AEAs or for early childhood programs.
- Eliminates \$852,000 for nonpublic school textbooks. *Note: Districts with a carry-forward balance of nonpublic school textbook funding will be able to purchase textbooks for nonpublic schools during the FY 2024 school year. The obligation to provide textbook purchases to nonpublic schools is contingent on an appropriation, to the mandate on public schools to provide the textbooks is effectively eliminated.*
- Repeals the existing online job posting system (Teach Iowa IC 256.27) and requires Workforce Development, in consult with DE, to create an internet site for posting jobs openings. Requires DE, school districts, charter schools and AEAs to submit all job openings to the site. Allows accredited nonpublic schools to submit job openings to post. *Note: This provision was first considered in a last-minute amendment, which did not benefit from any subcommittee, committee, or stakeholder notice or involvement. We encourage the Governor and Legislature to have thorough conversations and/or longer phase-in times for implementation when significant changes are made.*
- Requires DE to convene a task force to study funding for At-Risk students and DoP. Must Consider:
 - how schools currently use state funding for programs for at-risk and DoP (*Note: DoP is locally funded not State funded, while At-Risk funding is through the formula which is a combination of state and local funds*).
 - the effectiveness of such programs.
 - whether and to what extent state funds should be reallocated to Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG),
 - how to best utilize state funding for at-risk and DoP programs.
 - Requires a report of the task force due to the General Assembly by Dec. 31, 2023.

The bill was approved in the Senate, 34:16. The House passed it 59:33. It was signed by the Governor on 6/1/2023. UEN is registered as undecided.

SF 578 Standing Appropriations: makes changes to appropriations that would otherwise stand as previously enacted. The following provisions impact schools:

- Limits the FY 2024 General Fund appropriation to the DE for nonpublic school transportation to \$9.0 million. Requires the appropriation to be prorated if the claims exceed the appropriation.
- Suspends the General Fund FY 2024 standing appropriation of \$14.8 million to DE for the Instructional Support Program. (*Note: the State has contributed no state funding to ISL since 2011, despite the statutory requirement for 25% of the program to be state funded.*)
- Reduces the FY 2024 State school aid funding to AEAs by \$22.1 million. (*Note: There is an additional \$7.5 million statutory cut, so the total is \$29.6 million, which cuts \$5 million deeper than in FY 2023.*)
- Does not mention the \$10 million high-needs schools grant. If this stands, this would be the first time since the 2013 Education Reform Act first created it that this appropriation is funded.

The bill was approved by the Senate 31:16. The House approved it 55:38, and it was signed by the Governor on 6/1/2023. UEN registered opposed to the division cutting the AEAs.