# **ISEA 2025 Legislative Priorities**

*Mission Statement:* Advocate for policies and practices that elevate the profession while placing students at the center of everything we do.



## Supplemental State Aid (SSA): Set

SSA at a minimum of 5% to provide equitable public education for every student regardless of race, disability, identity, socioeconomic status, or zip code. Funding should address achievement gaps and unpredictable enrollment numbers, keep pace with increased expenses, reduce class sizes, and allow for competitive salaries and benefits for all education professionals.



## **Effective Use of Public Dollars:**

Public education is the cornerstone of the republic, providing individuals with the skills to be informed and engaged in our communities. Oppose expansion of private school vouchers and hold administrators and consumers of the Education Savings Account (ESA) program accountable, including implementing reporting and transparency measures.



## Community College Funding:

Adequately fund our community colleges to increase compensation for quality full-time faculty and provide affordable tuition for all students pursuing further education or preparing to join the workforce immediately.



**Preschool Access:** Expand access to preschool for every 4-year-old with a greater statewide focus on the importance of early childhood education, including early literacy.

### **Educator Quality and Respect:**

Maintain highly qualified professionals who reflect the diversity of our students and communities. Incentivize entering the profession and retain seasoned professionals. Increase educator preparation and collaboration time, increase salaries for all educators, remove burdensome mandates that do not benefit students, and protect IPERS.



#### **Student and Educator Mental Health:**

Promote effective working conditions where all educators are trusted, valued, and fairly compensated. Address the mental health needs of students and staff, including adding more evidencebased resources like school counselors, school nurses, behavioral specialists, and social workers. Implement safety protocols for disruption-free learning and a safe school environment.



#### Area Education Agencies (AEA):

Engage with members in partnership with students, parents, and community allies to promote, protect, and strengthen public education and support the AEA system. Ensure further changes are not implemented without input from all stakeholders.

**Child-Directed Play:** Protect and expand child-directed center play and dedicated recess for students, a foundational component of physical health, classroom management, and cognitive development.







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