

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) believes effective public schools require strong community support which involves education professionals, parents, students and elected officials. We build partnerships, promote advocacy and work together to achieve support for our common goals. We believe our legislative goals begin by placing students at the center of everything we do.

Every student, regardless of ZIP code, is entitled to a secure, healthy and robust educational environment so they are able to learn. The ISEA:

- Recognizes poverty is an obstacle for student learning.
- Encourages efforts to create a safe learning environment for all students, which includes the reduction and elimination of bullying in our schools.
- Supports maintaining student to professional ratios of 300 or less for school nurses, school counselors and media specialists/teacher librarians so students are provided quality services.
- Supports expanding access to preschool for all 4 years olds.
- Supports adequate equipment and technology including broadband in all schools.
- Supports efforts to permanently reduce funding inequity due to transportation costs.
- Supports elimination of barriers to consistent school attendance.

All funding should be adequate, equitable and sustainable in order to ensure the quality of Iowa's public schools, meet the needs of Iowa's public school students and improve student learning. The ISEA:

- Supports State Supplemental Aid (SSA) of no less than 3 percent for FY 2019 - FY 2020 and that the setting of the SSA for two years out be reinstated into statute for regular program and categorical funds for teacher quality, professional development, early intervention/class size and teacher leadership.
- Supports resources for the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) system, the Iowa Mentoring and Induction program and professional development funds, and they are used to supplement SSA for public schools and educators, not supplant them.
- Opposes any attempt to use existing program funds; such as the TLC system and the Iowa Mentoring and Induction Program; to supplant instead of supplement SSA. We also oppose unfunded mandates for school districts.
- Opposes private school vouchers, education savings accounts and other privatization schemes that take money away from public schools.
- Supports restoring previous special education budget cuts to the AEAs so essential services and programs may continue.
- Supports funding to address ever increasing mental health needs of students.
- Opposes state or local tax policies that adversely affect public education funding.
- Supports dedicated, long-term resources, beyond the basic funding formula that covers additional services for students living in poverty, including nutrition, health and before or after-school programs.
- Supports adequately funding ELL, at-risk and gifted programs.

Higher education is an integral part of community growth, economic development and job training. The ISEA supports:

- A general fund appropriation for community colleges needs to be adequate to allow all lowans competitive tuition rates and quality instruction.
- Revision of the funding allocation for community colleges so additional local funding is made available from property taxes, sales taxes or income surtax.
- Requiring community colleges to have librarian/media specialists, counselors and health programs to improve and enhance student-learning opportunities.
- Additional resources to adequately provide for adult literacy services and ELL support for adult learners.
- Statutorily requiring community colleges to have annually reviewed campus security plans that are shared with faculty, staff and students.

All education employees are deeply committed to the success of every student and should be adequately compensated for their professional work. The ISEA supports:

- The important role education support professionals play in school buildings. Requiring all school districts to provide a competitive living wage and change the statute to allow support professionals laid off by school districts over the summer to qualify for unemployment benefits.
- Maintaining IPERS as a defined benefit system for current employees and retirees and all future employees.
- Safeguarding the rights of Iowa's public school employees by restoring collective bargaining rights.
- Increasing compensation to attract and retain quality candidates for all public education positions.

The ISEA believes quality education begins by placing students at the center of what we do and keeps education professionals in the discussion. Current education reforms should be allowed to be implemented with fidelity. The ISEA supports:

- Continuing to support all teachers as they work with the TLC system.
- Ensuring education professionals have the resources, support and time they need.
- Providing a well-rounded education that includes access to the arts, music, physical education and career and technical education.
- Increasing funds to schools so students have access to more one-on-one attention in classes of manageable size.
- A student assessment system that is aligned with the Iowa Core, measures student growth and does not unnecessarily detract from student learning time.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) redesign that expands opportunity for students and provide greater voice for educators in building this system.

ISEA Mission:

Our mission is to promote quality public education by placing our students at the center of everything we do while advocating for education professionals.

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