

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2020 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:**

- Supports the implementation of evidence-based practices and staff supports to best serve our students with mental health needs.
- 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 working toward achieving student to professional ratios of 300 or less for school nurses, 250 or less for school counselors and 700 or less for media specialists/teacher librarians so students are provided quality services.
- Supports expanding access to preschool for all 4-year-old children.
- Supports adequate equipment and technology including broadband in all schools.
- 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 2020 - FY 2021 and that the setting of the SSA for two years out be reinstated into statute for regular program.
- Supports efforts to permanently reduce funding inequity due to transportation costs.
- Opposes any attempt to use existing program funds; such as the TLC system and/or Professional Development funds; to supplant instead of supplement SSA.
- Oppose unfunded mandates for school districts and education professionals.
- Opposes private school vouchers, education savings accounts, school tuition organization tax credits and other privatization incentives that take money away from public schools.
- Supports restoring previous special education budget cuts to the AEA's so essential services and programs may continue.
- Supports adequate and sustainable funding to address the 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 cover 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:**

- An adequate general fund appropriation for community colleges that allows 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.
- Investing in full-time faculty and providing competitive compensation to retain and attract quality staff at our community colleges.

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

- Requiring all school districts to provide a competitive living wage for education support professionals.
- Changing 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.
- Providing quality, consistent, evidence-based trainings and supports for all staff in our school buildings, including access to mental health services.

**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:**

- Ensuring education professionals have the resources, support and collaboration time they need to perform their best, including access to mental healthcare.
- Maintaining high teaching standards while working to attract and retain quality educators, particularly those of underrepresented populations, by offering competitive compensation, scholarships and loan forgiveness.
- Increasing funds to schools so students have access to more one-on-one attention in classes of manageable size.
- Providing a well-rounded education that includes access to the arts, music, physical education and career and technical education.

**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.**

For more information contact:

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