

Iowa Legislative Report
88th General Assembly, 2019 Session
Iowa Talented & Gifted Association
Week : February 4th - February 8th, 2019
Mike Heller and Paula Feltner, Lobbyists

All the action pertinent to education was in committee in both chambers this week. Both the House and Senate introduced school funding bills this week, ([SF 171 TRANSPORTATION/PER PUPIL EQUITY](#) and [SF 172 STATE SCHOOL AID](#) in the Senate and [HF 306 STATE SCHOOL AID](#) and [HF 307 TRANSPORTATION/PER PUPIL EQUITY](#) in the House. The bills, identical in each chamber, increase state school aid by an additional **89.3**, with **\$78 million in a 2.06 increase in SSA, \$19 million for transportation equity, about an \$8 million increase** from the previous fiscal year and an **increase of \$2.9 million for the per-pupil formula.**

The increase in SSA was passed on party-lines, with the Democrats preferring a 3% increase for SSA funding. The transportation equity and per-pupil funding increases passed out of committee with a unanimous vote. Legislators are expected to take up the bills on the floor this next week and send the bill to the Governor. Once it is signed, K-12 education will top **3.3 billion dollars per year** according to Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

In other news, the Senate Education Committee: Voted Out **SF 74 SAVE FUND PURPOSES** which extends the SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education) Fund for the school sales tax until 2051. The bill establishes a formula for a new equity transfer percentage to the property tax relief fund and establishes a base transfer supplement equal to the equity transfer for use by the DOE for foundation base supplements. It also establishes a new career academy transfer and formula for transfers for a career academy. The bill also terminates revenue purpose statements as of 2031 and requires schools which do not intend to use a revenue purpose statement after 2023 to have one approved by the voters by July 2018.

Uses for the funds are changed in the bill. It requires an additional public hearing to be held if SAVE funds are used for athletic facilities and allows voters to petition for a vote. It requires a public hearing for revenue bond sales and allows voters to petition for a vote on revenue bond sales. It also allows the use of SAVE funds for school security and safety equipment. The bill also requires the DOE to use a cost-benefit analysis when determining whether to issue a certificate of need for building by a small school. The bill passed out of committee by a vote of 14-1 and will now go on the calendar to await debate. FM: Sinclair

SSB 1034 VOLUNTARY DIVERSITY ENROLLMENT also passed out of Senate Education Committee this week. The bill strikes the use of voluntary diversity plans as a reason to deny open enrollment to a student. PASSED 9-6; FM: Behn

The final bill to pass out of the busy Senate Education Committee was **SSB 1043 SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP TESTS** which requires high schools to offer students opportunities to take the US citizenship test. Requires the DOE to identify alternatives for students with limited English. **PASSED** to the floor 10-3; *FM: Kraayenbrink*

The House and Senate had short days on Thursday, with many members leaving early due to bad weather. They will reconvene again Monday afternoon.