

Date: 6/4/19



Overview

Dear Colleagues,

The General Assembly passed, and Governor Reynolds signed, several important pieces of legislation from the 2019 session that will impact Iowa's schools. The Iowa Department of Education is pleased to provide this summary of legislative changes to help you plan for the year ahead.

I look forward to working with you to implement these new changes, as well as the bold statewide initiatives that are under way. Together, we will build on our successes and address our challenges to ensure all Iowa's students are future ready.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan M. Wise".

Ryan Wise, Ed.L.D.
Director
Iowa Department of Education

Contents

2019 Appropriations Policy Changes	3
HF 758 Education Appropriations	3
General Administration: Division I, Section 5 (1a).....	3
Career and Technical Education Secondary: Division I, Section 5 (6)	3
Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Program: Division I, Section 5 (12).....	3
Statewide Student Assessment: Division I, Section 5 (13)	3
Statewide Clearinghouse to Expand Work-Based Learning: Division I, Section 5 (14)	3
Postsecondary Summer Classes for High School Students: Division I, Section 5 (15)	4
Attendance Center Performance/General Internet Site and Data System Support: Division I, Section 5 (17)	4
Online State Job Posting System: Division I, Section 5 (18).....	4
Successful Progression of Early Readers: Division I, Section 5 (19).....	4
Early Warning System for Literacy: Division I, Section 5 (20)	4
Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC): Division 1, Section 5 (21)	4
Computer Science Professional Development Incentive Fund: Division 1, Section 5 (22)	4
Children’s Mental Health School-Based Training and Support: Division I, Section 5 (23)	5
Best Buddies Iowa: Division I, Section 5 (24)	5
Adult Education and Literacy Programs: Division I, Section 5 (25)	5
Nonpublic School Concurrent Enrollment Payments to Community Colleges: Division I, Section 5 (27)	5
SF 638 Standing Appropriations	5
Nonpublic School Transportation: Division 1, Section 1.....	5
Area Education Agencies: Division 1, Section 3 (13A).....	5
 Additional Education Legislation	6
SF 139 Financial Literacy Requirement	6
SF 159 Practitioner Preparation Program Testing.....	6
SF 394 Offer and Teach Requirements Through Distance Learning.....	6
SF 603 Concurrent Enrollment to Meet Certain Educational Requirements	6
HF 499 Vans and Pickups Transporting Students.....	7
HF 546 Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) Fund.....	7
HF 596 Whole Grade Sharing.....	8
HF 598 Classroom Assignments for Siblings	8
HF 637 School Employee Misconduct Reports.....	8
HF 690 Children’s Behavioral Health System	8

2019 Appropriations Policy Changes

HF 758 Education Appropriations

Each year, the Department of Education (Department) and other state-funded educational agencies and programs are funded in appropriations bills. Many of these programs were funded at the same level as last year and do not include programmatic changes. However, in this legislation, there are also some new programs. The guidance below is intended to highlight the changes in policy, new programs and funding, as well as the appropriations and policies that remain unchanged.

General Administration: Division I, Section 5 (1a)

Appropriates \$5,949,047 to the Department for general administration of the agency. In addition, the Department's general administration funding also included an increase in Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions from 60 to 65. This increase will allow the Department some flexibility to better align staff to funding sources and work responsibilities, as well as the possibility of adding some positions to support key state initiatives.

Career and Technical Education Secondary: Division I, Section 5 (6)

Appropriates an additional \$322,325 for secondary career and technical education. The entire \$2,952,459 will be distributed to the 15 Regional Planning Partnerships to be spent on allowable uses specified in statute pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 258. The partnership will determine how to allocate these funds between the allowable uses and include this information in the partnership's multi-year plan. The multi-year plan is voted on by the full membership, which includes a representative of each school district in the partnership's region.

Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Program: Division I, Section 5 (12)

Appropriates \$2.9 million to support the following programs: National Board Certification, Career Development, Teacher Development Academies, Iowa's Teacher of the Year Program, Teacher Leadership Technical Assistance, and the Fine Arts Mentoring Program.

Statewide Student Assessment: Division I, Section 5 (13)

Appropriates \$2.7 million for school districts and \$300,000 for accredited nonpublic schools to reduce the cost associated with the Iowa Statewide Assessment for Student Progress (ISASP). The appropriation will be distributed by the Department to Iowa Testing Programs on behalf of school districts and accredited nonpublic schools. School districts and accredited nonpublic schools will pay any remaining cost for the state assessment.

Statewide Clearinghouse to Expand Work-Based Learning: Division I, Section 5 (14)

Appropriates \$300,000 for support costs associated with the creation of the Iowa Clearinghouse for Work-Based Learning as part of the Future Ready Iowa Initiative. The Clearinghouse, which launches July 1, will invite employers to post projects online for K-12 schools to select to provide more students with authentic, professional learning experiences and will include an inventory of other existing work-based learning opportunities.

Postsecondary Summer Classes for High School Students: Division I, Section 5 (15)

Appropriates \$600,000, as part of the Future Ready Iowa Initiative, for resident high school students to attend a community college for college-level classes or attend a class taught by a community college-employed instructor during the summer through a contractual agreement between the community college and the school district. The Department has posted guidance, which includes an overview of the summer college credit program, on the Department's Senior Year Plus [webpage](#).

Attendance Center Performance/General Internet Site and Data System Support: Division I, Section 5 (17)

Appropriates \$250,000 for the continued development and implementation of the Attendance Center Performance Rankings system, which is now referred to as the Iowa School Performance Profiles.

Online State Job Posting System: Division I, Section 5 (18)

Appropriates \$230,000 to the Department for the administration of the [TeachIowa.gov](#) online job posting system. The Department, as well as public school districts, charter schools, and AEAs, are required to post all job openings on the system. Accredited nonpublic schools may participate at no charge.

Successful Progression of Early Readers: Division I, Section 5 (19)

Continues the appropriation of \$7,824,782 to the Department for distribution to school districts to provide intensive instructional services for the Successful Progression of Early Readers program.

Early Warning System for Literacy: Division I, Section 5 (20)

Appropriates \$1,915,000 for the Department to administer and distribute to school districts and accredited nonpublic schools an early warning assessment system that allows teachers to screen and monitor student literacy skills from prekindergarten through sixth grade. The Department is also permitted to charge school districts and accredited nonpublic schools a fee for the system, which is determined by dividing the remaining costs to purchase the statewide license for the school year by the number of students assessed under the system in the current fiscal year.

Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC): Division 1, Section 5 (21)

Appropriates \$1,300,176, which remains the same as last year's appropriation. The funding will be used for carrying out the IRRC's seven priorities in the areas of evidence-based literacy interventions, reading assessment, and intensive summer reading programs. The funding will also support collaborating with the area education agencies and providing ongoing professional development to improve teachers' knowledge of and ability to implement effective literacy practices.

Computer Science Professional Development Incentive Fund: Division 1, Section 5 (22)

Appropriates \$500,000 for the Computer Science Professional Development Incentive Fund. School districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and AEAs can apply to the Department for funds to provide teachers professional development in computer science or to provide tuition reimbursement for teachers seeking an endorsement in computer science. The Department's guidance and application are posted on [educateiowa.gov](#). The completed applications have been received and the awards will be announced this summer. Funds will be available after July 1.

Children’s Mental Health School-Based Training and Support: Division I, Section 5 (23)

Appropriates \$2.1 million for the establishment of school-based children’s mental health support, including mental health awareness training for educators. This includes \$1.2 million to the area education agencies to provide mental health awareness training for educators and schools; \$750,000 to identify a range of approaches to best meet the mental health needs of students and to strengthen community support for students; and \$150,000 to create a clearinghouse of mental health resources for use by schools and community providers.

Best Buddies Iowa: Division I, Section 5 (24)

Appropriates \$25,000 to create opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Adult Education and Literacy Programs: Division I, Section 5 (25)

Appropriates \$500,000 to be distributed as grants to community colleges for the purpose of adult basic education programs for students requiring instruction in English as a second language.

Nonpublic School Concurrent Enrollment Payments to Community Colleges: Division I, Section 5 (27)

Appropriates \$1 million to the Department for payments to community colleges to decrease the amount billed to accredited nonpublic schools. [SF 603](#) expands the definition of concurrent enrollment to include academic, career, and technical courses offered to students enrolled in an accredited nonpublic school under a contract with a community college. Students enrolled under a concurrent enrollment agreement will be counted as if the student were assigned a weighting. Using the state cost per pupil, the Department will calculate the amounts equivalent to the amount of supplementary weighting funds a school district would receive for concurrent enrollment weightings and pay to the community colleges. The community colleges are directed to decrease the amount billed to the accredited nonpublic schools under their concurrent enrollment contract by the amount calculated.

[SF 638](#) Standing Appropriations

The Department of Education and other state-funded education agencies have certain programs that receive, by law, ongoing funding. In other words, funding for those programs continues from fiscal year to fiscal year unless the General Assembly enacts funding changes. The standings appropriations bill, which is considered annually by the General Assembly, is where changes to those standing appropriations are made.

In addition to changes to standing appropriations, it is not uncommon for the General Assembly to make non-appropriation changes to statutory policies, programs, and corrections to previously-enacted legislation.

Nonpublic School Transportation: Division 1, Section 1

Appropriates \$8,197,091 for payment of claims for nonpublic school transportation. If the total approved claims exceed the amount appropriated, the Department will prorate the amount for each claim.

Area Education Agencies: Division 1, Section 3 (13A)

Reduces the state aid for AEAs by \$15 million and prorates the reduction based on the reduction that each agency received in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003.

Additional Education Legislation

The sections below cover additional legislation impacting PK-12 education.

SF 139 Financial Literacy Requirements

Requires high school students enrolled in school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to take a one-half unit course in personal finance literacy, as a condition of graduation, commencing with students in the 2020-2021 school year graduating class. The Department provided guidance on the course requirements, which can be found on the Department's [Financial Literacy webpage](#).

SF 159 Practitioner Preparation Program Testing

Authorizes the Department to set the minimum passing score for completing a teacher preparation program in order to receive an initial teaching license. When establishing a minimum score, the Department will take into consideration scores required of similar tests in contiguous states as well as the supply and demand imbalance of content areas or teaching positions currently experienced in Iowa. Scores have been adjusted based on these considerations. The updated scores, which will take effect on July 1, 2019, have been sent to all teacher preparation programs and the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE). The scores will soon be published on the Department's website.

Requires the Department to provide a waiver for candidates who have completed all other program completion requirements except for passing the required assessment(s). The BOEE will manage the process used to request/obtain a one-year temporary license.

SF 394 Offer and Teach Requirements Through Distance Learning

Allows school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to offer distance learning courses to meet the state's educational program "offer and teach" course requirements at the high school level by utilizing Iowa Learning Online (ILO) through the Department, or by offering a course through an online platform, if the course is developed by the school district or by offering such a course through a private provider that meets standards approved by the Department.

SF 603 Concurrent Enrollment to Meet Certain Educational Requirements

Increases the arts and sciences weighting from .46 to .50, applicable to funds to be received by school districts in budget years beginning July 1, 2019, or after.

Establishes a definition of full-time and part-time enrollment in statute, which allows a student to enroll through the school district in concurrent enrollment or Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) courses above the 23-credit hour maximum at any one eligible postsecondary institution. The cost of such full-time enrollment (i.e., enrollment above the 23-credit hour cap will be the responsibility of the student, or parent or legal guardian).

Authorizes a school district to use contracted community college courses to meet offer-and-teach requirements for up to one unit of math or one unit of science. Districts with enrollment of 600 students or less may generate supplementary weighting for those units if each of four criteria specified in statute are met. The provisions related to contracting for offer-and-teach math or science courses for districts with enrollment over 600, which generate no supplementary weighting, is retroactively applicable to academic year 2018-19.

Applies the contracting and funding provisions outlined under paragraph 3 above to certain accredited nonpublic schools with 9-12 total enrollment of 200 students or less for purposes of generating funding.

Similar school districts with enrollment over 600, and nonpublic schools with 9-12 total enrollment over 200, generate no funding.

Authorizes direct contracting for community college coursework under concurrent enrollment between accredited nonpublic schools and community colleges rather than limiting access to enrollment through a public school district. Subject to an appropriation for this purpose by the legislature, eligible enrollments generate an amount equivalent to the concurrent enrollment supplementary weighting to a school district. The funding is paid to the community college, which will reduce the amount billed to the contracting nonpublic school reduced by the amount generated.

Requires that community college instructors who provide instruction to high school students through concurrent enrollment are subject to the same sexual exploitation laws as other school employees.

The Department will provide additional guidance.

HF 499 Vans and Pickups Transporting Students

Allows new or used vans and pickups designed to carry 10 or fewer persons, including the driver, and used vans of 12 passengers or less, including the driver, to be used for student transportation. All of which can be used as school buses for school routes and for activity trips, which would include sporting events and field trips. If the vehicles are being used as a school bus, the driver would have to meet all qualifications, licensing, and instruction requirements, the same as any other school bus driver. None of the vehicles should transport more passengers than there are safety belts or safety harnesses found in the vehicle as installed by the manufacturer.

The Department will provide additional guidance.

HF 546 Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) Fund

Extends the SAVE state penny sales tax for school infrastructure through January 1, 2051, and increases the property tax relief to 30 percent if certain conditions are met.

- 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 2019.
- Requires public hearing for revenue bond sales and allows voters to petition for a vote on revenue bond sales.
- Creates a Career Academy Fund, which allows a separate and distinct fund to be created where funds are allocated as competitive grants to establish career academies, with preference going to new academies organized within a regional center framework pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 258. The maximum grant award is \$1 million. The second priority goes to supporting existing academies. The fund will have \$1 million total available in 2019.
- Requires that an athletic facility infrastructure project, defined as a building or structure that is not physically attached to a student attendance center, will not be authorized until each attendance center within the school district is equipped with secured entrance and exit door systems. It also requires districts to have a public hearing prior to the use of SAVE funds for athletic facilities, which allows voters the opportunity to petition for a vote if SAVE funds are slated to be used for athletic facilities. In addition, it allows the use of SAVE funds for school security and safety equipment.

HF 596 Whole Grade Sharing

Extends whole grade sharing supplementary weighting and school district reorganization incentives, such as a reduced uniform levy, for districts that reorganize on or before July 1, 2024.

HF 598 Classroom Assignments for Siblings

Allows parents to request that siblings, who are deemed to be at the same grade level, be placed in the same classroom for kindergarten through grade five at the start of the registration period, or within 14 days of the start of attendance for later-enrolled students. It requires the school to defer to the parent, unless the principal determines that the placement is disruptive. It allows a parent to appeal to their local school board if they disagree with the principal's decision.

HF 637 School Employee Misconduct Reports

Requires that information reportable to the BOEE on the misconduct of school employees be reported within 30 days.

HF 690 Children's Behavioral Health System

Establishes a children's behavioral health system, identifies what qualifies a child or adolescent for services, and establishes required core behavioral health services. The bill codifies a children's behavioral health system state board with specific state agency and community stakeholder representatives.

The goal is for the children's behavioral health system to work in tandem with the current structure for the Adult Mental Health Regions System, and each Region is to submit a services implementation plan by April 1, 2020. Regional administrators and coordinators are to encourage and facilitate coordination of children's behavioral health services with the objective of developing and maintaining a children's behavioral health system to provide behavioral health services to all children in the state who need the services, regardless of the place of residence or economic circumstances of those children. Families will be able to access a single, statewide 24-hour Crisis Hotline for information.