

EDUCATION

IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

END OF SESSION, 2010

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Requires school districts to spend down their cash reserve funds before coming to the School Budget Review Committee to levy for modified allowable growth which could increase property taxes.

HF 2030 – signed by Governor; effective 1/20/10

TRAINING OF SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGERS

Directs school business managers, hired on or after July 1, 2010, to complete a training program related to the financial operations of a school district. Upon successful completion of the program, they will be issued a school business official authorization by the Board of Educational Examiners. The Department of Education is to convene an advisory committee to determine the standards, procedures, content, and processes of training programs and issue a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2010. Individuals employed as a school business manager as of July 1, 2012, who meets the requirements of the board, other than the training requirements, will be issued an initial authorization by the board, but are required to take continuing education courses.

HF 2461 – signed by Governor; effective 7/1/10

ALLOWABLE GROWTH

This bill delays setting the state percent of growth of the state foundation aid to schools for one year until 2011. This means that in 2011, the Legislature will be required to set allowable growth for two years – the 2011-2012 (FY 2012) school year and the 2012-2013 (FY 2013) school year.

SF 2045 – signed by Governor; effective 1/20/10

CATEGORICAL GROWTH

This bill delays setting the categorical state percent of growth by the Legislature for one year until 2011. Delaying this by one year means that the Legislature will be required to set the categorical state percent of growth for two years – the 2011-2012 school year and the 2012-2013 school year in the 2001 legislative session.

SF 2046 – signed by Governor; effective 1/20/10

STUDY TO RECRUIT MINORITY TEACHERS

Requires the Department of Education, Area Education Agencies (AEAs), and public and private colleges and universities to conduct a study of the opportunities for the recruitment of and retention of racial and ethnic minority teachers.

The study is to include:

1. Examining strategies to encourage racial and ethnic minority high school students to enter the teaching profession,
2. Examining how to recruit racial and ethnic minority students interested in post-secondary teacher prep programs into attending an Iowa college or university,
3. Examining strategies to recruit racial and ethnic minority teachers to continue their careers as school administrators in Iowa.

A report is due to the General Assembly by January 10, 2011.

**STUDY OF AREA
EDUCATION AGENCIES**

Requires the Department of Education to convene a task force to conduct a study of the current system of area education agencies. Membership of the task force is education stakeholders and consumers. A report is due to the General Assembly by December 15, 2010.

HF 2295 - to Governor; effective July 1, 2010

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

- HF 2531 Directs the Board of Regents to conduct a study of possible changes to the residential services on the Braille and Sight Saving School campus and make recommendations. (to Governor; effective July 1, 2010)
- HF 2531 Caps the FY 2011 state foundation aid to K-12 schools at \$2.494 billion. Local districts retain spending authority. (to Governor; effective July 1, 2010)
- HF 2531 Appropriates \$7.5 million for Instructional Support for FY 2011. (to Governor; effective July 1, 2011)
- HF 2531 An additional \$4 million in new funding is appropriated to the four-year old preschool program bringing the total general fund dollars to this program for FY 2011 to \$16. 2 million. The Education Budget, SF 2376, appropriated new money of \$12.2 million for FY 2011 to the program. (to Governor; effective July 1, 2011)
- SF 2033 This bill changed Iowa Code, where necessary, in order to allow Iowa to apply for federal Race to the Top funds as well as have a mechanism in place to turn around the persistently lowest achieving schools in order to receive federal School Improvement Grants. (Signed by Governor; effective July 1, 2010)
- SF 2376 Clarifies that Teacher Salary Supplement (TSS), Professional Development (PD), and Early will not be subject to an across the board (ATB) cut. (to Governor; effective upon signing by the Governor)
- SF 2376 Requires the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) to follow the requirements of the open meetings and open records laws. Also, requires IASB to post certain information on its internet site. (to Governor; July 1, 2010)