

## Legislative Update and Advocacy

### Background

In a statement of philosophy, the National School Board Association (NSBA) outlines four key roles for school board members that can ensure both excellence and equity in public schools. Those four key roles are as follows:

- ☆ **VISION** — setting the vision for education in the local community;
- ☆ **STRUCTURE** — establishing the structure and environment to implement the vision;
- ☆ **ACCOUNTABILITY** — establishing academic standards to achieve the vision, assessing performance progress toward achieving the vision, and formulating strategies to help marginal or failing students; and
- ☆ **ADVOCACY** — being the preeminent advocate for the public schools and their students.

One means for school board members to advocate for public schools is through regular contact and influence with our state legislators.

### Legislative Priorities

Our legislative priorities as a school board include the following:

- Funding and support for mental health services in Iowa schools and across the state.

(IASB Resolution 7) Supports efforts to establish comprehensive community mental health systems to offer preventative and treatment services and comprehensive school mental health programs that include in-school access for students to mental health professionals and provisions for reimbursement by Medicaid and private insurers.

- Fund all schools on the same per-pupil amount.

Area Per-pupil Amounts are as Follows:

- \$7,367 CAL – Latimer
- \$7,315 Eagle Grove
- \$7,253 West Fork
- \$7,232 Clarion-G-D
- \$7,227 Garner-Hayfield-Ventura
- \$7,227 West Hancock
- **\$7,227 Belmond-Klemme**

- Defeat vouchers
- Remove the arbitrary cap on Dropout/At-risk funds. Other school districts get 5% of their per-pupil budgets to spend on dropout prevention. Belmond-Klemme was arbitrarily capped at 4%.

## Legislative Report

The Iowa Legislature convened on Monday, January 9, 2023.

Governor Reynolds addressed the Legislature on Tuesday, January 10. She made it clear that her number one priority is funding Iowa's private schools at the expense of the public schools.

Toward that end, she proposed the following funding:

**\$83 million increase**

**School Aid (2.5% increase)**

**\$106 million**

**Education Savings Accounts (vouchers)**

## Contacting Legislators

The table below shows our two state legislators and their contact information.



**Representative Mark Thompson**  
**Iowa House District 56**

### Capitol Contact Information

Legislative Email:

mark.thompson@legis.iowa.gov

Capitol Phone:

515.281.3221

Cell Phone:

Capitol Address:

State Representative, State Capitol  
Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319

### Home Contact Information

Home Email:

Home Phone:

Home Address:



**Senator Dennis Guth**  
**Iowa Senate District 4**

### Capitol Contact Information

Legislative Email:

dennis.guth@legis.iowa.gov

Capitol Phone:

515.281.3371

Cell Phone:

641.430.0424

Capitol Address:

State Senator, State Capitol Building, Des  
Moines, Iowa 50319

### Home Contact Information

Home Email:

Home Phone:

Home Address:

1770 Taft Ave, Klemme, IA 50449

## IASB's Annual 2023 Day on the Hill

**When:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
**Where:** Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden & Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines

This Valentine's Day we invite you to join us at the Capitol to advocate your hearts out for student success. Students are at the forefront of everything you do as school board members—so let's make our voices heard loud and proud for legislation and policies that can lead to improved student achievement—and ultimately student success for ALL students in Iowa.

*NEW THIS YEAR!* We are offering an optional 30-minute pre-conference session for new-to-intermediate advocates. When you're registering for Day on the Hill, simply select the session if you'd like to attend. All other conference sessions are included in your Day on the Hill registration.

**Fee:** Early registration is \$75 for members.

**Recommended Action:**

Thelma and I ask for the names of whom we should register for the event.