

## IASB's Virtual Lobby Days 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we do just about everything, including how we personally interact with legislators. This means our annual Day on the Hill will also look different. Starting in January, IASB will host four issue-based webinars around our priority issues. Please check The Learning Hub to register for those.

### **WHAT IS A VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY?**

A virtual lobby day is when school board members and administrators from across the state come together to reach out to their legislators on a specific topic. The goal is to create the same kind of impression we do when we go to the Capitol as part of our Day on the Hill. Like the webinars, there will be a virtual lobby day for each of the IASB priorities. On the designated day, you will be asked to reach out to your legislators via phone or email to communicate with them on a priority issue.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL STATE AID (SSA) & SCHOOL FUNDING POLICY**

**When:** January 21, 2021

**How:** Email your legislators using our Legislator Look-Up. Please note that this tool is not yet updated for new legislators so we are providing maps to help you identify new legislators. See the maps below for new legislators and a list of their emails that you can use until they are given their official legislative email address.

**What You Can Do:** Contact the legislators who represent your school district. Ask them to set SSA within the 30 days outlined in law and for the highest amount possible. The legislature should continue its investment in transportation equity and continue the progress made last year by again decreasing the district cost per pupil gap by \$10 per student. Districts are facing big financial pressures, so it is imperative the legislature fund schools at a rate that allows them to provide high-quality programming and have resources to cover additional expenditures incurred because of the pandemic.

### **Make your case by explaining what financial pressures you are seeing, including:**

- How did the school closures last spring impact student achievement?
- How has your budget has been impacted by the pandemic?
- Talk about the additional expenses your districts incurred to make your schools safe for in-person instruction.
- Explain how a decline in enrollment will have significant impacts on future budgets.
- What have you used relief funds for?
- What does your district need to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students?

### **VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY DATES**

- Jan. 21: Supplemental State Aid (SSA) & School Funding Policy
- Feb. 4: COVID-19 Remediation for Student Achievement
- Feb. 11: Mental Health
- Feb. 18: Preschool