

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.

To follow the Iowa Legislature is to believe that the single most important issue in our state is how many books need to be banned from our public.

I will have a report on Thursday with the latest news from the State Legislature.

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:

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Capitol Phone:

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Senator Dennis Guth
Iowa Senate District 4

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