



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR THE 2023 SESSION

The House and Senate concluded work of the 2023 Session, adjourning just after noon on Thursday, May 4, 2023.

Bills Passed in the Iowa Legislature:

HF 602 Suicide Hotline on ID Cards – On Thursday, June 1, Governor Reynolds signed the remaining bills relating to education. HF 602 pertains to suicide hotline numbers on student ID cards. Schools can use their current stock if they want, before making the change.

HF 604 – Student Discipline/Teachers’ rights bill

- Professional development plans need to be posted and aligned with Iowa Code.
- Districts need to review or develop policies related to student behavior that comply with the new language.
- Districts need to include a copy of IC 280.21 in new and renewed contracts.
- *Some actions may be required by districts, including a review of behavior policies and consequences.*
- DE should be sending guidance to districts.

HF 718 Property Tax Compromise

- Changes budget certification for schools from April 15 to April 30.
- Changes budget appeal deadline from April 25 to May 10.
- Prohibits any new Public Education and Recreation Levy (PERL) votes but does not impact those currently in place.
- Creates a Taxpayer Statement that must be mailed to taxpayers and requires a public hearing on that notice. Schools must submit the information to Department of Management (DOM) by March 15.
- An additional public hearing must be held prior to adoption of the school district budget (follow normal publication 10 to 20 day window).

SF 192 – 3% SSA

- Increases the State cost per pupil by 3%. Also increases categoricals by 3%.
- 2nd highest in 12 years, *BUT below the rate of inflation.*

SF 482 Use of Bathroom by Gender

- Requires use of bathroom, locker room, etc. corresponding to biological sex. This includes adults, as well as students.
- Raises questions about male coaches in locker rooms with girls' teams (or vice versa) (pre/post game, halftime).

SF 496 Transparency and Parents' Rights – Governor's transparency omnibus

- Library and classroom books, gender identity and sex-ed curriculum, surveys and parent permission, library program and postings.
- **Significant actions will be required by districts.**
- DE has stated that they will be sending guidance to districts, and we will follow up once that occurs.

SF 578 Standing Appropriations:

- Suspends the General Fund FY24 standing appropriation of \$14.8 million to DE for the Instructional Support Program. (The State has contributed no state funding to ISL since 2011.)
- **Included a large budget cut of \$30,000,000 to the AEAs.**

Dead Bills (that could return next year)

The 2023 Session was the first Session of the Biennium, so all bills introduced this Sessions will start the 2024 Session eligible for consideration. Here are some worthy of mention:

- SF 246 Dropout Prevention Equity;
- SF 251 Administration Expenditure Limitation;
- SF 543 Guns on School Grounds.