

## 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

- 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:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$6,880 Belmond-Klemme</li> <li>▪ \$6,888 West Hancock</li> <li>▪ \$6,897 Garner-Hayfield-Ventura</li> <li>▪ \$6,905 Clarion-G-D</li> <li>▪ \$6,926 West Fork</li> <li>▪ \$6,988 Eagle Grove</li> <li>▪ \$7,040 CAL</li> </ul>

- 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

Regarding our priority to defeat vouchers, the bill was passed in the Senate; therefore, it remains alive through until the end of this session.

Regarding our priority to remove the arbitrary cap on Dropout/At-risk funds, Senator Guth and others in the Iowa Senate have managed to kill the bill again this year. Consequently, Belmond-Klemme will continue to receive less financial support for our at-risk students than most other schools in the state.

I will have an oral report on more recent legislative action the night of the meeting.

### Contacting Legislators

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



**Representative Terry C. Baxter**  
Iowa House District 8

#### Capitol Contact Information

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**Senator Dennis Guth**  
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