

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.

<p>Area Per-pupil Amounts are as Follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$7,372 Lu Verne ▪ \$7,367 CAL ▪ \$7,315 Eagle Grove ▪ \$7,253 West Fork ▪ \$7,232 Clarion-Goldfield-Dows ▪ \$7,227 <i>Belmond-Klemme</i>

- 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

When the Iowa Senate convened on Monday, January 10, 2022, the President of the Senate, Jake Chapman, denounced the “sinister agenda” Iowa educators have to normalize deviant behavior against children.

“The attack on our children is no longer hidden,” he said. “Those who wish to normalize sexually deviant behavior against our children, including pedophilia and incest, are pushing this movement more than ever before.”

Chapman has earlier called for jailing educators who provide what he considers obscene material to children, and he supports banning some books from schools.

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

Legislative Email:
terry.baxter@legis.iowa.gov
Capitol Phone:
515.281.3221
Cell Phone:
641.210.9656
Capitol Address:
State Representative, State Capitol
Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Home Contact Information

Home Email:
terry.flyagain@gmail.com
Home Phone:
641.829.3580
Home Address:
2395 290th St, Garner, IA 50438



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 2022 Day on the Hill

When: Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Where: Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden & Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines

Join IASB and school board members from across the state for a day of active advocacy. After the 2021 virtual lobby days, it's more important than ever to be in person, in front of your legislators under the golden dome, as a unified voice for public education.

Day on the Hill participants will spend the morning learning about issues, brushing up on advocacy skills, and preparing to deliver a consistent message about the 2022 legislative priorities.

Advocacy experience is not required! Are you a novice advocate? New to the board and not sure you're ready to lobby? We've got you covered. Our government relations team leads a thorough preparation and training during the morning program. Then, armed with key talking points and handouts, you'll head to the Capitol—and you won't be alone! Experienced advocates, district leaders, and IASB staff will be by your side to share strategies and answer questions throughout the day.

SESSIONS

- State of the Budget
Shawn Snyder, Associate Executive Director, Government Relations & School Finance, IASB
- What to Expect from the 2022 Session
Emily Piper, Lobbyist, IASB
- Addressing the Issues: Legislative Proposals on Dropout Prevention Funding and Teacher Recruitment
Emily Piper, Lobbyist and Phil Jeneary, Government Relations Director, IASB
- Legislator Panel
Rep. Chad Ingels and Sen. Chris Cournoyer (invited)
- Remarks by Governor Reynolds (invited)
Gov. Kim Reynolds

Fee: Early registration is \$45 for members. After Jan. 20, the fee increases to \$75. The registration fee is underwritten thanks to the financial support of our generous sponsors: PMA Financial Network, Forecast5 Analytics, Estes Construction/Iowa Construction Advocate Team (ICAT), and RBC Global Asset Management.

Recommended Action:

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