

UEN Legislative Update January 16, 2025

This UEN Weekly Report from the 2025 Legislative Session includes:

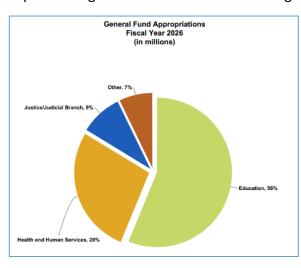
- Governor's Condition of the State/Budget Recommendations
- Governor's Policy Recommendations
- A Note About Property Taxes
- Advocacy Actions for the Week
- Advocacy Resources
- Bill Tracker Detailing Actions on Committees, Subcommittees & New Bills for the Week

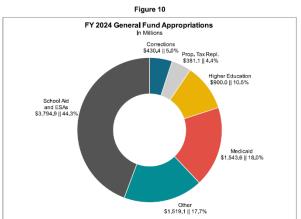
Governor's Condition of State/Budget Recommendations:

Background: FY 2025 Information: Last year's state appropriations were well below the 99% expenditure limitation, with <u>LSA's State Budget Preview</u>, Dec. 19, 2024, estimating an FY 2025 ending balance (surplus) of \$2.2 Billion and Taxpayer Relief Fund Balance of \$3.9 Billion.

Condition of the State Speech: In case you missed it, Governor Kim Reynolds delivered the 2025 Condition of the State Address on Jan. 14, 2025, and the Governor's prepared remarks for delivery, or you can learn more about Governor Reynolds' priorities for the 2025 legislative session.

The LSA's Analysis of the Governor's Budget Recommendation shows the relative share of education in this pie chart (right), which includes school aid and ESAs together at 44.3% of the state general fund budget recommendation and separates high education into its own category.





The ESA recommended appropriation is \$314.6 million, or 3% of total FY 2026 General Fund Budget.

By contrast, the DOM analysis pie chart (left) from the <u>Vision for Iowa State Budget</u>, FY 2026 document, shows all education together at 57%.

Education Appropriations: The Governor recommends a 2.0% increase in State Supplemental Assistance, SSA, which sets the state cost per pupil at \$7,983, which is an increase of \$153 per pupil. That per pupil cost becomes the basis for the application of weightings, such as special education and English Learner. The 2% SSA rate is typically applied to per pupil categorical costs as well, TLC, PD, EICS, and Transportation. This year in particular, many districts will need more than a 2% increase in their district's per pupil Teacher Salary Supplement (TSS) to be able to pay for the additional increase in mandated minimum teacher pay for beginning teachers at \$50,000 and teachers with 12 or more years of experience at \$62,000. The LSA description of the recommendation states that it includes the AEA reduction of \$32.5 million and the PTRP payment, which offsets what would otherwise be property tax increases associated with the higher state cost per pupil. Reminder: this is just the start. There are no proposals yet from the House or Senate, which have to get the ball rolling legislatively through the subcommittee and committee process. Stay tuned.

The Governor's recommendation also includes the following;

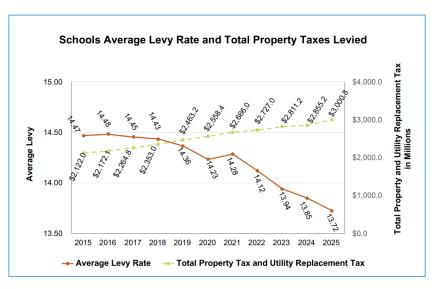
- Educational Savings Accounts: an appropriation of \$314.6 million for ESAs in FY 2026. This is an increase of \$96.6 million (44.3%) (for 2% SSA + growth in number of ESAs).
- Charter Schools: an appropriation of \$19.7 million for Charter Schools in FY 2026. This is an increase of \$14.5 million (278.29%) (for 2% SSA + growth in number of charter school pupils).
- Education Support Personnel: continues appropriation of \$14 million for hourly staff pay.
- Transportation Equity Fund: 2% increase (\$621,971)

Governor's Policy Recommendations:

- Grants for PK/childcare partnerships, funded in part by some repurposing of Shared Visions Grants, with higher standards for preschools.
- Parent Choice for PK (plans to use School Tuition Organization tax credits for providers who apply, but they must meet SVPP Standards)
- Math PD and support (still continuing to support literacy)
- Cell Phone Policy set floor as board policy for no cell phone use by students during instructional time.
- IPERS: hire back retiring teachers as a beginning teacher salary level (\$50K minimum)
- Civic: High School students must pass immigration and naturalization test for citizenship in order to graduate.
- Reinstate "Teach Iowa" job postings/hiring support website
- Create a risk pool to pay for out-of-state student placements
- Create a DOGE task force to find efficiencies and cost savings for state and local governments.

A Note about Property Taxes:

There has been consistent mention of lowering property taxes as a priority for this session, likely a bipartisan effort if history repeats. There are no proposals introduced yet, and the Governor has not mentioned specific policies on property taxes. However, this chart was in the DOM's Vision for lowa budget document, page 13. ISFIS calculated the increase in school property taxes collected since 2015 as \$878.8 million, or 41.4%.



It is important to remind legislators that low SSA forces school districts to turn to property taxes to fund special education deficits and budget guarantee.

Advocacy Actions This Week:

Adequate School Funding: Contact legislators regarding SSA. The Governor's recommendation of 2.0% falls short of inflation. The teacher salary investment last year was a really good start, but SSA has to keep pace or our staff and programs for students will be compromised. See the UEN Issue Brief for additional information. The deadline for deciding SSA is Feb. 13, so the advocacy window is tightening. No bills sponsored by Republicans have yet been introduced to set the SSA rate. Additional Supports:

- Download the <u>UEN 2025 Adequate School Funding Issue Brief</u>, providing education funding history, comparing total Iowa education expenditures per pupil, which most recently ranked our state as 35th in the nation, now spending more than \$2,000 per student LESS than the national average, and including some talking points to help you advocate with your legislators. *UEN's Legislative Priority supports an SSA rate that at least matches the inflation rate schools are experiencing*.
- <u>ISFIS New Authority Calculator</u> allows users to set the SSA rate and calculate the impact for all districts for FY 2026 on your regular program (not including special education or other supplemental weightings or categoricals). Enter the SSA percentage increase and your Budget Enrollment and you can compare to the new money you'd receive if the SSA rate matched inflation (either 2.9% for CPI and 3.2% for Core Inflation) compared to the Governor's Recommendation of 2.0%.

Quality Preschool and Other UEN Priorities: in every communication, find a way to mention Quality Preschool and Teacher and other Staff Shortages. Find Issue Briefs and other resources on the <u>UEN Website</u> to find talking points or as resources to share when you meet with policymakers.

Connecting with Legislators: To call and leave a message at the Statehouse during the legislative session, the House switchboard operator number is 515.281.3221 and the Senate switchboard operator number is 515.281.3371. You can ask if they are available or leave a message for them to call you back. You can also ask them what's the best way to contact them during session. They may prefer email or text message or phone call based on their personal preferences.

Find out who your legislators are through the interactive map or address search posted on the Legislative Website here: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find

UEN Advocacy Resources:

Check out the UEN Website at www.uen-ia.org to find Issue Briefs, these UEN Weekly Update Reports and Videos, UEN Calls to Action when immediate advocacy action is required, testimony presented to the State Board of Education, the DE or any legislative committee or public hearing, and links to fiscal information that may inform your work. The latest legislative actions from the Statehouse will be posted at: www.uen-ia.org/blogs-list. The 2025 UEN Advocacy Handbook will be available and posted shortly.

Bill Action This Week

Check out the following pages for all the details.

Contact Us

Stay tuned for a thorough explanation of Statehouse actions this week.

Margaret Buckton
UEN Executive Director
margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com
515.201.3755 Cell

Thanks to our 2024-25 UEN Corporate Sponsors:

Special thank you to your UEN Corporate Sponsors for their support of UEN programs and services. Find information about how these organizations may help your district on the Corporate Sponsor page of the UEN website at www.uen-ia.org/uen-sponsors.



www.solutiontree.com/st-states/iowa

| Bill | <u> </u> | | |
|--------|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Number | | UEN Declaration | Status |
| SF60 | Senate File 60 amends the existing framework for calculating foundation aid for lowa school districts. It establishes a minimum foundation aid of \$300 per pupil unless the total aid exceeds the combined district cost per pupil. The bill also requires adjustments to the foundation property tax rate if the total aid and property tax exceed the combined foundation base. Applies to budget years starting on or after July 1, 2026. | Undecided | Senate Education Committee |
| SF61 | Senate File 61 focuses on enhancing robotics extracurricular activities in lowa schools. It requires the DE to provide technical assistance and educational resources to school districts for chartering career and technical student organizations related to robotics. Additionally, the bill authorizes high school athletic organizations to sponsor interscholastic contests and competitions in robotics, thereby promoting student engagement in this advanced technology field. The legislation aims to align with federal educational standards and support the growth of robotics programs in schools. | Support | Senate Education Committee |
| SF58 | The Free School Meals Expansion Act requires school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools in lowa to provide free breakfast and lunch to students whose families meet specified income thresholds. For the fiscal year 2025-2026, meals will be free for families earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level, increasing to 400% in the following year. Starting in 2027, all students will receive free meals regardless of family income. The bill includes appropriations from the state general fund to cover costs not funded by federal programs. The state board of education is tasked with adopting rules to implement these provisions. The act takes effect immediately upon enactment. | Support | Senate Education Committee |
| SF64 | Senate File 64 amends the budget adjustment process for school districts in lowa that have been affected by natural disasters. It allows these districts to receive an additional budget adjustment equal to the amount they received in the base year if a major disaster has been declared by the president or the governor during the base year or the year preceding it. This aims to support schools in recovering from the financial impacts of natural disasters and ensure they can continue to provide education effectively. The bill is designed to help stabilize funding for affected districts in challenging times. | Support | Senate Education Committee |
| HF68 | House File 68 requires every school district in lowa to adopt a policy that defines 'insufficient classroom space' to include standards related to the capacity to provide instruction to English learners. The bill aims to ensure that the needs of students with language backgrounds other than English are considered in open enrollment decisions. Currently, school districts must approve open enrollment applications unless they can demonstrate insufficient classroom space. This legislation seeks to enhance educational opportunities for English learners by addressing their specific instructional needs within the open enrollment framework. | Undecided | House Education Committee |
| HF80 | House File 80 aims to protect the rights of employees, contractors, and students in lowa's school districts and charter schools by prohibiting disciplinary actions related to the use of legal names and the failure to use personal pronouns. The bill ensures that individuals can address others using their legal names as listed in school records without fear of punishment. Additionally, it allows individuals to refrain from disclosing or using personal pronouns in official communications without facing disciplinary measures. Violations of this legislation can lead to civil actions, including reinstatement and damages for affected employees. The bill defines 'disciplinary action' broadly, encompassing various forms of punishment, including termination and suspension. | Undecided | House Education Committee |
| HF69 | House File 69 amends existing laws regarding the use of alcoholic beverages on public school property. It allows school boards to authorize the sale, possession, and consumption of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer during social events or other non-school-related functions, provided that the premises hold a five-day retail alcohol license. The bill maintains restrictions on consumption during school-related functions and establishes penalties for violations. The legislation is effective immediately upon enactment. | Undecided | House Education Committee |
| HF76 | House File 76 requires school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools in lowa to incorporate specific provisions related to pregnancy and fetal development into their human growth and development and health curricula. The curriculum for grades 7 and 8 must include human biology related to pregnancy, human development inside the womb, and visual aids such as a high-definition ultrasound video and computer-generated animations depicting fetal development. For grades 9 through 12, similar content is mandated in the health curriculum. | Undecided | House Education Committee |

| Bill | | | |
|---------|--|------------------------|---|
| Number | | UEN Declaration | Status |
| HSB22 | House Study Bill 22 introduces a new criminal offense of grooming, classified as a class 'D' felony in lowa. Individuals convicted under this law will be required to register as tier I sex offenders. The bill stipulates a special sentence of 10 years in custody of the lowa Department of Corrections, with eligibility for parole. Additionally, offenders must register as sex offenders for a period of 10 years upon release from incarceration, probation, or parole. | Undecided | House Public Safety Committee |
| HF39 | House File 39 requires individual property tax statements to include a comparison of current and proposed tax amounts starting from fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026. Additionally, it mandates that local governments must mail notifications regarding bond issuances to eligible electors, detailing the amount, purpose, and estimated tax impact of the bonds. | Opposed | House Local Government Committee |
| HF34 | The Immunization Exemption Information Act amends existing lowa law to require that information about immunization exemptions and the requirements for obtaining them be included in public communications following immunization recommendations. Schools, child care centers, and institutions of higher education must provide this information in their communications to parents, guardians, and students. The bill specifies that this information must be made available on relevant websites and in registration documentation. The state will cover the costs associated with these requirements through existing school funding. | Undecided | House Health And Human Services Committee |
| SSB1013 | The lowa Primary Elections for City, School District and Community College Nominations Act requires that candidates for city and school district elections be nominated through primary elections, moving away from nonpartisan elections. The bill outlines the procedures for filing nomination papers, the number of signatures required for candidacy, and the timeline for conducting these elections. It also specifies that the costs of conducting these primary elections will be borne by the respective city councils, school boards and community colleges. The act will take effect for elections held on or after January 1, 2027. | Opposed | Senate Local Government Committee |
| SF6 | The Immunization Exemption Information Act amends existing lowa law to require that information about immunization exemptions and their requirements be included in public communications following immunization recommendations. Schools, child care centers, and institutions of higher education must provide this information in their communications to parents, guardians, and students. The bill specifies that this information must be available on relevant websites and registration documents. The legislation also outlines the responsibilities of various educational institutions in disseminating this information. | Undecided | Senate Health And Human Services Committee |
| HSB33 | House Study Bill 33 establishes guidelines for school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools to conduct state assessments for students receiving online instruction. The bill mandates that assessments be administered in a manner similar to the students' regular academic environment, ensuring proper monitoring and verification processes. Key provisions include assigned assessment times, synchronous sessions managed by school personnel, and a maximum student-to-proctor ratio of ten to one. Additionally, the bill requires that assessment proctors monitor students via video feed throughout the assessment duration. The state board of education is tasked with adopting rules to implement these provisions. | Support | House Education Committee |
| SF47 | The lowa Uniform Public Expression Protection Act creates a framework for individuals to seek expedited relief from civil actions that challenge their rights to free speech, assembly, and petition. Under this act, parties can file a special motion to dismiss such actions within 60 days of being served. The act stays all other proceedings while the motion is pending, ensuring that the focus remains on the protection of constitutional rights. The court is required to hold a hearing on the motion within 60 days and must rule on it promptly. If the motion is granted, the court may award costs and attorney fees to the prevailing party. This legislation is designed to deter lawsuits that may be intended to silence public expression and to promote the uniform application of these protections across states. | Undecided | Senate State Government Committee |
| HSB31 | House Study Bill 31 modifies the earliest possible start date for school districts and accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa. Under current law, the school calendar must begin no sooner than August 23. The proposed change allows for the school year to start on the earlier of August 23 or the first Wednesday following the conclusion of the Iowa State Fair. The bill maintains the requirement for a minimum of 180 days or 1,080 hours of instruction per year. Current law stipulates that school boards must hold a public hearing before adopting any school calendar. This legislation aims to provide more flexibility in scheduling the academic year. | Support | House Education Committee |

| Bill | cker betaining Actions on Committees, Subcommittees New Bins for the Week - 1/10/2025 | | |
|--------|--|------------------------|--|
| Number | Summary of the Bill | UEN Declaration | Status |
| HSB34 | House Study Bill 34 requires school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools in lowa to incorporate specific provisions related to pregnancy and fetal development into their human growth and development and health curriculum for students in grades 7 through 12. The curriculum must include human biology related to pregnancy, human development inside the womb, and visual aids such as a high-definition ultrasound video and a computer-generated animation depicting the stages of fetal development. | Undecided | House Education Committee |
| SF50 | Senate File 50 provides that sports officials in Iowa are not liable for civil actions related to their officiating duties, except in cases of intentional, malicious, or grossly negligent actions. The bill also defines 'sports official' and outlines various criminal penalties for assaults against them, including classifications of felonies and misdemeanors based on the severity of the assault. The legislation takes effect immediately upon enactment and applies to legal actions commenced thereafter, including those alleging prior actions. | Support | Senate Judiciary Committee |
| HSB32 | House Study Bill 32 requires public schools, including charter and innovation zone schools, to display the national motto of the United States and the state motto of Iowa prominently within school facilities. Additionally, it mandates that each school day starts with two minutes of silent time for students, which is to occur immediately before the recitation of the pledge of allegiance. This bill aims to promote civic values and provide a moment of reflection for students at the beginning of their educational day. The legislation applies to all public school districts and is designed to enhance the educational environment. | Opposed | House Education Committee |
| HSB30 | House Study Bill 30 requires all students in grades 9 through 12 in lowa to pass a civics assessment based on the U.S. citizenship and immigration services naturalization test as a condition for graduation, starting from the school year beginning July 1, 2026. Students must correctly answer at least 60% of the questions to pass and can retake the assessment as many times as needed without incurring any fees. The bill also applies to individuals seeking a high school equivalency diploma. The state board of education is tasked with adopting rules to implement these requirements. | Opposed | House Education Committee |
| HF60 | House File 60 amends the eligibility criteria for budget adjustments for school districts in lowa that have been affected by natural disasters. It allows these districts to receive an additional budget adjustment equal to the amount they received in the base year if a major disaster has been declared by the president or the governor during the base year or the preceding budget year. This aims to support schools in recovering from the financial impacts of natural disasters and ensure they can continue to provide education effectively. | Support | House Education Committee |
| HSB8 | House Study Bill 8 directs the lowa Department of Health and Human Services to revise its administrative rules. The amendment permits employees of child care centers who are at least 16 years old to provide flex care to children up to five years of age without needing supervision from older staff. Flex care is defined as child care during designated nap hours and brief periods when a qualified employee is absent. | Undecided | House Health And Human Services Committee |
| HSB18 | The Employment Appeal Board is established within the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing to handle contested cases under various lowa Code chapters. The bill outlines the procedures for rehearing applications and judicial reviews, specifying that petitions can be filed in certain district courts. It also clarifies that the board and the department are not liable for unemployment benefits that are not due or if funds are unavailable. The legislation delineates the board's responsibilities following the elimination of the Public Employment Relations Board. | Undecided | House Labor And Workforce Committee |
| HF67 | House File 67 amends the current law that mandates school calendars in lowa to begin no sooner than August 23. For the school year starting July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, the bill allows schools to start their calendars as early as August 20. This change aims to provide more flexibility for school districts and nonpublic schools in planning their academic year. | Support | House Education Committee |
| HSB7 | House Study Bill 7 amends the existing law regarding the health examination requirements for personnel working in licensed or registered child care facilities. Previously, employees were required to complete a physical examination within six months prior to employment, which included tests for communicable diseases and was to be repeated every three years. The new bill eliminates this preemployment physical examination requirement, allowing for more flexibility in hiring practices. However, it maintains that controlled medical conditions that do not affect job performance will not prohibit employment. This change aims to streamline the hiring process in child care settings. | Undecided | House Health And Human Services Committee |

| Bill | Bill | | | |
|--------|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Number | Summary of the Bill | UEN Declaration | Status | |
| SF22 | The lowa Electronic Device Use While Driving Act prohibits the use of hand-held electronic devices to write, send, or view messages while driving, with exceptions for voice-activated or hands-free modes. It allows the use of electronic devices when the vehicle is completely stopped off the roadway. The bill also outlines penalties for violations, including increased fines and potential license suspensions for repeat offenders. Additionally, it preempts local ordinances regarding electronic device use while driving, ensuring uniform enforcement across the state. The legislation aims to enhance road safety by reducing distractions caused by electronic devices. | Undecided | Senate Judiciary Committee | |
| HF52 | House File 52 provides that sports officials officiating athletic contests in lowa are not liable for civil actions related to their officiating duties, except in cases of intentional, malicious, or grossly negligent actions. The bill also defines 'sports official' and outlines various criminal penalties for assaults against them, including classifications of felonies and misdemeanors based on the severity of the assault. The legislation aims to enhance the safety and protection of sports officials while ensuring they are not held liable for injuries or damages arising from their officiating roles. The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment and applies to legal actions commenced after its effective date. | Support | House Public Safety Committee | |
| SF34 | Senate File 34 establishes a requirement for physically able students in kindergarten through grade five to participate in at least thirty consecutive minutes of physical activity daily. This requirement is in addition to the existing physical education curriculum and cannot be fulfilled by physical education classes. Exceptions to this requirement include situations where a student poses a safety risk, inclement weather necessitates relocation of outdoor activities, early dismissal occurs due to unforeseen circumstances, or if a student is absent from school. | Opposed | Senate Education Committee | |
| HF36 | House File 36 modifies the standards for judicial review of agency actions under the lowa Administrative Procedure Act. It requires courts to interpret state statutes and agency rules de novo, without deferring to agency interpretations. The bill also mandates that courts exercise any remaining doubt in favor of interpretations that limit agency authority. | Undecided | House Judiciary Committee | |
| SF29 | Senate File 29 introduces significant changes to property tax exemptions in lowa, specifically targeting elderly homeowners and veterans. The bill transforms the homestead tax exemption for individuals aged 65 and older into a credit of up to \$6,500 on actual taxes payable. Additionally, it raises the military service tax exemption for veterans, allowing for a property tax exemption based on the lesser of the actual property value or a calculated amount equivalent to a \$4,000 credit. The changes take effect immediately upon enactment and apply retroactively to assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025. | Opposed | Senate Means Committee | |
| HF33 | House File 33 creates an agriculture education grant program within the lowa DE aimed at expanding student access to agriculture-related instruction. School districts can apply for grants to cover personal services costs associated with hiring teachers for additional instruction in agriculture education programs. Grants can cover up to 100% of costs for programs less than ten years old and 50% for older programs. The funding must supplement existing public funding and cannot replace it. The DE will also track teacher instruction time funded by these grants and establish rules for grant administration. | Support | House Education Committee | |
| HSB2 | House Study Bill 2 amends the existing school attendance laws in lowa to include exemptions for children who are either undergoing military entrance processing or are actively engaged in military service. Currently, all absence not specifically exempted in Code contribute to the student's chronic absenteeism status. This bill adds new provisions that exempt military applicants and service members from this requirement, aligning with existing exemptions for other specific cases, such as those attending religious services or with a legitimate medical excuse. | Support | House Education Committee | |
| HSB5 | House Study Bill 5 amends existing laws to prevent school districts, charter schools, and innovation zone schools from including certain ingredients in their breakfast and lunch programs. Specifically, the bill prohibits the use of red dye 40, yellow dye 7, and margarine in meals served to students. This legislation applies to all schools that provide meal programs, ensuring compliance with the new standards. | Opposed | House Education Committee | |
| HF51 | The lowa Obscenity Protection Act defines 'obscene performance' and prohibits knowingly exposing minors to such performances. It establishes penalties for individuals who admit minors to premises where obscene performances occur, with aggravated misdemeanors for serious violations. The act also allows parents or guardians to file civil suits against those who disseminate obscene materials to minors, with a minimum damage award of \$10,000. Public institutions are barred from using state resources for obscene performances, and the legislation repeals previous exemptions for educational purposes. Overall, the act seeks to enhance the protection of minors from exposure to obscene content. | Undecided | House Judiciary Committee | |

| Bill Number | Summary of the Bill | UEN Declaration | Status |
|----------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Nullibei | Summary of the Bill | UEN Declaration | Status |
| SF16 | Senate File 16 amends the provisions regarding the effective dates of school district changes, including enlargements, reorganizations, and boundary adjustments. If a proposition is approved by voters before January 1, 2025, the change will take effect on July 1 following the election. Conversely, if approved on or after January 1, 2025, the change will take effect on July 1 of the following calendar year. The bill also addresses the effective date for the attachment of territory in dissolution proposals, with similar conditions based on the approval date. Additionally, the legislation is retroactively applicable to January 1, 2025. | Support | Senate Education Committee |
| HF1 | House File 1 mandates that school districts permit students residing in their district and enrolled in nonpublic schools to participate in extracurricular interscholastic athletic contests that are not offered by their nonpublic school. This participation is contingent upon an agreement between the school district and the nonpublic school regarding the student's eligibility. Additionally, students from contiguous school districts are also allowed to participate under similar conditions. If a fee is established for participation, it must not exceed the fee charged to students enrolled in the public school district. The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment. | Opposed | House Education Committee |
| HF11 | House File 11 amends the existing law regarding the start date of the school calendar for school districts and accredited nonpublic schools in lowa. The bill stipulates that the school year can begin no earlier than August 23 or the first business day that falls three days after the conclusion of the lowa State Fair. This change aims to provide more flexibility in scheduling while ensuring that the school year includes a minimum of 180 days or 1,080 hours of instruction. Current law requires school boards to hold public hearings on any proposed school calendars before adoption. The legislation also allows for exceptions regarding attendance for graduating seniors during extended school calendars due to inclement weather. | Support | House Education Committee |
| HF9 | House File 9 introduces a school security personnel grant program within the lowa DE. Current law mandates that school districts with an enrollment of at least 8,000 students employ or retain a private school security officer or school resource officer in each high school, unless a majority of the school board votes otherwise. For districts with fewer than 1,000 students, the program encourages provision of such staff and provides annual grants to match local funding for security personnel, with a maximum grant amount of \$50,000. Current Code outlines the definitions of private school security officers and school resource officers, and requires training for those employed under this program, unchanged by this bill. The funds allocated for this program will not revert to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year, ensuring ongoing availability for future use. | Undecided | House Education Committee |
| HF8 | House File 8 mandates that school districts and accredited nonpublic schools create procedures for school nurses to administer broad-spectrum cannabidiol products to students. The bill defines broad-spectrum cannabidiol as a pharmaceutical-grade cannabinoid that contains no tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Parents or guardians must provide the product along with written instructions and documentation confirming its compliance with the definition. The procedures must include a form for parental authorization and specific usage instructions. | Undecided | House Education Committee |
| HF27 | House File 27 introduces a tax deduction for the purchase of nonathletic school uniforms mandated for students attending public or nonpublic schools. Taxpayers can subtract the amount spent on these uniforms from their taxable income, up to a maximum of \$500. The bill is designed to alleviate some of the financial burden associated with school uniform requirements. It applies retroactively to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025. | Opposed | House Ways And Means Committee |
| HF10 | House File 10 amends the existing law regarding the attachment of territory from a school district that is subject to an approved dissolution proposal. The bill specifies that the attachment will be effective on July 1 of the calendar year following the year in which the attachment was approved. | Undecided | House Education Committee |
| SF8 | Senate File 8 establishes that school districts and charter schools cannot take disciplinary actions against employees, contractors, or students for using legal names or names as listed in school records. It also protects individuals from penalties for not using personal pronouns in official communications. The bill defines 'disciplinary action' broadly, including termination, suspension, and reprimands. Employees whose rights are violated under this law can seek civil action for reinstatement and damages. | Undecided | Souse Education Committee |