

Urban Education Network Legislative Successes for 2025 Session

Despite funding/policy challenges of the 2025 Legislative Session and inattention to some UEN priorities, some notable successes are worthy of celebration. Member outreach and persistence helped to push many good pieces of legislation over the finish line and, in some cases, stopped bad ideas from moving forward. Thank Legislators and the Governor for any of the following that benefit your district/students:

SF 167 TSS Plus: 1) \$468.9 million for school districts and AEA TSS, (increase of \$49 M or 12%), to fund higher teacher pay minimums plus 2% increase on the state TSS per pupil, 2) an additional \$5 DPCC equity (\$1.5 million spending authority and \$1.4 million property tax relief for those districts with a higher DCP), and 3) increases transportation equity by 5% (\$32.7 million total/\$1.6 million increase)

HF 787 Omnibus Education Bill: Sets the TSS formula for the new higher teacher pay minimums, adds 2% increase in the state TSS for all districts, reinstates the TeachIowa Job Site, sets a Returning Retiree Minimum Salary of \$50,000, and creates an out-of-state Risk Pool for high-cost sped placements

SF 660 Sports Wagering Fund Bill: \$14 million for supplemental pay for education support personnel.

HF 391 Year-Round Calendar Waiver: Extends the current waiver to include high school grades (9-12).

SF 277 Chronic Absenteeism: Expands chronic absenteeism exceptions, removes certified letter mandate, removes mandate for school engagement meeting if absences are not impacting achievement.

HF 782 Electronic Device Restrictions: Requires DE to provide model policies before the mandate, provides school board discretion to further restrict cell phones, removes curriculum/training mandates.

SF 583 School Safety Assessment Teams: Authorizes school districts to create school safety assessment teams and allows information sharing between certain governmental agencies and assessment teams.

HF 393 Counting Dropouts: Prohibits DE from counting a student who drops out of school more than once in data compiled to determine Iowa school performance profiles/rankings.

SF 647 Education Appropriations: includes \$750,000 to provide therapeutic classroom services to students without an IEP or 504 plan and \$265,000 to reinstate the TeachIowa Job Posting System.

HF 395 School Bus Driver Courses: Sets minimum requirements for school bus drivers and does not require a bus driver to complete a course unless the district requires completion of such a course.

HF 835 Seizure Disorder Plans: Requires a health care-related training for school personnel work group.

HF 190 Online State Testing: Allows schools providing instruction delivered primarily over the internet to administer state assessments in an online setting under certain conditions

SF 369 Civics Test for Graduation: delays implementation until FY 2027 and allows school districts to provide alternative assessments for students with disabilities and for EL students.

And bills that did not pass, including SF 651 and HSB 328 Property Tax Overhaul: Thanks for proceeding cautiously, gathering information and studying impacts on taxpayers and local governments before acting too quickly. Insure transitional protections in any policy considered next year.