



## AEA Legislative Update - 2.8.19

### Lane/Walton Present to HHS Budget Subcommittee

AEA lobbyists Tom Lane and Kate Walton made a presentation before the joint House and Senate HHS budget sub on Thursday. The topic was children's mental health and the role of the AEA's.

### Session Moving Quickly

With education funding for K-12, Regents, and community colleges almost settled, the session should see an on-time adjournment. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn on May 3. The two major issues that will take significant time for the remainder of the session are sports betting legalization and a possible property tax reform bill.

### Bill Requiring Special Ed Study Introduced

Senator Jim Carlin (R-Sioux City) introduced SF 206 this week. The bill establishes an interim study committee to study and make recommendations relating to special education program requirements and outcomes for students with IEPs. The study committee shall receive input from the DE, AEA's, School boards, school administrators, special ed teachers, general education teachers; and mental health professionals with experience in children's mental health. The study committee shall submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the general assembly and to each member of Iowa's congressional delegation on or before December 20, 2019.

**State School Aid SF 172/HF 306** - Proposes a 2.06% growth rate (\$78 million) for SSA and categorical aid. Updates the property tax replacement calculations to the current school year. Passed committees in both chambers.

**Per Pupil Equity SF 171/HF 307** - Appropriates about \$2.9 million for the increase in the per-pupil formula.

**Transportation Equity SF 171/HF 307** - Appropriates \$19 million for the transportation equity program. Passed committees in the House and Senate. This is an \$8 million increase over FY '19.

**School Bus Legislation SF 197/HSB 39/SF 186** - Allows the use of smaller vehicles to transport students, under limited circumstances. Requires the DE to adopt administrative rules to allow the use of some 9-passenger pickups and 12-passenger vans as school buses when the vans carry children under limited conditions. Passed committees in both chambers.

**School Citizenship Tests SF 209/HSB 129** - Requires high schools to offer students opportunities to take the US citizenship test. Requires the DOE to identify alternatives for students with limited English. Passed 10-3.

### Bills We Find Interesting

HF 194 by Rep. Shipley (R-Fairfield): A bill for an act directing that students be required to read and demonstrate comprehension of excerpts from Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's book "the gulag archipelago" as a condition of high school graduation.