

Lobbyists—

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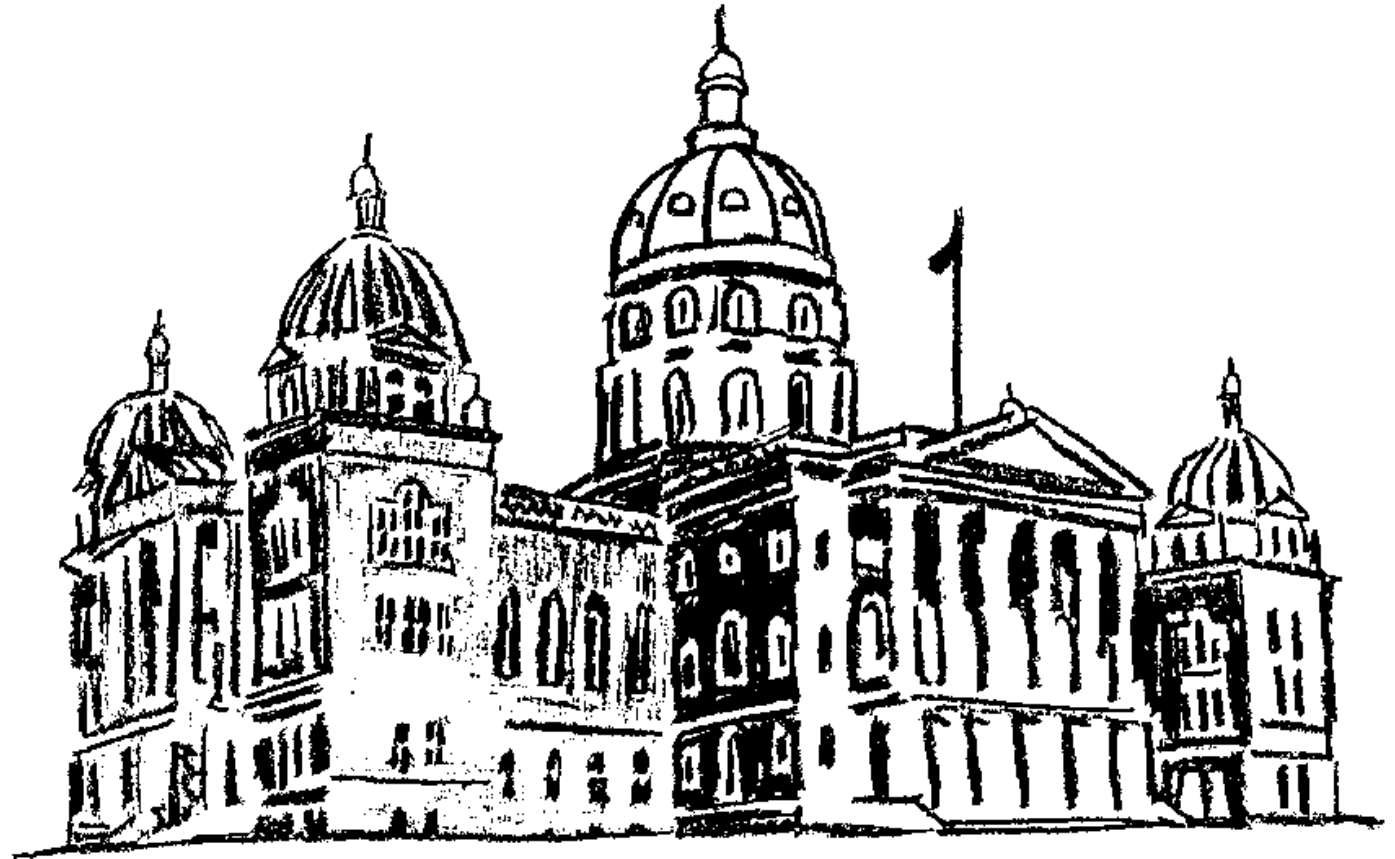
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# 2012 ISEA Legislative Initiatives

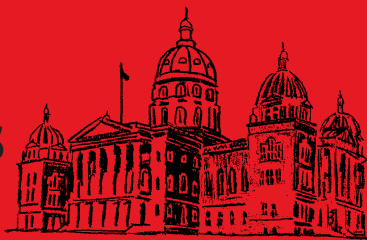
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# 2012 ISEA Legislative Initiatives



## **Allowable Growth Rate**

The ISEA supports establishing the allowable growth rate at no less than 4 percent for FY 2013-14. The ISEA recommendation includes Teacher Quality, Professional Development, and Early Intervention/Class Size.

## **Retirement**

Changes made to the IPERS Trust Fund in the 2010 Legislative Session resulted in a stronger financial position which allowed the system to honor its future commitments. However, the ISEA has grave concerns about the Favorable Experience Dividend (FED). We encourage the Legislature to commission a study to look for ways to continue to fund the FED beyond two to three years or propose alternative inflationary adjustments for post-July 1990 retirees.

The ISEA also supports commissioning a task force to study the merits of creating an independent board of trustees to govern IPERS and to assume the fiduciary responsibility for the members of IPERS. The findings of this task force would be forwarded to the Governor and Legislature for consideration in the 2013 legislative session.

## **Competitive Living Wage**

Section 279.67 of the Iowa Code enacted in the 2008 legislative session states it is the goal that every school employee receive a competitive living wage. This statute was added because the salaries of many ESPs is almost entirely spent on health insurance. ESPs are a vital part in the success of our schools and they should receive wages and benefits that allow our schools to attract and retain the highest quality individuals possible.

## **Unemployment Benefits for Education Support Professionals (ESPs)**

The ISEA supports amending Unemployment Law relating to Education Support Professionals (ESP) employed by public schools. Current law denies these individuals unemployment benefits over the summer months if there is an expectation of having a job in the next school year. However, other employees who are employed through subcontracting corporations, but are unemployed during the same summer months, are allowed to draw unemployment benefits. The law needs to be amended so that people performing like work are treated equally.

## **Area Education Agencies (AEAs)**

The ISEA supports rescinding the \$20.0 million in cuts to AEA special education funds in FY 2011-12 and the \$10.0 million in cuts in FY 2012-13. The ISEA also supports establishing the allowable growth rate for FY 2013-14 at no less than 4 percent.

## **Educator Rights—Collective Bargaining & Fair Working Conditions**

The ISEA supports the rights granted to educators in Iowa Code Chapter 20 and 279 (collective bargaining and fair working conditions). The ISEA also supports expanding the provisions of these Chapters to strengthen the rights of Iowa educators.

## **Statewide School District Sales Tax**

The ISEA supports the use of the statewide sales tax for school district general fund educational programs to fund extraordinary transportation costs and financial difficulties in addition to current infrastructure and property tax relief. In addition, the ISEA supports the creation of a statewide panel to oversee distribution of infrastructure money to local school districts.

## **Mandatory Prep Time for Educators**

The ISEA supports establishing a statutory minimum amount of time that school districts and AEAs must provide educators to prepare educational programs, assess student learning, and collaborate with their colleagues. This requirement should be a minimum, and if a collective bargaining agreement has time beyond the state-mandated minimum then the agreement supersedes the statute. The statute should be per day except for school districts that have block scheduling and then the preparation time could be scheduled over a two-day period.

## **Community College Faculty Initiatives**

### **State General Aid**

The ISEA seeks a funding goal for state general aid of \$192.0 million for FY 2012-13.

### **Need-Based Formula & Local Tax Support**

The ISEA proposes the adoption of a need-based formula with a mix of state aid and local tax support. State aid and local taxes have not kept up with inflationary and enrollment increases.

### **Librarian/Media Specialist, Guidance Counselor, & Health Program**

The ISEA proposes each community college shall have a qualified librarian, guidance counselor, and health program (similar to Iowa's public school district requirements) for the students' education, safety, and success. The ISEA also proposes including librarian/media specialist in the definition of instructor.

### **Campus Security Plan**

Community colleges should be required by law to adopt a plan to address campus security for the well-being of the students and employees. These plans should be made available to all students and employees and be reviewed annually.