



DATE: May 27, 2008

TO: Superintendents
School Board members
Principals
Teachers
Other interested stakeholders

FROM: Judy Jeffrey, Director

SUBJECT: 2008 Legislative action

The 2008 Legislative session was another landmark year. Education was again a key priority and all sectors of education reaped many benefits from this focus on educational issues and funding. In an effort to keep you informed of the resulting changes, we've provided below a brief synopsis of legislative action related to education. Please note that four themes are included in this letter: 1) policy issues, 2) funding changes, 3) mandated studies, and 4) additional grant opportunities.

The Department understands that these changes will likely prompt discussions and require adjustments to local policy and procedures. Please know that we want to assist you in this process; therefore, we will provide detailed guidance specific to several issues outlined in this document in the upcoming months. In addition, please feel free to contact our consultants with questions or concerns you may have.

Policy Issues

Education Appropriations Policy – [HF 2679](#)

Separate guidance on some of the policy changes included in HF 2679 will be issued. These separate pieces of guidance will address 1) Changes to Educator Quality, 2) Adjustments to preschool programming, 2) Senior Year Plus implementation, and 4) Categorical Fund roll-in issues.

Changes to Educator Quality

- A new requirement that all districts in current whole-grade sharing agreements or districts entering into whole-grade sharing agreements in the future must address the disposition of Teacher Quality funds in the agreement. Existing agreements must be amended per the conversation that will occur related to disposition of Teacher Quality funds.
- The minimum salaries for 2008-09 will be \$28,000 for beginning teachers and \$30,000 for career teachers. There are no longer two levels of minimum salaries for career teachers.
- Regular compensation, for the purposes of teacher quality funding, is defined as only base salary plus any salary provided under the Educational Excellence program (IC 294A). This means, in the event that the district and the bargaining unit CANNOT reach agreement on salary distributions related to new appropriations by September 15, that any teacher receiving a salary supplement to reach a minimum salary threshold cannot be included in the even distribution of compensation dollars for the remainder of staff.
- Districts are now required to disburse teacher compensation dollars evenly throughout the year beginning with the October payroll effective for 2008-09.
- Districts are now required to direct “resources” to support individual teacher professional development plans rather than “funding.” This broader definition can include things like peer support and other kinds of contributions.
- There is no longer a requirement to include input from “other evaluators” in the performance review process for career teachers.
- The National Board Certification process was NOT reinstated, but funding will be in place to continue the commitment to those individuals that were in the process prior to December 31, 2007.
- Adds \$8.5 million to the professional development “pot” for specific use by districts to implement the Iowa Core Curriculum (ICC). While the purpose of the \$8.5 million is not negotiable, Teacher Quality Committees will still have to discuss the various ways these funds will be used to support the implementation of the ICC.
- Eliminates Market Factor Pay funding effective for 2008-09. Prior funds can be carried-forward and Code and rules in place guiding uses of those funds at the time they were appropriated still apply.

Adjustments to 4-year-old Preschool Programming

- Clarifies that eligible students must be four “on or before” September 15.
- Clarifies that school districts may not request additional authority from the SBRC for expansion of this programming.

- Adds a provision that requires the Department to approve school districts for continuation in the program prior to the beginning of year two in the program or any subsequent years.
- Adds language that requires the Department to collaborate with Early Childhood Iowa and its public and private entities on the delivery of early childhood professional development activities.

Senior Year Plus Statute

- Establishes a new Code Chapter (IC 261E) that consolidates into one place all statutes related to all programming that provides opportunities for high school students to earn college credit. This includes 1) Advanced Placement courses, 2) Concurrent enrollment (commonly called dual-credit) courses, 3) Post-secondary Enrollment Options Act courses, 4) Career and Regional Academy courses, and 5) ICN and Iowa Learning Online courses.
- Establishes new post-secondary course audit committees charged with ensuring that courses offered under this chapter are of college-level difficulty and meeting the expectations of this chapter.
- Creates a new, expanded supplemental weighting for school districts that host courses shared between districts.
- Changes weighting for concurrent enrollment classes to 0.70 for career and technical courses and 0.46 for all other courses.
- Establishes criteria for student, teacher, and institution participation in programming offered under this chapter. This includes a requirement that the student be proficient in reading, math and science or that the student meets other alternate, but equivalent criteria established locally.
- Provides funding that will cover half the cost of all Advanced Placement Exams taken statewide beginning in 2008-09.
- Changes audit processes to take a closer look at categorical and designated funding streams.

Categorical Fund Roll-in

- Incorporates four categorical funds into the school aid funding formula effective in FY10:
 - Teacher Quality compensation funding
 - Teacher Quality professional development funding
 - Educational Excellence Phase II funding
 - Class Size/Early Intervention Block Grant funding
- Requires the legislature to make an affirmative decision each year on allowable growth for each of these individual funds within 30 days of the start of each session.
- Requires separate accounting for each designated fund on the CAR.

- Maintains any statutory language that requires specific uses of the designated funds (i.e., class size funds, teacher quality professional development funds).

Additional policy changes in HF 2679

- Convenes a Legislative Council interim committee to study post-secondary rigor.
- Changes the statute related to school district background checks on newly hired, nonprobationary staff. The change prohibits the use of private vendors and requires any background check done by private vendors during 2007-08 to be resubmitted to DCI.
- Requires the Department, in collaboration with the community college system, to facilitate a review of community college accreditation and accountability provisions.
- Creates an ad hoc accreditation quality faculty plan protocol committee to advise the department in the development of protocols related to the quality faculty planning process to be used by the accreditation teams during site visits. All community college faculty will be included in this process by July 1, 2011.

Standing Appropriations Policy Issues – [HF 2700](#)

Adjustments to Home School Assistance Program provisions

Additional guidance on this issue is forthcoming.

- Reduces the state per pupil funding for every HSAP student from 0.6 to 0.3 effective on the funding provided districts for 2008-09.
- Requires the parents of every HSAP student to complete the Competent Private Instruction “Form A”.
- Clarifies that HSAP funding cannot be given, directly or indirectly, to parents and students.
- Requires school districts that offered HSAP programs during 2007-08 to continue to offer them and that the level of expenditure for these programs during 2008-09 and subsequent years be equivalent to the expenditure level in 2007-08 unless the program loses students.
- Provides districts with the ability to petition the SBRC for additional authority to levy cash for HSAP program support.

Health and Human Services Appropriations Policy Issues – [SF 2425](#)

Early Childhood Iowa

Permanently establishes the Early Childhood Iowa collaboration in Code. This collaboration provides advisory guidance to all entities involved in services provided to children birth to five.

Autism Council

Establishes a statewide Autism Council that will advise the state on future efforts related to services to autistic citizens.

Healthy Kids Act of 2008

Additional guidance on the Healthy Kids Act of 2008 is forthcoming.

This statute includes the following items:

- This statute does not go into effect until July 1, 2009.
- The requirement that school districts and accredited nonpublic schools ensure that every K-5 student has 30 minutes a day of physical activity and every 6-12 student has 120 minutes per week of physical activity. Physical activity will be defined in Department rules and can be included in physical education classes but can be provided in other ways as well.
- Requires the Department to establish nutritional guidelines for all foods sold on school grounds during the school day other than food provided under the federal school lunch program. This applies to school districts and accredited nonpublic schools.
- Requires all district and accredited nonpublic school students to take CPR prior to graduation. Exempts students unable to physically manage the course.
- Requires AEAs to contract with a licensed dietician to support students with specific nutritional needs and regional food and nutrition staff members.

Iowa Core Curriculum – [SF 2216](#)

Additional guidance is forthcoming.

Iowa Core Curriculum provisions

- Converts what was previously known as the Model Core Curriculum into the mandated Iowa Core Curriculum. This core curriculum is K-12 in the areas of literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, financial literacy, health literacy, technology literacy, civic literacy, and employability skills.
- Requires school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to fully implement the Iowa Core Curriculum by July 1, 2012 for grades 9-12 and by July 1, 2014 for grades K-8. Districts and accredited nonpublic schools

must have an implementation plan in place by July 1, 2010 for grades 9-12 and by July 1, 2012 for grades K-8.

- Prohibits the State Board of Education or the Department from the mandating of specific textbooks, textbook series, or instructional strategies.
- Requires the Department, in collaboration with the AEAs, to make available technical assistance and implementation strategies that districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall use as they work to implement the Iowa Core Curriculum. This guidance includes the development of model formative and end-of-course assessments that MAY be used by districts and accredited nonpublic schools.
- Requires the DE to convene a working group related to the development of model assessments to support the core curriculum.
- Districts must ensure that any course made available to students through any sharing agreement with a community college meets the expectations contained in the Iowa Core Curriculum. This includes ensuring that any course that has the capacity to generate college credit shall be equivalent to college-level work.

8th Grade Planning provisions

- Mandates that every student, prior to graduation, will complete all components of the state-designated career information and decision-making system, which is currently the CHOICES program. This should be incorporated into students' four year high school plans. Districts currently using a different product must either switch to CHOICES or make CHOICES available along with the other product.

FY10 School District Allowable Growth – [HF 2140](#)

Sets the school district funding formula allowable growth rate at 4% for FY10.

Statewide smoking ban – [HF 2212](#)

The bill places into statute the following mandates:

1. Smoking now is prohibited in all areas of school buildings, including nonpublic schools, as well as all school grounds, parking lots, athletic fields, including inside any vehicle located on school grounds or school parking lots. No longer can a school designate a smoking area.
2. Smoking is prohibited inside all publicly owned vehicles, even if parked in a private drive.
3. Smoking is prohibited inside a private vehicle that is parked in a school parking lot.

The Iowa Department of Public Health (DPH) is in charge of writing administrative rules for the enforcement of this new law. DPH states that it will

also provide sample “no smoking” signs that schools may download for free at the following web site: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/tobacco/smokefree.asp>.

PPEL fund expansion – [HF 2364](#)

Permits PPEL funds to be used to cover energy savings contracts.

Disposition of school property – [HF 2526](#)

Limits to twelve calendar months the ability of the public to contest the sale of school property in certain instances.

Changes to School Board member terms and special election laws – [HF 2620](#)

Changes the length of term of board members in school districts, AEAs, and community colleges from three to four years, moves school board elections to every other year, and limits the number of special elections that can be held in a calendar year to four. The Iowa Secretary of State has several helpful documents, including an election calendar on its web site at: <http://www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/electioninfo/SchoolElections.html>

SILO – [HF 2663](#)

Institutes a statewide one cent sales tax for school infrastructure. Additional guidance is forthcoming from the Department related to the certificate of need process.

Adjustments to Dental and Lead Screening mandates – [SF 2111](#)

Adjusts the language to remove the term “provisional enrollment.” Districts will be expected to require proof of (or exemption from) both the dental and lead screens beginning in 2008-09. The Iowa Department of Public Health is developing rules related to this process. Some data collection will be required and monitoring of compliance will be expected. Additional guidance is forthcoming.

State Council on Homelessness – [SF 2161](#)

Creates a statewide Council on Homelessness to advocate for issues related to the homeless.

Mandated eye screening for certain children – [SF 2251](#)

Requires, effective July 1, 2009, that districts provide a student vision card at kindergarten round-ups. Requires districts to consider an eye exam with a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist if a student is having learning difficulties. This exam should be considered at the same time the district is considering a referral for IDEA supports.

Extension of complaint filing window for Civil Rights Commission complaints – [SF 2292](#)

Extends the filing window for complaints to the Civil Rights Commission from 180 to 300 days.

Notification of Breach of Security and Unintended Personal Information Disclosure – [SF 2308](#)

All entities that keep electronic records of students', employees', and other persons' names along with a unique identification number (SSN, driver's license number, etc., that is not encrypted) must notify such persons of any breach of that information unless requested not to do so by law enforcement. This is a new law that affects all public and private businesses as well as all levels of state government. As more guidance is prepared by the Department of Public Safety and others, the DE will pass it along to schools, school districts, and community colleges.

IPERS – [SF 2424](#)

Incremental increases to IPERS contributions.

Funding

- Empowerment funding - \$22,302,006 – \$1,479,588 less than FY08
- Empowerment Early Childhood funding - \$10,000,000 – same as FY08
- Nonpublic textbooks - \$690,165 - \$26,000 above FY08
- Community College funding - \$183,062,414 - \$9,100,000 over FY08
- Nonpublic transportation - \$8,604,714 – same as FY08
- Community College funds for expenses related to deaf interpreters - \$200,000 to Iowa Western CC only – same as FY08
- Community College funds for ADA compliance - \$2,000,000 – same as FY08
- Vocational Education salaries - \$576,613 – same as FY08
- School Food Service - \$2,509,683 – same as FY08
- Vocational Education Programming - \$2,936,904 – same as FY08
- Educational Excellence program - \$55,469,053 – same as FY08

- Core Curriculum and Career Information and Decision-making System – new - \$2,192,351
- Early Intervention/Class Size - \$29,250,000 – same as FY08
- Shared Visions program - \$12,606,196 – same as FY08
- Department of Education administration - \$8,720,341 – \$400,000 above FY08 (\$400,000 of separate line-item for data warehouse rolled into general adm.)
- Instructional Support levy - \$14,428,271 – same as FY08
- School Foundation Aid - \$2,226,800,000 (est.) – \$81,200,000 above FY08
- Senior Year Plus - \$1,900,000 – new
 - \$500,000 to cover half of every AP exam taken during 08-09
 - \$500,000 for transfer articulation web site
 - \$500,000 for data warehousing including transcript repository
 - \$400,000 for expansion of on-line learning opportunities
- Vocational Agriculture Youth Organization - \$50,000 – same as FY08
- Before/After school grant program - \$1,100,000 - \$100,000 over FY08
- IDEA Part C (0-3 years) services - \$1,721,400 – same as FY08
- Early Head Start Pilots - \$400,000 – same as FY08
- Voluntary statewide access to quality 4 year old preschool programming - \$15,000,000 – same as FY08
- New Administrator Mentoring and Induction - \$250,000 – same as FY08
- Statewide Education Data Warehouse - \$1,000,000 – same as FY08
- Educator Quality - \$248,943,894 - \$75,000,000 above FY08
- Community College Salary enhancements - \$1,500,000 over FY08
- STEM initiative – new - \$4,000,000

Department of Education Statewide Studies

1. Ad Hoc Community College Quality Faculty Plan Protocol Committee – [HF 2679](#)

Requires the Department to reconvene a work group to develop protocols related to statute/rule pertaining to Quality Faculty Plans for community college staff. There must be a process in place for all community college staff by July 1, 2011.

2. Community College accreditation and accountability review committee – [HF 2679](#)

Requires the Department to convene a committee to address the following issues:

- measures to ensure consistency in program quality statewide,
- adequate oversight of community college programming by the state board of education,

- consistency in definitions for information and data requirements (in consultation with the community college management information system standing committee),
- barriers to providing quality programming,
- methods to improve compensation of community college faculty, and
- system performance measures that adequately respond to identified needs and concerns.

A progress report is due to the legislature by January 15, 2009 with a final report due to the legislature by January 15, 2010.

3. Core Curriculum study – [SF 2216](#)

Requires the department to conduct a study of the measures necessary for the successful adoption of the mandated core curriculum by school districts and accredited nonpublic schools. The study will also address the possible expansion of the core curriculum to include content areas not currently incorporated into the core curriculum including, but not limited to, fine arts, applied arts, humanities, and world languages. A report to the legislature is due by November 14, 2008.

4. State K-12 Research and Development School study – [SF 2307](#)

In collaboration with UNI, requires the Department to do an additional year of study to examine governance and finance issues related to the development of a state K-12 R & D school. A report to the legislature is due January 15, 2009.

New Grant Opportunities

1. Before and After School Grant Program Expansion – [HF 2679](#)

A total of \$1.1 million will be available for before/after school grants for 2008-09. This extension of last year's program includes some adjustments including:

- Awards will be for a minimum of \$30,000 and a maximum of \$50,000.
- The grant award must be matched equally (up from 20%) and can include in-kind contributions.
- Middle and High schools are eligible if they serve students once a week or a minimum of two hours per week.
- Grant funding may be carried forward over multiple fiscal years at the local level.

2. Iowa Learning Technology Commission – [SF 2432](#)

\$250,000 was awarded to the ILTC for grants for innovative technology to be issued in the 2008-09 school year.

For additional information, please visit the Department's Legislative Update page at <https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/legisupdate.asp> or contact the Department's Legislative Liaison Jeff Berger at 515-281-3399 or jeff.berger@iowa.gov.

2008
Summary of Legislation
Related to Education

Iowa Department of Education
May 5, 2008

<p>Summary of Legislation Bills related to Education 2008</p>
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This table includes enrolled bills signed by the Governor that address educational issues.

Note: Additional, detailed guidance to the field is forthcoming on many of these bills.

Enrolled Bill Number	Brief Title	Description
HF 2103	Changes to membership on College Student Aid Commission	Adjusts current membership to remove Iowa Loan Liquidity Corporation and add a public member that currently is paying off a student loan.
HF 2137	Changes to membership of BOEE	Separates the public members from the Director of the Department of Education.
HF 2140	FY10 School District Allowable Growth at 4%	Sets school district allowable growth for FY10 at four percent.
HF 2164	Changes to District Desegregation Plan provisions	Adjustments to comply with the recent Supreme Court ruling. Changes desegregation plans to diversity plans and disallows the ability of districts to write these plans based solely on race. Department rules will restrict diversity plans to those districts that previously had an approved desegregation plan.
HF 2197	Requires postsecondary institutions to provide textbook ISBN numbers	Recommends that all postsecondary institutions to publish textbook ISBN numbers for all courses at least 14 days prior to the start of each semester.
HF 2212	Statewide smoking ban	Bans smoking in all school facilities and on all grounds including any facility under the control of a school district or private school.
HF 2364	PPEL expansion to include energy savings contracts	Allows PPEL funds to be used to cover energy savings contracts.
HF 2390	Changes to licensing of plumbers and mechanics	Impacts community college preparation programs. Does not apply to routine maintenance.
HF 2393	Grant RFPs must include minority impact statements	Requires all departments to include, as a part of every grant application, a space for applicants to speak to the impact of the grant on minorities as defined by the statute.

Enrolled Bill Number	Brief Title	Description
HF 2410	Changes to alarm system and electrician licensure	Requires background checks for all alarm system installers and licensed electricians.
HF 2411	Changes to electrician licensure	Changes requirements for electrician licensure. Will require adjustments to community college programming.
HF 2450	Targeted Industries Development – community college involvement	Requires Iowa Workforce Development to collaborate with the community college system on several types of targeted industries training.
HF 2526	Disposition of school property	Limits the ability of the public to contest the sale of school property in certain instances.
HF 2620	Changes to School Board member terms and election laws	Changes the length of term of board members in districts, AEAs, and community colleges from three to four years and limits the number of special elections that can be held in a calendar year to four.
HF 2651	Changes to DUI program approvals	Allows DE-approved drinking driver courses to be offered at certain state corrections institutions.
HF 2662	Agriculture appropriation – farm to school appropriation	Appropriates \$80,000 to the farm to school program.
HF 2663	SILO	Institutes a statewide one cent sales tax for school infrastructure. Additional guidance is forthcoming from the Department on certificates of need and from various associations.
HF 2679	Education appropriation	<p>See bill summary at the end of this table for details.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher Quality bill adjustments 2. Preschool bill adjustments 3. Categorical funds roll-in to the school funding formula 4. Senior Year Plus provisions
HF 2690	Changes to institution lending requirements for postsecondary schools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More oversight and accountability for some lenders, including making them subject to the open meetings and open records laws; 2. Requiring an annual review of the student loan secondary market by the Superintendent of Banking; 3. Requiring a Code of Conduct for each financial aid office at every college and university; 4. Prohibiting lenders from providing gifts in exchange for any advantage or consideration of its educational loan products, and prohibiting covered institutions from using misleading or misguiding practices to gain an advantage in recruiting

Enrolled Bill Number	Brief Title	Description
		borrowers; and 5. Giving the Iowa Attorney General more oversight of student loans in Iowa.
HF 2699	Economic Development appropriation	See bill summary at the end of this table for details.
HF 2700	Standing appropriation	See bill summary at the end of this table for details. Includes: 1. HSAP program revenue adjustment from 0.6 to 0.3 weighting.
HR 104	Resolution – Woman’s History Month – March, 2008	Self-explanatory
HF 109	Resolution – Black History Month – February, 2008	Self-explanatory
SF 2101	Entrepreneurs with disabilities program to IVRS	Moves this program and appropriation to the oversight of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services from the Iowa Finance Authority
SF 2111	Dental and Lead Screening adjustments	Removes provisions in both screening mandates that restricts enrollment. Schools cannot bar students from enrolling for lack of completion of either screening.
SF 2161	State Council on Homelessness	Established a statewide Council on Homelessness.
SF 2216	Mandate Iowa Core Curriculum	Converts the Model Core Curriculum to a mandated Iowa Core Curriculum. Districts must implement the 9-12 pieces by 2012 and the K-8 pieces by 2014. Includes other assurances and provisions.
SF 2251	Mandate eye screening for certain children	Requires schools to provide a vision screening card at kindergarten registration. Requires schools to recommend a vision screening to any student prior to any action related to special education.
SF 2286	Federal Block Grant appropriation	Permission for various entities to expend federal dollars.
SF 2289	Educational assistance to children of deceased veterans	Provides financial assistance to any child of a deceased veteran to cover schooling expenses.
SF 2292	Extend complaint filing window with Civil Rights Commission	Extended the period under which a complaint can be filed with the Civil Rights Commission from 180 to 300 days.
SF 2307	State K-12 Research and Development School Study	Approves additional studies related to governance and finance related to the development of a state K-12 R & D school. Recommendations to the legislature next year.

Enrolled Bill Number	Brief Title	Description
SF 2413	Extraordinary situation exceptions to school deadlines	Legalizing act to allow two school districts to cover expenses in unusual situations by waiving a specific deadline.
SF 2417	Health Iowans Tobacco Trust appropriation	See bill summary at the end of this table for details.
SF 2424	IPERS	Regular incremental increase to IPERS.
SF 2425	Human Services appropriation	See bill summary at the end of this table for details. Includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healthy Kids Act of 2008 2. Early Childhood Iowa language 3. Statewide Autism Council language 4. AEA Medicaid reimbursement percentage
SF 2432	Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund appropriation	See bill summary at the end of this table for details.

Summary of Budget Bills that include Education issues – SF 2286, 2417, 2425, 2432; HF 2662, 2679, 2699, 2700

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- Vocational Education Programming - \$2,936,904 – same as FY08
- Educational Excellence program - \$55,469,053 – same as FY08
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services - \$5,667,575 – same as FY08
- Core Curriculum and Career Information and Decision-making System – new - \$2,192,351
- JAG - \$600,000 – same as FY08
- State Library - \$1,879,827 – \$78,066 above FY08
- Library Service Areas - \$1,586,000 – same as FY08
- Enrich Iowa Libraries - \$1,823,432 – same as FY08
- Early Intervention/Class Size - \$29,250,000 – same as FY08
- Shared Visions program - \$12,606,196 – same as FY08
- Department of Education administration - \$8,720,341 – \$400,000 above FY08 (\$400,000 of separate line-item for data warehouse rolled into general adm.)
- Instructional Support levy - \$14,428,271 – same as FY08
- School Foundation Aid - \$2,226,800,000 (est.) – \$77,450,000 above FY08
- IPTV - \$8,804.620 - \$1,008,554 below FY08
- Senior Year Plus - \$1,900,000 – new

- \$500,000 to cover half of every AP exam taken during 08-09
- \$500,000 for transfer articulation web site
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- Statewide Education Data Warehouse - \$1,000,000 – same as FY08
- Educator Quality - \$248,943,894 - \$75,000,000 above FY08
- Community College Salary enhancements - \$1,500,000 over FY08
- STEM initiative - \$4,000,000 – new – includes Math and Science Initiative for AEA 10 at \$200,000

Other Items

- Reduced the cut to AEAs from \$5,250,000 to \$2,500,000

Policy issues included in these bills

HF 2679 – Education Appropriations

Teacher Quality adjustments

- Requires all districts involved in a current or proposed whole grade sharing agreements to include the disposition of TQ funding in the whole grade sharing agreement.
- Moves the minimum salaries to \$28,000 for beginning teachers and \$30,000 for career teachers.
- Clarifies that regular compensation, for the purposes of teacher quality funding, means only base salary plus any salary provided under the Educational Excellence program (IC Chapter 294A).
- Requires districts to pay teachers evenly throughout the year beginning with the October payroll (effective FY 09).

- Changes the word “funding” to “resources” in relation to support for individual teacher professional development plans. This is a broader definition that could include in-kind support.
- Removes the requirement that districts must include supporting documentation from “other evaluators” as a part of the performance review of a career teacher.
- Does not reinstate the National Board Certification program, but does maintain the funding commitment to those teachers already in the program.
- Adds \$8.5 million dollars to the professional development funding pool for use by districts to assist with implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum.
- Provides \$915,000 to the Department and AEAs for the creation of a statewide early childhood professional development system.
- Provides \$250,000 to the Institute for Tomorrow’s Workforce
- Reduces funding for Pay for Performance/Career Ladder pilot program implementation to \$950,000 (\$335,000 in this bill, \$615,000 in carry forward from FY08).
- Makes funding for Teacher Development Academies permanent.
- Eliminates the Market Factor Pay program effective FY09 (2008-09 school year).

Statewide quality 4-year-old preschool program adjustments

- Clarifies that eligible students for this program must be age four “on or before” September 15.
- Clarifies that school districts may not request additional authority through the SBRC for expansion of this programming.
- Adds language that requires the Department to approve school districts for continuation in the program prior to the beginning of year 2.
- Eliminates language that requires the district to prorate initial grant awards.
- Provides the Department carry-forward authority for any undistributed funds from a prior fiscal year.
- Adds language that requires the Department to collaborate with Early Childhood Iowa and its public and private entities on the delivery of early childhood professional development activities.

Categorical Fund roll-in

- Incorporates four funds into the school aid funding formula effective in FY10:
 - Teacher Quality compensation funding
 - Teacher Quality professional development funding

- Educational Excellence Phase II funding
- Class Size/Early Intervention block grant funding
- Requires the legislature to make an affirmative decision each year on allowable growth for each of these individual funds within 30 days of the start of each session. This allows the allowable growth rate to be set individually for each of these funds.
- Requires separate accounting for each categorical fund on the CAR.
- Maintains any Code language that requires specific uses of the designated funds (i.e. class size, TQ PD funds).

Senior Year Plus program (Additional Separate Guidance will be issued)

- Establishes a new Code Chapter (261E) that consolidates all K-12 programs that generate college credit into one chapter. This includes 1) AP courses, 2) Concurrent enrollment (commonly called dual-credit) courses, 3) Post-secondary Enrollment Options Act courses, 4) Career and Regional Academy courses, and 5) Iowa Learning Online courses.
- Establishes a new postsecondary course audit committee charged with ensuring that courses offered under this chapter are of college-level difficulty.
- Creates a new supplemental weighting for school districts that host courses shared between districts.
- Establishes criteria for student, teacher, and institution participation in programming offered under this chapter.
- Requires the Department to develop an internet-based clearinghouse of information for articulation and transfer information between postsecondary institutions.
- Provides funding that will cover half the cost of all Advanced Placement Exams taken statewide.

Other policy issues

- Legislative Council study of post-secondary rigor
- Changes the school district background check language to prohibit the use of private vendors and requires any background checks done by private vendors in the course of FY08 to be resubmitted to DCI.
- Requires the Department to facilitate a review of Community College accreditation and accountability.
- Makes adjustments to Before/After School grant criteria
- Creates an ad hoc Department committee related to the implementation of Community College Quality Faculty Plans for all instructors.

HF 2700 – Standing Appropriations

Policy Issues

- Includes the Salary Appropriations bill and increases state workers pay by 3%.
- Adjustments to school district Home School Assistance Programs that include:
 - Reduction from 0.6 to 0.3 of state per pupil funding for every HSAP student effective on the funding provided districts for FY09.
 - Requirement for the parents of every HSAP student to complete CPI “Form A”
 - Clarification that HSAP funding cannot be given to parents or students
 - Requirement that school districts currently offering HSAP programs must continue to offer them and that the level of expenditure on these programs for FY09 and subsequent fiscal years must be equivalent to the expenditure level in FY08 unless the program loses students.
 - Provides districts with the ability to petition the School Budget Review Committee for additional local authority to levy cash for HSAP program support.

SF 2425 – Health and Human Services Appropriations

Policy Issues related to education

- Permanently establishes the Early Childhood Iowa collaboration in Code. This collaboration provides advisory guidance to all entities involved in services provided to children birth to five.
- Establishes a statewide Autism Council that will advise the state on future efforts related to services to autistic citizens.
- Includes the Healthy Kids Act of 2008. This statute includes the following items:
 - The requirement that school districts and accredited nonpublic schools ensure that every K-5 student have 30 minutes a day of physical activity (to be defined later and different than physical education) and every 6-12 student have 120 minutes of physical activity per week.
 - Requires the Department to establish nutritional guidelines for all foods sold on school grounds during the school day other than food provided under the federal school lunch program.
 - Requires all students to be CPR certified prior to graduation.
 - Requires AEAs to employ or contract with a licensed dietician to support students with specific nutritional needs and regional food and nutrition staff.