

News Release

Iowa Association of School Boards

Iowa State Education Association

School Administrators of Iowa

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

For Immediate Release

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Iowa Must Prioritize Early Literacy, Educator Workforce & Expanded Opportunities—Not Private School Vouchers

Governor Reynolds released her private school vouchers plan during the Condition of the State address on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023. This plan is not inclusive, does not require transparency nor accountability to taxpayers, and does not serve all students and families.

We believe that investing in public schools can, and does, have a positive impact on student achievement and student success. Together, the **Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB)**, **Iowa State Education Association (ISEA)**, and **School Administrators of Iowa (SAI)** choose public schools that benefit all students. We invite all Iowans to join us.

We must come together to provide our public schools with the resources and support they need to continue to provide quality education to students—Iowa's future. Instead of redirecting public money to private schools, let's invest in initiatives to strengthen public schools that already support and serve more than 90% of our students and families.

- **Early Literacy** is the building block for student achievement and student success. We appreciate the governor's focus on prioritizing early literacy and support the initiative. Additionally, we call for improvements in state policy to provide support for preschool, low-income students, English Language learners, literacy tutoring, and professional development for early literacy strategies.
- A high-quality **educator workforce** is necessary for student achievement. We call for improvements in state policy to provide teacher leadership and development programs, high-quality teacher preparation programs, and recruitment and retention incentives.
- **Expanded opportunities** provide students with diverse and engaging educational experiences. We call for improvements in state policy to invest public funds in innovative programs for public schools, career and technical education programs, and to foster collaboration among community partners, private schools and public schools.

Investing in our public schools and strengthening support for students and teachers ensures that public schools foster success for students and provide a bright future for Iowa families, communities and businesses. By focusing on initiatives like early literacy, educator workforce

and expanded opportunities, rather than on private school vouchers, *all* students can discover their full potential and find success.

Lisa Bartusek, Executive Director, Iowa Association of School Boards

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ABOUT

IASB serves locally elected board members of PK-12 school districts, area education agencies and community colleges. IASB educates, supports and inspires public school boards in their pursuit of world-class education for all students in Iowa.

The ISEA represents preK-12 educators, education support professionals, community college faculty, Area Education Agency professionals, retired educators and aspiring educators with contracts covering more than 50,000 employees. We promote quality public education by placing students at the center of everything we do while advocating for education professionals.

SAI, a statewide organization founded in 1987, represents more than 2,100 Iowa educational administrators. SAI's mission is to support, encourage and develop Iowa's educational leaders and learners.