



Legislators are voting on key issues. Especially in these tough economic times, your voice matters.

As expected this session, lawmakers are being lobbied hard by all groups competing for scarce state dollars and other resources. Who will speak up for students if you don't? Margaret Buckton and Mary Gannon will make sure you're in the know about what's happening at the Capitol so you can confidently talk to your representatives and senators!

Political Issues You Care About

Allowable Growth/Across-the-Board Cuts

It is critical that the Legislature commit to setting allowable growth at a rate that encourages continuous school improvement and reflects actual cost increases experienced by school districts. The allowable growth rate should be set no lower than 6 percent. Find out the status of allowable growth, spending authority and the education budget.

Collective Bargaining

Several priorities of labor are on the table. In addition to expansion of the scope of negotiations in Chapter 20, it's possible that Fair Share, Prevailing Wage and Choice of Doctor will be discussed. Given last year's spring break surprise, expect to hear about labor issues that can impact district authority and your bottom line.

Professional Development and Teacher Quality

IASB members support full state funding to implement the Iowa Professional Development Model. Good professional development improves instruction focused on the district's student learning goals. Find out the latest budget details in this important investment in student learning.

Continued Commitment to Iowa Core Curriculum

IASB supports legislation giving the DE rule-making authority to implement a new writing assessment recently requested by the State Board of Education for third, sixth and tenth grades. What is the status of assessment bills moving through the process?

Transportation

In order to promote equity and adequacy in education funding, IASB supports the creation of an additional funding mechanism for school districts' transportation costs that does not directly or indirectly impact funding for the educational program. Given the range of zero to over \$1,000 per student transported and the significant fluctuation in diesel fuel prices, is there any hope of legislative relief for school district transportation costs?

Lobby Legislators from Home

IASB lobbyists will prepare you to call, write or e-mail your legislators during the last half of the legislative session. They'll offer a timely update of legislative issues, and show you tips and tools for lobbying effectively. More available online at www.ia-sb.org.

ICN Locations

Choose from the following convenient ICN locations across the state:

<u>County</u>	<u>Site/City (Most are at high schools)</u>
Appanoose	Centerville HS, Centerville
Audubon	Audubon HS, Audubon
Black Hawk	Cedar Falls HS, Cedar Falls
Buena Vista	Albert City-Truesdale HS, Albert City
Cerro Gordo	Mason City HS, Mason City
Des Moines	Burlington HS, Burlington
Dubuque	Dubuque HS, Dubuque
Iowa	HLV HS, Victor
Jefferson	Fairfield HS, Fairfield
Kossuth	Algona HS, Algona
Linn	Prairie HS, Cedar Rapids
Page	Shenandoah HS, Shenandoah
Polk	Heartland AEA 11, Johnston (Origination site)
Pottawattamie	Lincoln HS, Council Bluffs
Scott	North HS, Davenport
Sioux	West Sioux HS, Haywarden
Story	Ames HS, Ames
Union	Creston HS, Creston
Webster	Fort Dodge HS, Fort Dodge
Winneshiek	Decorah HS, Decorah
Woodbury	East HS, Sioux City

Please visit www.ia-sb.org for location addresses. Based on scheduling and budget, we did our best to spread locations evenly across Iowa and to offer this event at no charge. There will be no additional sites added.

Registration Information

This is a membership service of IASB. There is no charge to attend, and no need to register.

Participants will receive 5 Better Boardmanship points, so be sure to sign in the night of the session. Feel free to attend at any of the ICN sites listed above.

We look forward to seeing you!

Take this opportunity to get an up-to-the-minute status report on legislation impacting schools!

How is the economy impacting programs and budgets at the Statehouse? Which bills survived the first funnel date, and which bills are technically considered dead? What can you do to guarantee the best public policy for Iowa students? Find out at this free event on the Iowa Communications Network (ICN).

IASB lobbyists Margaret Buckton and Mary Gannon will answer these questions and bring you the latest on allowable growth, the core curriculum, the instructional support levy, professional development, labor/management and other issues impacting students in your school district. You will also hear the status of other legislative priorities you have set for IASB. Overall, this ICN update will help you talk to your legislators about how their plans will affect your district.

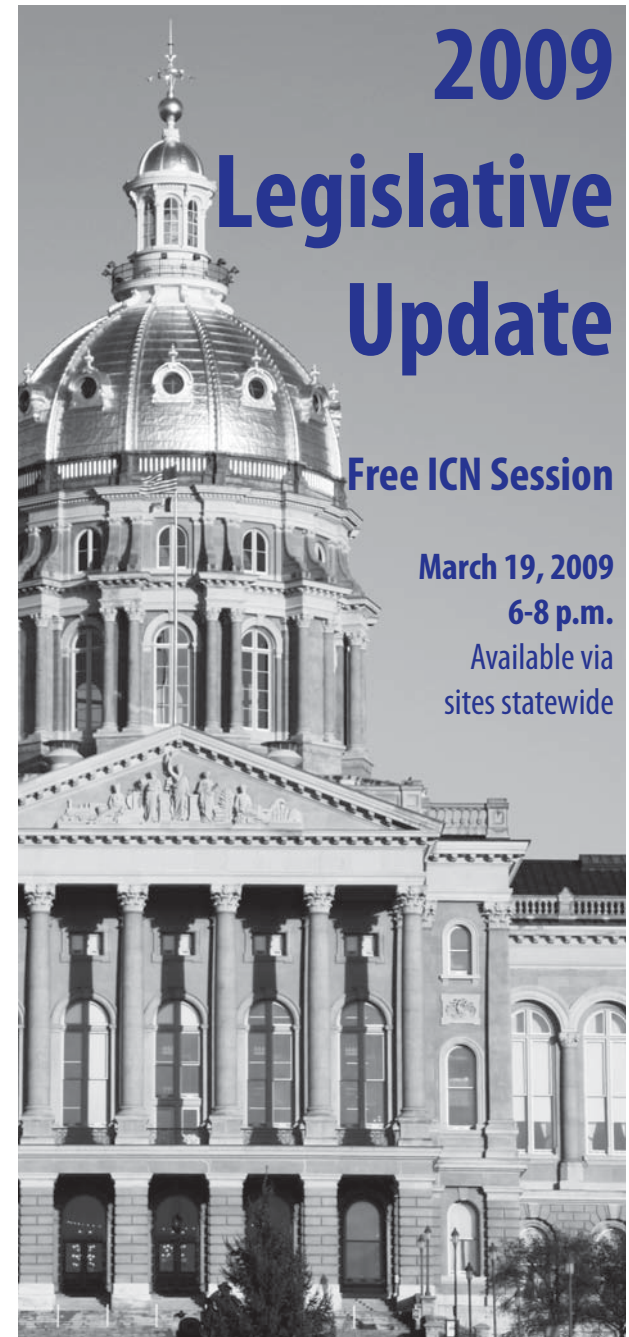
Advocacy for education can make the difference! Your messages throughout the rest of the session will help the momentum continue for education as Iowa's true priority. In tough economic times, dividing up a smaller pie can have profound impacts on education for students. Remember, if you are not at the table, you're on the menu.



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