

# Advocacy Insights

## From Iowa Legislators



### Sen. Chris Cournoyer

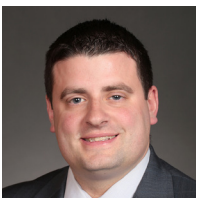
“Don’t feel intimidated or shy about reaching out, just get to know your legislators. Develop a positive relationship and invite them into your schools.”

“Be positive and respectful.”



### Rep. Ras Smith

“Don’t be overly offended if someone thinks differently than you, it’s okay. That’s where constructive ideas come from.”



### Speaker Pat Grassley

“Attend legislative events in your community and express support for something you’re invested in, because we make a lot of decisions in those meetings when we come and meet with constituents.”

## More Advocacy Info

The need for advocacy on behalf of Iowa public schools has never been greater. The decisions made by the Iowa General Assembly and at the national level impact your school district and the education of Iowa’s 487,000 public school students. As our state strives to implement far-ranging educational reforms, with limited resources—we must stand together. IASB is here to help you be a strong and effective voice for public education with our advocacy toolkits, powerful coalitions with other education organizations and engagement in national issues.

Visit [www.ia-sb.org/advocacy](http://www.ia-sb.org/advocacy) for more info.

## From Your Peers



### Glen Keppy, North Scott Board President

“Keep it simple. Legislators have heard it all, so ask how you can work together to understand issues and work to solve them.”



### Liz Brennan, Heartland AEA Board Member; IASB President-elect

“Legislators have to know so much about so many different issues, and if we don’t let them know the important things about education and what’s happening in our local area, they may not get to hear it. Advocacy is the only way to get things done.”



### Sheri Benson, Former Newton & Current Heartland AEA Board President

“Thank your representative and senator for serving. Offer your help because even if they are members of an opposing political party, they still want to serve ALL their constituents.”



### Perla Alarcon-Flory, Sioux City Board Member

“Invite your legislators to your schools to see the amazing things that are happening, as well as the challenges faced. Besides sharing district facts, have a personal story of how one student or one small group has been impacted by their decision making.”