

# EDUCATION

IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

END OF SESSION, 2009

## **CATEGORICAL STATE PERCENT OF GROWTH**

SF 217 sets the growth rate at 2 percent for teacher salary, professional development, and early intervention supplements in the school aid formula for FY 2011. This will provide total funding of \$316.8 million which is an increase of \$7.8 million compared to FY 2010.

SF 217 – signed by Governor; applicable for 2010-2011 school year

## **ALLOWABLE GROWTH**

SF 218 sets allowable growth for the 2010-2011 (FY 2011) school year at 2 percent. This is estimated to provide \$2.370 billion in state aid for FY 2011 and \$1.280 billion in property taxes, which is an increase of \$58.3 million over current law for 2010. Under this bill, the state cost per pupil is \$5,883, an increase of \$115 per pupil. Under this level of funding, 193 school districts will be on the budget guarantee.

SF 218 – signed by Governor; applicable for 2010-2011 school year

## **DISASTER RECOVERY**

This bill is designed to assist school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to recover following a disaster, as defined in the Code. The bill amends various school-related sections of the Code to allow for increased flexibility, with oversight, for school districts and the Department of Education during the time of a disaster. The Department of Education is authorized to waive certain statutory requirements if a school district cannot reasonably comply with the requirements due to a disaster. School districts are allowed to go to the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) for additional taxing authority for rebuilding and repairing, area education agencies are allowed to purchase property to replace damaged property after a disaster, and the use of the Physical Plant & Equipment Levy (PPEL) is expanded to include demolition, clean up, and other disaster-related recovery costs within 2 years following a disaster.

SF 81 – signed by Governor; effective July 1, 2009

## **TRANSPORTATION FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN OPEN ENROLLMENT**

SF 177 clarifies that in cases of open enrollment, when the road is changed due to road construction, the receiving school district is allowed to pick up open enrolled students at the same location prior to the road construction without receiving the neighboring district's consent.

SF 177 - signed by Governor; effective July 1, 2009

## **TEACHER SALARY INTEGRATION**

SF 455 integrates regular teacher salaries into one salary schedule. Currently, teacher salaries consist of numerous items such as regular salary, education excellence, teacher quality mandated minimums, and the teacher compensation allocation. Administration of salaries includes separate accountability for each item, separate bargaining, and usually separate checks. This bill replaces the current process with one unified system for paying teacher salaries.

SF 445 – signed by Governor; effective July 1, 2009

**DISPOSITION OF SCHOOL  
PROPERTY**

This bill shortens the time for citizens to challenge a disposition of property from 12 months to ten days. Requiring school boards to wait for 12 months to transfer property has proven problematic especially when schools have been damaged or destroyed by tornadoes or other weather-related events.

HF 233 – signed by Governor; effective March 13, 2009

**ARTICULATION  
AGREEMENTS**

HF 815 directs the Regents institutions and community colleges to enter into a statewide agreement to provide for the seamless transfer of academic credits from a completed associate of arts or associate of science degree program offered by a community college to a baccalaureate degree program offered by a Regents university.

HF 815 – signed by Governor; effective July 1, 2009

**STATE RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
SCHOOL**

SF 470 provides for the transition of the Price Laboratory School in Cedar Falls to the state's research and development school. The bill provides for student transfer and open enrollment, governance, funding, infrastructure, and funding as well as providing for an engineering study.

SF 470 – signed by Governor; effective July 1, 2009

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**OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST**

- HF 259 Provides that students remain in school through age 17. (House Ways and Means Committee)
- HF 487 Requires that all institutions of higher education post information on campus and on their respective websites identifying textbooks and the ISBN number. (Senate Education Committee)
- HF 589 Provides for a statewide uniform school start date of no sooner than the fourth Monday in August. (House Education Committee)