



The following information represents the major legislative priorities of SAI and its members for the 2026 Iowa legislative session. [View details online.](#)

Overview

- **Supplemental State Aid (SSA) and School Funding**
 - SAI supports an increase in SSA for the 2025-26 school year that will provide districts with adequate funding to meet students' needs. This would include funds to provide appropriate teacher compensation, as well as funds to allow districts to be competitive in hiring support staff to meet the needs of students.
 - SAI encourages the legislature to meet the statutory guidelines and set the SSA percentage in a timely manner.
 - SAI supports legislation that would allow districts to have more flexibility in the use of district funds. These decisions should be made at the local level to meet the needs of students in that district.

- **Employee Recruitment and Retention**
 - SAI encourages efforts to increase funding for teachers' salaries and compensation — both for new and current teachers and support staff. This will allow districts to hire and retain quality staff in order to serve their students.
 - SAI also encourages efforts to increase flexibility in teacher licensure, as well as providing financial incentives to encourage more students and others to enter the field of education. Steps to improve the teacher pipeline at the local level should be bolstered.

- **Preschool and Early Literacy**
 - SAI supports a focus on early literacy, including fully funding PK programs.

- **Critical Education Appropriations**
 - SAI supports efforts to improve or create funding streams that allow districts to better serve students in *critical need areas*. This would include: At-risk students, Special education students, students with brain health issues, students in poverty, English Learners, and more.

- **Brain Health**
 - SAI supports efforts that are solution-focused regarding brain health issues that impact children. Schools need more resources and partnerships to serve their students in this high-need area.

- **Education Savings Accounts (ESA)**
 - SAI encourages legislation to address issues presented by the ESA law, including equity of expectations, transparency, transportation, and funds returning to public schools.