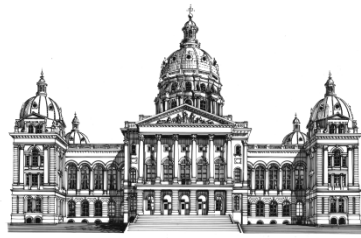


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House of Representatives
State of Iowa
Eighty-Fifth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

COMMITTEES
Education- *Chair*
Economic Development
Labor
Transportation

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Education

Dear Friends,

As my second term being your State Representative in the Iowa House is just beginning, I want to bring you up to date on the major initiatives we will be working on this year. Since I was elected in 2010, I have continually stated that job creation needs to be our top priority. This continues to be my top priority. My top focus from day one has been to create an environment which encourages individuals to live, work, raise a family and operate a business in this great state.

The top initiatives for this next legislative session will be to continue to prudently manage the state's budget, spending less than we take in and funding ongoing expenses only with ongoing revenue sources. In addition we must reduce the tax burden on both individuals and business and continue to reform our educational system which will get Iowa back to leading the country in education and assuring that all graduates have the skills and knowledge needed to excel in today's worldwide marketplace.

This Legislative Session, I have been chosen by the Speaker of the House to chair the Education Committee. This committee will be responsible for getting education bills passed which help Iowa accomplish the education goals as noted above. In addition to the Education committee, I will also serve on the following other committees:

Economic Growth
Labor
Transportation
Education Appropriations Subcommittee

I intend to continue to do all I can to help this state and our area grow and prosper. I consider it an honor and a privilege to represent and serve you in the Iowa House.

Committee Updates:

Education

The Governor released the plan for his Education Reform proposal this week. I assigned the bill to a subcommittee of 7 on Tuesday. I will chair this subcommittee and look forward to subcommittee meetings beginning next Tuesday. The bill consists of 5 components:

1. **Teacher Leadership and Compensation** – 3 year phase in of program
 - Raises base teacher salaries from \$28,000 to \$35,000
 - Creates career pathways for teachers
 - Initial Teacher – 0-2 years, formal evaluations annually
 - Career Teacher –full time in classroom
 - Model Teacher –full time in classroom, classroom is open to observation by others, contract extended 5 days and \$2,000 minimum additional salary
 - Mentor Teacher –75% in the classroom, 35% developing other teachers, contract extended 10 days and \$5000 minimum additional salary
 - Lead Teacher – 50% in the classroom, 50% developing other teachers, contract extended 15 days and \$10,000 additional salary
 - Emeritus – Retired teachers, don't work full time, don't have own class, but can fill in as Mentor or Lead or fill other roles as needed
 - Creates residency year for new teachers with reduced teaching load and increased learning opportunities
 - Provides incentives for teacher to teach in high-needs schools
 2. **Teach Iowa Initiative**
 - Tuition Reimbursement – \$4,000/year (\$20,000 max) for top students who commit to teach in Iowa for 5 years
 - Hard-to-Hire subjects – Priority tuition reimbursement to hard-to-hire subjects, like STEM
 - Student Teaching Pilot – Extends student teaching during senior year from one semester to a full year
 - Jobs Board – Creates a state-wide education job posting system
 3. **Iowa Promise Diploma Seals**
 - Creates optional diploma seals that designate a graduate as career or college-ready
 - Goal to provide automatic college entry or hiring preference at participating businesses
 4. **Educator Development System**
 - Updates teacher and administrator standards and evaluations
 - Gives DE the authority to develop and implement an evaluation framework that uses three different performance levels and factors in student outcomes
 5. **Iowa Learning Online**
 - Provides funding to expand Iowa Learning Online offerings
 - ILO provides online classes on a class-by-class basis to school districts
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As always, I encourage you to contact me via e-mail at ron.jorgensen@legis.iowa.gov, by phone at (515) 281-3221, or by mail about any questions, comments or issues you may have.

Sincerely,

Ron Jorgensen