

Iowa Valley Community College District 2021 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Legislative Week 1

Condition of the State Message

On Tuesday, January 12th, Governor Reynolds revealed her FY22 *Condition of the State* plan. Some of the major components of her plan include:

- A commitment of \$450-million over the next 3 years to expand access to broadband in the state.
- Provide the state's mental health regions with \$15-million in FY22 and \$30-million in FY23 to expand access and implement the mental health reforms and service expansions that have been in effect the last 3 years.
- Prioritize parental choice that makes changes in the open enrollment policies that benefit students who are restricted to remain in their school district.
- Allow parents the authority to send their students back to school classrooms full-time to get students back in the classrooms vs. the in-person or virtual learning structure.
- Increase the need for volunteer emergency medical care providers (EMS) and firefighters by authorizing municipalities, counties, townships, or agencies to implement

length of service agreement awards for volunteer fire fighters and EMS providers. By authorizing local governments to establish these programs, can give control to local government to provide incentives for volunteers in communities in need of EMS services.

- Provide more access for Iowans in need of childcare by appropriating funding to establish facilities in local communities or in the workplace.

Governor's Budget Released

Immediately following the Governor's *Condition of the State* message, she released her FY22 and FY23 budget to the public. Her budget proposes to spend \$8.1141-billion from the General Fund in FY22 (increase of 3.70%, in comparison, to FY21) and \$8.2998-billion in FY23 (increase of 2.29% or \$185.7-million). Major components in her FY22 budget included:

- A 2.3% increase in supplemental state aid for school districts and school transportation or \$26.3-million, along with, an additional \$2.5-million to implement provisions of last year's classroom behavior bill, and \$3-million to provide

educational savings accounts for students who are currently attending failing schools.

- Iowa's Community Colleges were appropriated an additional \$5.2-million in FY22 State General Aid and all funding in the Iowa Community College Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund will remain at the same level as FY22 (\$40.6-million).
- State funding for the Regent universities would increase by \$15-million with \$8-million replacing the FY21 reduction and another increase of \$7-million for operational funding for the U of I, ISU, and UNI.
- Future Ready Iowa Initiative – The scholarship program will receive an additional \$10-million or a total of \$23-million in financial aid appropriated to the Iowa College Student Aid Commission which will be made available for students studying degrees and certifications in high demand careers.

Active Legislation

Senate File 49 – Relating to the tuition and textbook tax credit available against the individual income tax. Filed by Senator Whiting (R-Spirit Lake) and

Iowa Valley Community College District 2021 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



referred to Senate Ways & Means Subcommittee: Dawson, Johnson, and Kinney.

Carlin, Quirnbach, and Rozenboom.

House File 12 – Creates the Iowa Job Training Tax Credit Program. Filed by Jacoby (D-Solon) and referred to the House Economic Growth Committee.

House File 51 – Relating to the establishment of an advanced opportunities program for certain students enrolled in public schools to take overload and dual credit courses, postsecondary credit-bearing and career and technical education certificate examinations, and career and technical education workforce training courses, and the award of scholarships for early graduation or obtaining certain amounts of postsecondary credit. Filed by Rep. Wills (R-Spirit Lake) and referred to the House Education Committee.

House Study Bill 58 – Creates a special motion for expedited relief in actions involving the exercise of the right of the freedom of speech and of the press, the right to assemble and petition, and the right of association. Filed by the House Judiciary Committee and was referred to the Subcommittee: Hite, Salmon, and Wolfe.

Senate File 41 – Prohibits tenure systems at public postsecondary institutions. Filed by Senator Zaun (R-Urbandale) and referred to Senate Education Subcommittee: