

Legislative News

April 25, 2007

FUNDING FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS

In 1998 the Iowa legislature created the local option tax for school buildings, known as the School Infrastructure Local Option (SILO). The purpose of the SILO was to provide property tax relief while still enabling districts to update and maintain school buildings. This funding mechanism has been helpful to urban schools where lots of people shop and sales tax revenue is generated. However, it has been very unfair to rural districts. An attempt by the legislature to fix this inequity by creating a SILO “pool” caused additional problems for both urban and rural districts.

Current legislation would create a statewide penny sales tax for school buildings. Iowa PTA supports HF854 as an equitable way to ensure quality facilities for all Iowa students while still being fair to taxpayers.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE IOWA HOUSE AND URGE THEM TO SUPPORT HF854 – A STATEWIDE PENNY FOR SCHOOLS!

Call the Iowa House of Representatives switchboard at: (515) 281-3221 or send a letter or email.

WRITING TO YOUR LEGISLATORS

During the legislative session, address mail to Iowa Legislators at:

The Honorable (full name of legislator)
Iowa House of Representatives (or Iowa Senate)
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Use the correct salutation:

Dear Representative (last name),
Or
Dear Senator (last name),

CALLING YOUR LEGISLATORS

Leave a message for your Representative in the House by calling (515) 281-3221

Leave a message for your Senator by calling (515) 281-3371

E-MAILING YOUR LEGISLATORS

You MUST include your home address in your email, so they know you are a constituent!

Email addresses are created as follows:
firstname.lastname@legis.state.ia.us

DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR LEGISLATORS ARE?

Go to: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/FindLeg/>

TIPS ON COMMUNICATING WITH LAWMAKERS:

http://www.iowapta.org/pdf/legislative/Advocating_to_Lawmakers.pdf

ADVOCACY GUIDELINES FOR PTAs:

http://www.iowapta.org/pdf/legislative/Guidelines_for_Advocating.pdf

To get a FREE advocacy workshop for your PTA, contact the Iowa PTA office:

ia_office@pta.org
(515) 225-4197
(800) 475-4782

National PTA Legislative Information –

- To receive National PTA’s weekly e-newsletter, “*This Week in Washington*”, go to: http://www.pta.org/issues_and_action.html
- To view previous issues of the weekly e-newsletter, go to: http://www.pta.org/ia_newsletters.html

Iowa PTA Legislative Information –

- To subscribe to Iowa PTA “Legislative News”, go to: www.iowapta.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=legislative.network
 - To view previous issues of the e-newsletter, go to: www.iowapta.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=updates.main
-