



# PEI

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

March 21, 2011

Dear PEI Member,

The past two weeks following the funnel period has been full of voting in both the house and senate chambers. Both chambers are rushing to get their bills over to the other respective chamber before the second funnel arrives on April 1. All bills must be passed in their chambers of origin as well out of committees in the other respective chamber by April 1. Many bills will not survive the second funnel. Following the second funnel the debate will begin on the state budget.

The status so far on the budget is bleak. The legislature's original calendar end date was set for the end of April, but the odds of them passing a budget that the house, senate, and the governor agree on before April is very slim. This session will likely go into May and possibly longer. Currently in appropriations committee the house and senate have made two separate proposals. The appropriations committee is made up of both house and senate members. Most years you will have a budget proposal from the governor and a proposal from the joint committee. It is very rare that the house and senate members would make their own separate proposal. This really shows the division between the two chambers.

Here is a look at the governor's GENERAL FUND recommendations on education:

Blind:	\$1,706,053
College Student Aid:	\$59,243,200
Education:	\$245,450,963
Regents:	\$509,513,094
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$815,913,094</b>

It is important to note this is only general fund expenditures. It does not reveal the other programs K12 receives funding from. This is the only area for funding for the regents that is why the number appears high.

Currently the debate on categorical and allowable growth is continuing. On Thursday the senate passed a bill to delay setting the amount. The bill was passed on a party line vote. The Senate also returned the house bill that was set at 0% and amended it to 2%. The house is likely to return it at 0%.

Following is a list of bills for key pieces to education that has either passed out of the house or senate chamber. You can access them [at this site](#).

**Senate:**

- SF 468: Bans nicotine products use by students on school grounds
- SF 453: Changes graduation requirements for high school students
- SF 437: Establishes an online advance placement academy in science, math, engineering, and technology
- SF 426: Modifies whole sharing agreements between school districts - amount home district pays to sharing district is based on percent of time of student at the district
- SF 239: Delays the establishment of categorical growth for FY 2012
- SF 238: Delays establishment of allowable growth for FY 2012

**House:**

- HF 535: Governor's new preschool scholarship program passed Iowa House and future in senate is uncertain -

Gronstal promises not to pass it

HF 525: Collective bargaining bill that removes insurance from the scope of collective bargaining - also provides changes to arbitration and established free agent employees

HF 124: Changes rules and restrictions on charter schools placing more of an encouragement on establishing them - also removes chapter 20 from charter schools

HF 583: Allows private schools to receive their accreditation from independent accrediting agencies certified by the state

HF 589: Allows home school parents to teach their children driver's education and requires the student to drive for the DOT following the driver's exam

These are some major bills that have passed through one of the chambers so far. We will keep you informed as they move over to the other chamber. There are a few bills we will still be monitoring out of the house that could be passed early next week.

**A reminder on our political policy**, PEI does not take a partisan stance. We lobby only on issues that affect education and our freedom as an association. This is why our time is spent in the labor and education committees. We will only register a stance on an issue in which 75% of our members agree, OR issues that favor or oppose our basic tenets of operation as are spelled out in the by-laws and code of ethics. Otherwise we present the perspective of our members to the legislators and remain neutral on the legislation. PEI has not and will not take a partisan stand on any issue. We encourage politicians who support the principles of PEI. We DO NOT spend your dues dollars on political parties and do not even run a PAC. Issues prevail!

We encourage you to contact your [legislators](#) on your opinion of these issues. We will monitor these bills as they continue to develop and will keep you updated. Please feel free to pass this email on to other educators within your school. It is important for the truth to prevail. More information on the education budget will come soon.

Greg Baker,  
PEI Representative

## RED ALERT SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

You have until April 1, 2011 to apply.

Download the brochure at: [2011 Scholarship Brochure](#)

Download the cover sheet at: [2011 Scholarship Cover Sheet](#)

You can share these with your entire district and we encourage it.

### **\$20 - \$11 FOR 2011**

PEI is starting a Spring - Summer Promotion  
April 1 and ending September 1, 2011.

**Recruit a Professional member and earn \$20**  
**Recruit a support/paraprofessional and earn \$11**

**Just call this a Recruitment Reward. Telling others about PEI is the lifeblood of your association. It is important that they know how they can save some major dollars and gain tremendous security in the process.**

**NO ORGANIZATION GUARANTEES MORE!**

**Proudly tell others!**

There will be more details soon.

**Professional Educators of Iowa**

974 73rd St. Suite 14

Windsor Heights, IA 50324

[515-221-2330](tel:515-221-2330)

[proedia@aol.com](mailto:proedia@aol.com)

[WWW.PEOWA.ORG](http://WWW.PEOWA.ORG)