



Quick Read

- This is supposed to be the final week of session, but legislators will not get done.
- The Senate and Governor have agreed to spend \$9.43 billion in their budget for next year.
- The House has set its own budget target at \$9.42 billion (just \$36 million higher).
- Seizure Safe Schools (HF 835) passed the Senate and is on its way to the Governor.
- Tomorrow is the special election for Cedar Rapids House District 78.
- Catch up on federal updates by watching our [last Capitol Chat](#).

Not the "Final Week" - Just Working Without Pay

Yesterday was the first day of what was supposed to be the final week of the Iowa Legislative Session. Friday (May 2) is the 110th day of session and marks the last day legislators get reimbursed for their expenses. Beginning next week, legislators will have to pay for their own hotel and meals and they will no longer have a legislative clerk to help them do their jobs. Legislators will not be able to get their work done this week, but there is a clear sign that the end is near.

We Have Budget Targets!

Governor Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Senate have agreed to a budget target for next year. The House has also released its budget target. They are only \$36 million apart. That is less than 1% difference. While that difference is not much, it may mean the difference between a Medicaid rate increase, making scholarships for comprehensive transition programs available to young adults with disabilities, or cutting property taxes for homeowners.

The Senate has already released some of its budgets and will move all budget bills out of subcommittee and committee this week. That gets them into position for fast action once the House, Senate and Governor agree to their final spending plan.

Current Budget (FY 2025)

\$8.948 billion

Governor's Original Recommendation (FY 2026)

\$9.434 billion

Senate/Governor Budget Target (FY 2026)

\$9.417 billion

House Budget Target (FY 2026)

\$9.453 billion

	FY 2025 Current Year	FY 2026 Senate/Governor	FY 2026 House
Administration/ Regulation	\$72,941,377	\$73,461,809	\$74,525,590
Agriculture/ Natural Resources	\$45,923,745	\$45,574,050	\$47,305,670
Economic Development	\$40,787,127	\$40,187,127	\$40,637,127
Education	\$1,019,009,691	\$1,026,386,031	\$1,042,264,716
Health/Human Services	\$2,215,601,301	\$2,468,992,645	\$2,468,514,264
Judicial Branch/ Justice Systems	\$915,462,616	\$925,925,531	\$928,933,800
Standings (including school aid)	\$4,637,632,218	\$4,836,758,719	\$4,851,312,672
TOTAL	\$8,947,358,075	\$9,417,285,912	\$9,453,493,839

The Transportation budget is not included since it does not spend state general fund dollars. It uses funds earmarked for transportation (gas taxes, vehicle registrations, etc). The Federal Block Grant Bill is 100% federal funds, so it is not included in the state targets. Both of these bills are well on their way to being finalized.

“A budget agreement with Governor Reynolds moves this legislative session one step closer to adjourning for the year,” Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver said. “As we continue to work on important issues in the legislature and find agreement among

legislators, this agreement marks an important step forward. We look forward to more conversations with the House of Representatives on how we can pass a sustainable budget for the upcoming fiscal year.”

Speaker Pat Grassley (R-New Hartford) expressed support for his caucus’ approach. "Our caucus is committed to delivering a budget that follows responsible budget practices, while funding the priorities Iowans care most about," Grassley said. "Iowans expect to see their tax dollars used wisely to fund important services like nursing homes, paraprofessional pay, support for human trafficking victims, and more of that sort, and that's what this House Republican caucus is fighting to deliver."

Budget subcommittees will continue their work to finalize their individual budgets. We already have a few budgets to list:

- Administration/Regulation: [SSB 1235](#)
- Agriculture/Natural Resources: [SSB 1230](#)
- Education Budget: [SSB 1231](#)
- Judicial Branch Budget: [SSB 1233](#)
- Justice Systems Budget: [SSB 1232](#)
- Federal Block Grants: [HSB 327](#) | [SF 626](#)
- Transportation Budget: [SF 628](#)
- Opioid Settlement: [HSB 331](#) | [SF 624](#)

The Senate Education Budget ([SSB 1231](#)) does not include funding for comprehensive transition program scholarships as proposed in [HF 271/SF 283](#). Advocates can ask their legislators to add these bills into the Education Budget (including funding for them).

Another issue many advocates have worked on this year is adding autism treatment (behavioral health analysis) to the children's health insurance program (Hawki). Advocates who want to see this happen can ask their legislators to put [HF 509](#) into the HHS Budget.

Watch for alerts on [Facebook](#) and [our website](#) as decisions are made this week.

Seizure Safe Schools Goes to Governor

Yesterday (Monday) the Iowa Senate passed the “Seizure Safe Schools” bill ([HF 835](#)). After more than seven years of hard work by the Epilepsy Foundation of Iowa and other advocates, the bill is on its way to the Governor. Once signed, the bill will require all Iowa schools to have one employee at each school to be trained on

administering seizure medication and recovery. This could be a school nurse, but each school must have someone trained before the start of the next school year. By the end of December 2026, each school will also be required to provide training on seizure identification and seizure first aid to all students, teachers, and school employees. Congratulations to all who worked so hard, for so many years on this.

You can watch the debate on the bill [here](#). Sen. Dawn Driscoll read a letter from a constituent about the bill's importance to her child - it's worth watching/listening!

Other News

Federal Update

There is a lot going on. We're getting our Spring Issue of infoNET ready to send out next week. We will focus on federal changes being considered, including the proposed elimination of the Department of Education and the Administration on Community Living. You can get a preview of this by watching our April 25 Capitol Chat [here](#).

Special Election

Today voters in [House District 78](#) (Cedar Rapids) will elect a new State Representative. This district became vacant when former Rep. Sami Scheetz was appointed to the Linn County Board of Supervisors. Democrat Angel Ramirez and Republican Bernie Hayes are running for this seat. If you live in [this district](#), find out how you can vote [here](#).



The messages we are sending to Congress are:

- Living in the community isn't just something people with disabilities prefer — it's **essential for their health**.
- Research clearly shows that **people thrive**—physically, mentally, and socially—when they live in their own homes and communities, rather than in institutional settings.
- Living in the community **saves money** for the government!

□□□□□ What Can YOU Do? □□□□□

- Federal advocacy is **very important** at this time.
- Contact your members of Congress.
 - [Click here](#) to take action on Medicaid.

- [Click here](#) to take action on HHS and Dept. of Education.
 - Be ready to **use your voice** and **tell your story**. Make it personal.
-

Bills of the Week

WEEKS 12-14: No Bill of the Week

WEEK 11: IHWP Work Requirements - SF 615

[Bill of the Week](#) | [Advocate Talking Points](#)

WEEK 10: Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)/Hawki Insurance - HF 509

[Bill of the Week](#) | [Advocate Talking Points](#)

WEEK 9: Iowa Health & Wellness Plan Work Requirements - HF 948 & SF 599

[Bill of the Week](#) | [Advocate Talking Points](#)

WEEK 8: Tax-Free Adaptive Driving Equipment - HF 485

[Bill of the Week](#) | [Advocate Talking Points](#)

WEEK 7: Competitive Integrated Employment - HF 538

[Bill of the Week](#) | [Advocate Talking Points](#)

WEEK 6: Work Without Worry - HF 905

[Bill of the Week](#) | [Advocate Talking Points](#) (Updated 3/21/25)

WEEK 5: Protecting Victims with Disabilities - HJR 9/SJR 9

[Bill of the Week](#) | [Advocate Talking Points](#) (Updated 3/9/25)

WEEK 4: Automatic Medicaid Provider Rate Increases - HF 13

[Bill of the Week](#) | [Advocate Talking Points](#)

WEEK 3: Seizure Safe Schools - HF 835/SF 368

[Bill of the Week](#) | [Advocate Talking Points](#) | [Epilepsy Foundation Fact Sheet](#) (Updated 3/9/25)

WEEK 2: Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarships - HF 271/SF 283

[Bill of the Week](#) | [Advocate Talking Points](#) (Updated 2/22/25)

WEEK 1: Autism Insurance Coverage - HF 330

[Bill of the Week](#) | [Advocate Talking Points](#)



Ways to Advocate

- Introduce yourself to legislators at a local public forum - [find one here](#).
- Talk/email your legislators about a bill in the [bill tracker](#).
- Use our [Take Action Center](#) to advocate on one of our [Bills of the Week](#).
- When you talk to your elected officials, offer yourself as a resource.



Advocate Resources

[Bill Tracker](#)
[Action Center](#)
[Calendar & Legislative Town Halls](#)
[Who Represents You? Guide](#)
[Advocacy Toolkit](#)

infoNET is the disability policy project of the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and its network of Iowans with Disabilities in Action.

IOWA DD Council

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