



Weekly Legislative Update

Week 6: February 16-20, 2026

This Week in Des Moines

This was the "First Funnel Week" - one of the two most important deadlines of the entire legislative session. By Friday, bills needed to be voted out of committee in the chamber where they started, or they would be essentially dead. Think of it like an actual funnel. Only bills with enough support can squeeze through to the next stage.

Exceptions exist for budget and tax bills, which can move any time. The majority party can also keep bills alive by moving them to the "unfinished business calendar." But here's the key thing to understand: if a bill you care about doesn't make it through this week, it can only come back if legislative leaders attach its language to another bill that survived.

Setback – But Not the End

HF 2366 - Homeschool Instruction Deregulation – MISSED THE FUNNEL

Many of you received and responded to a call to action this week by contacting your Iowa representatives. While HF 2366 did not pass the House Education Committee as a standalone bill, there is still a path forward. This is one of those situations when attaching the language as an amendment to the committee priority package becomes the next option. Homeschool Iowa is working with the House Education Committee leadership and will keep you updated. Be sure to be on the lookout for ways you can help support HF 2366 in the near future.

What HF 2366 will do if included by the Education Committee:

- Remove immunization requirements for CPI registration
- Remove blood lead testing requirements for CPI
- Prohibit DOE from regulating homeschool instructional methods, curriculum, or parent qualifications
- Require schools and state agencies to recognize homeschool diplomas

Our position:

We're not giving up on these provisions. One door closed, but we're opening multiple new doors.

A Major Win

SF 2392 – Home School Sports Scrimmages – PASSED SENATE EDUCATION

Great news! SF 2392 passed Senate Education Committee on Thursday.

What it does:

- Allows homeschool sports teams to scrimmage against public and private school teams
- Requires written agreement between schools and teams
- Results excluded from regular season standings
- Officials not paid for scrimmages (keeps it informal/practice level)

What this is NOT:

This is scrimmage access only, not competitive league play. Homeschool students cannot join school teams or compete for championships through this bill. It provides practice opportunities and competitive experience, but not full sports access.

Our position: SUPPORT

This is progress for homeschool athletic opportunities.

Next step: Crosses to House for Second Funnel consideration.

Other Major Bills That Cleared the First Funnel

HF 2171 – Striking Immunization Requirements – CLEARED FUNNEL

Eliminates K-12 immunization requirements for all Iowa students including all homeschool options.

Our position: SUPPORT

SF 2358 – Minor Driving Distances – CLEARED FUNNEL

Expands driving distances for minor licenses.

Our position: SUPPORT

HF 824 – Custody Protection – CLEARED FUNNEL (Gustoff - our champion)

Protects homeschooling during custody disputes. Creates rebuttable presumption that children stay in current educational setting.

Our position: SUPPORT

SF 2176 – Homeschool-Community College Courses – CLEARED FUNNEL

Addresses homeschool access to community college courses.

Our position: SUPPORT

Additional Bills That Cleared:

- SF 2201 - School funding (passed House 58-35) - MONITOR
- HF 2106/SF 2062/SF 2300 - Student religious/philosophical speech protections - SUPPORT
- SF 2351 - Open enrollment truancy restrictions - MONITOR

Other Bills That Missed the First Funnel

- HF 2078 - \$4,000 Tuition Credit - MISSED FUNNEL
- HF 2368 - Medical Freedom Act - MISSED FUNNEL
- HF 2308 - Federal SGO Tax Credit - MISSED FUNNEL

What's Next

Next week (Feb 23-27) is chamber-specific debate week. The Senate debates only Senate bills, and the House debates only House bills. This is by design. It lets each chamber move their priorities before bills cross over to the opposite chamber. Then bills that cleared First Funnel will start the committee process again in the opposite chamber, heading toward Second Funnel (deadline March 20).

How You Can Help

Thank you to everyone who contacted legislators this week! **Your voices matter**, even when bills don't pass. Legislators notice constituent engagement, and it shapes their future decisions.

Stay engaged as these bills move to the opposite chamber. We'll alert you when action is needed.

For Iowa homeschool freedom,

Jeremy Vos

Director of Advocacy, Homeschool Iowa

Questions? Contact us at: advocacy@homeschooliowa.org



homeschool iowa

Equipping families and protecting homeschool freedom since 1992