



Weekly Legislative Update

Week 8: March 2-6, 2026

Week 8 Legislative Session Wrap-Up: Crossover Period Underway — Here's Where Things Stand

We've crossed a significant threshold in the Iowa Legislature. The first funnel deadline passed two weeks ago, and the session has now entered what's called the open debate period — Weeks 8 and 9 on the legislative calendar. This is when the pace picks up and the bills that survived committee scrutiny start crossing over to the opposite chamber for a second round of review.

Here's what that means practically: A bill that started in the Senate and passed a Senate committee now moves to the House, where it gets assigned to a House committee, goes through subcommittee, and needs a full committee vote before the **second funnel deadline on Friday, March 20**. The same process runs in reverse for House bills heading to the Senate. Think of it as the entire committee process starting over — with less time and fewer bills. The funnel has done its job of narrowing the field, and what remains deserves close attention.

For homeschool families, here's a snapshot of what we're watching:

HF 2713 — Charter School Matters is our primary vehicle for advancing homeschool deregulation this session. When our priority bill HF 2366 — which would have removed immunization filing requirements, eliminated unnecessary course outline definitions, and prohibited the Department of Education from expanding its rulemaking authority over homeschool instruction — didn't make it through the first funnel, we didn't give up. We've been working to attach those provisions as an amendment to HF 2713 during House floor debate. The amendment is written and ready. The next critical moment is when HF 2713 comes up for a floor vote in the House. We'll be watching the calendar closely and will keep you posted.

SF 2392 — Home School Sports Scrimmages passed out of Senate committee in February and is awaiting a Senate floor vote before it can cross over to the House. This bill would expand scrimmage opportunities for homeschool athletic programs. Second funnel is two weeks away, so we need this one to move. We're monitoring the Senate floor calendar.

HR 110 — The Phoenix Declaration was introduced last week by Representative Fett with support from eleven Republican co-sponsors. This non-binding resolution affirms the God-given right of parents to direct the education of their children. While it doesn't change Iowa law, it's a meaningful statement from the Legislature — and a reminder that homeschooling families have real friends at the Capitol. We're grateful to Rep. Fett and the co-sponsors for their leadership.

On the threat side: we reviewed a number of bills this week that had the potential to affect homeschoolers — bills touching school enrollment, FFA/4-H absences, ESA funding mechanics, educational savings plan definitions, and community college enrollment programs. After pulling and reviewing the bill texts, we have determined that none of them create new requirements or risks for Iowa homeschool families. We'll keep scanning, but as of today there are **zero critical threats** on our radar.

A Quick Action Step You Can Take

If you'd like to do one simple thing this week, consider dropping a quick note of thanks to Representative Skyler Wheeler, who has been a consistent friend to homeschooling families at the Capitol. A brief word of encouragement from homeschool parents goes a long way in building the relationships that protect our freedoms long-term.

Rep. Skyler Wheeler: sk Tyler.wheeler@legis.iowa.gov

Second Funnel — What Survived, What Didn't

The second funnel deadline — **Friday, March 20** — is two weeks away. That's the last major checkpoint before the session enters its final stretch. Bills that don't clear a committee in the opposite chamber by that date are generally done for the session. We'll have a fuller picture of what survives once that deadline passes. In the meantime, the best thing you can do is stay connected — and if you haven't already, make sure your legislators know you're watching.

You can track bill activity at legis.iowa.gov and watch floor debate sessions live through the Legislature's website. As always, your Homeschool Iowa membership is what makes this advocacy possible. Not a member? [Please join us!](#) Thank you!

For Iowa homeschool freedom,

Jeremy Vos

Director of Advocacy, Homeschool Iowa

Questions? Contact us at: advocacy@homeschooliowa.org



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