



Weekly Legislative Update

Week 13: April 6 – April 10, 2026

We are in the final stretch of the 2026 Iowa Legislative Session. This week, legislators returned from Easter break and pushed hard on budget bills and floor debates.

Since there is not a lot of urgent action for homeschooling families to take right now, we want to use this update to explain how the Iowa legislative process actually works in these final weeks. Understanding the process helps you know why we are confident, what we are watching for, and exactly when your voice will matter most.

Our Priority Bill Is in a Strong Position

Our homeschool priority legislation is riding inside a larger appropriations bill and is positioned well for final passage. The bill is eligible for House floor debate, and the Senate companion is moving through the appropriations process on track. We are in close contact with our legislative champions and will alert you the moment a floor vote is scheduled.

When that moment comes, we will need your voice. But not yet. For now, the most helpful thing you can do is send a quick thank-you to the legislators who have made this possible. More on that at the end of this update.

On Tuesday, April 14, Homeschool Iowa Executive Director Ellie Stangl and I will be at the Capitol meeting with legislators and other officials. We have received an excellent response to our outreach and are looking forward to a full day of conversations on behalf of Iowa's homeschool families. It is a good reminder that relationship-based advocacy is ongoing work, not just something that happens during funnel weeks.

How the Iowa Legislature Works in the Final Weeks

The final weeks of session look very different from the opening weeks, and it helps to understand why.

Earlier in the session, two "funnel" deadlines (February 20 and March 20) forced hundreds of bills to die in committee. Only legislation with genuine support survived. Since March 30, the Legislature has been in the limited debate period, where only a narrow set of bills are eligible for floor debate: appropriations (budget) bills, tax bills, bills already passed by both chambers, and conference committee reports. Everything else is frozen.

Budget bills are exempt from funnel deadlines entirely, which is exactly why our homeschool amendment is attached to one. This is a legitimate and common strategy. Bills riding inside “must-pass” appropriations legislation stay viable all the way to the end.

These final weeks are dominated by budget negotiations and conference committees, where House and Senate members hammer out differences between their competing versions of each spending bill. Add in the per diem clock (legislators stop receiving daily expense reimbursements on April 21, the 100th day) and you have real pressure to finish. The pace will accelerate noticeably over the next two weeks.

Our bill is well insulated from all of this. It is exempt from funnels, attached to must-pass legislation, and has champions coordinating in both chambers. We are waiting on floor scheduling. When that date is set, we mobilize.

A Note on the SGO Program

We have also been tracking HF 2755, which passed the House 89-3 this week and is now in the Senate. This bill would require Iowa's Governor to opt the state into the federal Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) program, a new federal mechanism that encourages private donations to organizations that grant K-12 scholarships, through a federal tax credit for donors. The SGO program itself is not yet in effect; this bill positions Iowa to participate when it does. Homeschool Iowa has a seat at the table on implementation through our involvement with the Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education. We will share more as details develop.

Please Thank Your Legislators

These are the men and women who have carried our work this session, answering calls on weekends, walking our amendment through committees, coordinating with the Governor's office, and keeping our provisions alive all the way to the final stretch. A brief, genuine thank-you from a constituent goes a long way. It strengthens the relationships that make future advocacy possible and lets these legislators know that Iowa homeschool families are paying attention and are grateful.

If your legislator is on this list, please take two minutes to send them a note:

Rep. Bill Gustoff — former Homeschool Iowa lobbyist, now our champion in the House:

bill.gustoff@legis.iowa.gov

Rep. Samantha Fett — original sponsor of our priority homeschool legislation

samantha.fett@legis.iowa.gov

Rep. Dan Gehlbach — floor managing our bill through House Appropriations

dan.gehlbach@legis.iowa.gov

Rep. Skyler Wheeler — House Education Committee Chair

skyler.wheeler@legis.iowa.gov

Sen. Jesse Green — our primary Senate champion, carried our amendment to the Governor's office

jesse.green@legis.iowa.gov

Sen. Lynn Evans — Senate Education Committee Chair

lynn.evans@legis.iowa.gov

A simple message is plenty: "Thank you for supporting homeschool families this session. We appreciate your work on our behalf." Short, sincere, and it matters more than you might think.

What to Watch For

In the coming days, we are watching for House floor scheduling on our priority bill and Senate Appropriations committee action on the Senate companion. When a floor vote is scheduled, we will send a member alert. Stay subscribed and keep an eye on your inbox. When the moment comes, we will need you.

Thank you for your partnership this session. Your [membership in Homeschool Iowa](#) is what makes this work possible.

For Iowa homeschool freedom,

Jeremy Vos

Director of Advocacy, Homeschool Iowa

Questions? Contact us at: advocacy@homeschooliowa.org



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