

Update - RSA Advocacy Alert State Of The State 2018

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Update State of The State 2018 Advocacy Alert

STATE OF THE STATE ANALYSIS: UPDATE

In addition to the Advocacy Alert provided earlier, the governor's "policy book" that accompanies his State of the State Message contained proposals for public education unmentioned in the address itself. The address contained almost no mention of public education, beyond indicating that more state aid should flow to financially challenged school districts. The extensive policy paper (more than 400 pages) merely indicates an intent to "expand access to quality educational programming."

Not mentioned in the speech (but included in the policy book) were several proposals with the potential to help our rural schools. The degree to which they would help is in question however, given that they are all grant programs that by definition are limited to only certain districts (and they are generally of modest amounts.) That said, the governor has offered the following program and policy changes for public education in the coming year:

1. Using the Community School model, an additional \$250,000 in student mental health support would be provided. Any funding obtained could also be used to combat violence and curtail bullying. Given the small pool, additional work in this area is likely to be limited and would come with questions of sustainability.
2. \$1 million is being proposed to support additional Master Teachers in high

