



February 17, 2016



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### **Breaking News - ESA Pilot Program Bill Introduced**

The 2016 legislative session is underway and there is early movement on bringing Education Savings Accounts to Iowa.

Rep. Highfill has introduced a bill, House File 2284, which would establish a pilot program to begin introducing ESAs to families in our state. As you know, ESA's are a critical tool in our fight to ensure that every parent is able to play an active role in their child's education. You can find the complete bill here [HF 2284](#).

Under this pilot proposal, 120 slots in the Waterloo school district and 70 slots in the Sioux Center school district would be opened up for public school students, with a demonstrated need, to participate in an ESA. ESAs give families the ability to choose which type of education best meets their needs. Participating families would receive \$5,854 per student in order to cover the cost of attending a non-public school.

This is a starting point for a real conversation about educational choice and how Iowa can open access to educational opportunities for more families than ever before.

We are still committed to a universal ESA program, but this is considerable progress. You'll recall the difficulty school choice supporters had in advancing legislation during the 2015 session. With the controversy and polarization surrounding education funding in the state, we believe that a pilot program will give ESAs the momentum they need to become available to every family in Iowa.

It's critical that we continue to work together to support this pilot legislation. Over the coming weeks we will continue to keep you informed of the progress on this proposal and other progress on school

**EDUCATION CELEBRATION  
- TUESDAY MARCH 1**  
Noon Rally - State Capitol

**School Choice Summit**  
Wednesday, September 14,  
2016. Iowa State Historical  
Museum, Des Moines.

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choice during the legislative session.

Thank you for your support. Here's to a successful legislative session!

### **Senator Gronstal and Rep. Hagenow to speak at School Choice Rally**

Join us on Tuesday, March 1, for Education Celebration, featuring a noon-time rally in the first-floor rotunda of the Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines. Senate Majority Leader Michael Gronstal and House Majority Leader Chris Hagenow are our keynote speakers, and they will be joined by three parent advocates. Spend time visiting with your legislators about the new ESA legislation and the STO program, which celebrates 10 successful years in 2016. Visit the Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education [homepage](#) for more details.