This timetable is a guide for superintendents and school administrators. It is not intended to be all inclusive. Although responsibilities and procedures vary among districts, this timetable highlights the major tasks performed.

### Getting Started—Late Summer to Fall (July through October)

New superintendents should schedule an appointment to meet with legislators in your new district. Make sure you get to know them—not just casually, but with some real interaction.

All superintendents should make a special effort to schedule a meeting with your local legislators in their district offices.

- Discuss issues particular to your school district.
- Provide them with a one-page explanation on issues specific to your district.

Learn particulars about your legislators:
- What political party/What committees they serve on in the General Assembly

#### September
- Attend your region meetings to discuss legislative issues with your legislative chairs that you would like for them to bring forward in the IASA Governmental Relations & Advocacy Committee meeting.
- September 10, 2019
  IASA Governmental Relations & Advocacy Committee meets to formulate the IASA Legislative Agenda and discuss upcoming veto session.

#### October/November/December
- What issues they represent, etc.
- Find out the preferred method of communicating with your legislator.
- Think about scheduling regular meetings with your legislators (possibly every four months starting now).
- Invite your legislators to attend a region meeting to discuss and explain your budget and other legislative issues.
- Take the time and effort to build a solid working relationship with your legislators.

- October 28–30 and November 12–14
  Veto Session
- Drop a note to your legislators around the Holidays!

#### January
- The General Assembly is in minimal session days during the start of the Spring Session.
- Invite your legislators to take a tour of your school district.
- Be knowledgeable of the General Assembly members who serve on the House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee, House Appropriations—Elementary & Secondary Education Committee, Senate Education Committee and Senate Appropriations II Committee.
- You can access this information at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov).

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Being an effective advocate for education issues is one of the most important jobs anyone involved with education, from administrators to parents, can do.
Follow-Through—Late Winter to Spring (February through May)

The General Assembly is in full session. Stay informed about what is going on in the Capitol through the press, IASA blasts, Capitol Watch, the Alliance Legislative Reports, and the State School News Service. You can also follow the IASA Twitter @IllinoisASA and @IllinoisASAGR.

Make sure to alert your legislators in writing or by phone about the issues that concern you and keep communicating those concerns during session. Often legislation moves so quickly during a legislative session that your issues may inadvertently be overlooked.

Plus, remember to say thank you especially when you know an issue was controversial. Also, try to remember that your legislator is probably being pushed in three different directions on any given issue and will not always be able to vote the way you would like. Be sure to keep the relationship open for future issues.

Many pieces of legislation are moving through committees during these months and it is very important to ensure superintendents are represented and testimony is provided when necessary.

Work with other superintendents on legislative issues that affect their districts (similarly) and form a coalition to lobby your legislators together.

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<th>February/March/April</th>
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<td>Attend IASA/IASBO Legislative Workshop “Communicating and Lobbying with Legislators” to be held in Springfield, date TBD.</td>
<td>The Budget process doesn’t usually get underway until the last month of session which is generally in May. Become familiar with what is going on with the budget and make sure that your finance people are available to discuss your budget issues with your legislators or their staff. So much of what affects local districts occurs during budgeting.</td>
<td>Send a thank you note to your legislators after session is over for representing the district, its students, staff and parents.</td>
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And last but not least, keep in mind that if you care about the future of public education, you must care about legislation.

IASA Governmental Relations & Advocacy Committee

Chair
Gary Tipsord

Associate Chairs
Dr. Scott Doerr
Dr. Scott Goselin
Stephen Murphy
Kim Schilson

Distributed by the Illinois Association of School Administrators
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