



2025 Spring Regional Meetings

Terry Spradlin, Executive Director

Lisa Tanselle, General Counsel



2025 Indiana General Assembly

Budget Session Summary





2025 Session Scorecard

- The first regular session of the 124th Indiana General Assembly (the “budget session”) convened on January 8th and adjourned on April 25
- 1,229 bills introduced
- 174 bills were on ISBA tracking list
- 14.15% of all bills were related to K-12, (school) governance, or children



2025 Session Scorecard (cont.)

- 244* new laws enacted (**Pending governor's signature*)
- 45 new K-12 education policy, school or local governance, or child-related laws
- 18.4% of all new laws were on the ISBA Tracking List
- Adding 45 enrolled acts results in 310 new laws in last 8 years affecting K-12 education (or 38.75 new laws/year)

HEA 1001

State Budget (Rep. Thompson) – Effective July 1, 2025

- The 2025-2027 State Budget includes the following school funding provisions:
 - ✓ Tuition support increased by 2%/year, after accounting for:
 - Curricular materials appropriation of \$160 rolled into Basic Tuition Support
 - Choice Scholarship voucher program income requirements eliminated in '27
 - ✓ Total tuition support funding is \$9.367 billion in FY '26 and \$9.647 billion in FY '27
 - ✓ Foundation funding per student will increase from \$6,681 to \$6,967 in FY '26 and to \$7,071 in FY '27
 - ✓ Special Education, ELL, and CTE funding/student reduced by less than 1% in FY '26

HEA 1001 (cont.)

More on the State Budget...

- The **Teacher Appreciation Grants** appropriation was lowered by \$1.9 million/year to \$35.6 million. The program has been modified to include:
 - (Competitive) grant that IDOE will administer
 - Not to exceed 20% of certified teachers as eligible to receive grant stipends per new criteria
 - Three tiers of grant stipends to include “Recognition stipend” of \$3,500, “Exemplary stipend” of \$5,000, and “Exemplary Plus stipend” of \$7,500
 - Final language does not require stipend to be added to base pay after 2 years



HEA 1001 (cont.)

More on the State Budget...

- ✓ Summer School appropriation lowered by \$900K to \$17.4m/year—lower reimbursement rate will result
- ✓ Alternative Ed funds decreased by \$4.5m/yr – appropriation now just \$766K/yr
- ✓ Categorical funding for the Next Level Computer Science Program of \$3m/yr, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of \$2.5m/yr, and the School Internet Connection Grants of \$3.4m/yr eliminated

HEA 1002

Various Education Matters (Rep. Behning) – Effective July 1, 2025

- ✓ This 139-page, 217-section bill removes more than 30,000 words from IN. Code Title 20, including several “may” provisions that empowers school boards through “home rule” powers
- ✓ Eliminates designation of certain committee appointments of the governing body, certain requirements regarding the transfer of a student to another school, and eliminates annual submission of strategic and continuous improvement and achievement plans
- ✓ Permits fees for supplies and materials that supplement instruction
- ✓ Eliminates the requirement for teachers to be designated as highly effective, effective, improvement necessary, or ineffective



HEA 1134

Executive Sessions (Rep. Smaltz) – Effective July 1, 2025

Adds to permissible executive sessions:

- (1) Discuss job performance evaluation, employee specific compensation or employment matters of individual employees
- (2) Discuss *either* health care options related to special exceptions for coverage or employee handbook changes
- (3) Review negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts when public knowledge would increase costs
- (4) Discuss soliciting proposals that contain proprietary information when public knowledge of discussion would harm the bidder



HEA 1285

Education Matters (Rep. Cash) – Effective Upon Passage

- ✓ Effective 1/1/26, requires every school to have at least one employee who has received nonviolent crisis intervention training be available for de-escalation
- ✓ Requires schools to allow parents to record an IEP meeting
- ✓ Requires school officials to allow parents to remove personal property from a student's locker

HEA 1498

School Accountability (Rep. Behning) – Effective July 1, 2025

- ✓ Repeals certain provisions regarding statewide assessment scores and the establishment of categories or designations of school performance
- ✓ Requires the State Board of Education (SBOE) to establish a new methodology for designating school performance, including:
 - ✓ Base framework on data available in the Department's GPS data dashboard
 - ✓ Include proficiency rates from IREAD-3 and ILEARN
 - ✓ Prioritize the attainment of one of the new diploma seals
 - ✓ Consider other factors the state board considers relevant
- ✓ Requires that not later than December 31, 2026, the SBOE shall place each school in a category using an "A" through "F" scale, to designate school performance for the 2025-2026 school year

HEA 1515

Education & Higher Ed Matters (Rep. Behning) – Effective July 1, 2025

- ✓ **Establishes 3-year school facilities and transportation pilot programs** to allow for shared/joint use of schools and transportation services with private and charter schools
- ✓ Establishes local boards for each type of pilot program
- ✓ **Establishes a mastery-based education pilot program** administered by IDOE. “Mastery-based education” means an innovative, learner centered approach to teaching and learning that focuses on the mastery of specific skills or knowledge areas rather than the amount of time spent in a classroom
- ✓ **Established the Indianapolis Local Education Alliance**



SEA 1

Local Government Finance (Sen. Holdman) – Various effective dates

- ✓ Restricts the timing of referendums/local public questions to general elections in November every 2 years
- ✓ Amends the ballot language for controlled project, school operating, and school public safety referendums
- ✓ Requires a “cooling off” period of 12-months for expiring general obligation bonding issued before May 31, 2025, and for a period of 2 years or less
- ✓ Set the MLGQ cap at 4% in 2026
- ✓ Requires beginning in 2028 sharing of operations fund levies by school corporations w/charter schools meeting certain criteria

SEA 1 (cont.)

More on this property tax relief/reform legislation:

- ✓ Requires beginning in 2028 sharing of approved operating referendum levies by school corporations with charter schools meeting certain criteria
- ✓ Phases out the authority for the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to permit an excess tax levy that is based on AV growth, school transportation costs, and other circumstances
- ✓ Dissolves Union School Corporation and its governing body effective July 1, 2027 (w/student attendance areas to be divided between Monroe Central and BRV Schools)

SEA 1 (cont.)

More on this property tax relief/reform legislation:

- ✓ Changes in property tax measures to decrease standard homestead credits, while increasing the supplemental homestead credits, property tax replacement credits, business personal property tax revisions, and local income tax replacement revenues for local units of government (excluding school corporations)
- ✓ Eliminates redistribution of LIT to school corporations (in former CAGIT counties)
- ✓ Impact on school corporations will be a net reduction of \$740 million in levy dollars over three-years (2026-2028)
 - A “decrease to the increase” in property tax dollars for many school corps
 - A true decrease from 2025 levies for other school corps

SEA 143

Parental Rights (Sen. Brown) – Effective July 1, 2025

- ✓ Prohibits a governmental entity, including a school corporation, from substantially burdening a parent's fundamental right to direct the:
 - upbringing
 - religious instruction
 - education, or
 - health careof a child unless the government has a compelling interest in doing so
- ✓ Prohibits a governmental entity from advising, directing, or coercing a child to withhold information from the parent
- ✓ Prohibits denying a parent access to information in the control of the entity related to a child's health care or social, emotional, and behavioral well-being

SEA 146

➤ **Teacher Compensation** (Sen. Rogers) –Effective July 1, 2025

- ✓ Requires IDOE to submit a report to the General Assembly before November 1, 2025, that provides an analysis of the feasibility and cost of increasing school corporation employee health plan options
- ✓ Creates the Indiana Teacher Recruitment Program w/the purpose of the program as providing grants to training and recruitment programs for teachers in critical shortage areas, as determined by IDOE
- ✓ Beginning June 30, 2025:
 - (1) increases the minimum salary for a teacher employed by a school corporation to \$45,000 (current law requires \$40,000); and
 - (2) requires a school corporation to expend an amount for teacher compensation that is not less than 65% of state tuition support



SEA 255

Education Matters (Sen. Deery) – Effective July 1, 2025

- ✓ Increases release time for a high school student for religious instruction to the equivalent of an elective course
- ✓ Bullying requirements now include duty to notify parents of investigation by the next school day of the incident and advise parents of conclusion of investigation by the next school day of its conclusion

SEA 287

School Board Matters (Sen. Byrne) – Effective July 1, 2025

- ✓ Requires a petition of nomination for a school board office to declare: (1) The candidate's political party affiliation, (2) that the candidate is an independent candidate, or (3) that the candidate elects not to disclose any affiliation with a political party or that the candidate is not affiliated with a political party and does not identify as an independent candidate
- ✓ Specifies that unless a candidate who states a political party affiliation is challenged, the candidate's statement must be indicated on the ballot
- ✓ Specifies that a straight party vote does not count for any candidate for a school board office



SEA 287 (cont.)

More on Partisan School Board Elections...

- ✓ Requires a school board vacancy to be filled by: (1) a caucus if the vacating member stated an affiliation with a major political party; and (2) the remaining members of the governing body if the vacating member did not state an affiliation with a major political party
- ✓ Modifies the annual amount that the governing body of a school corporation may pay a member of the governing body from \$2,000 (under current law) to an amount not to exceed 10% of the lowest starting salary of a teacher employed by the school corporation



SEA 366

Education Matters (Sen. Rogers) – Effective July 1, 2025

- ✓ Eliminates requirement for superintendent to have a masters degree
- ✓ Eliminates requirement to enter into a regular teacher contract with the superintendent
- ✓ Eliminates requirement to have a certain % of teachers on some committees



SEA 442

Instruction on Human Sexuality (Rep. Byrne) – Effective July 1, 2025

- ✓ Requires school boards to post a list of curricular materials
- ✓ Requires instruction to include a video on the development of a fetus and the importance of consent to sexual activity
- ✓ Requires consent form to tell parents whether the class is taught by a male or female teacher and whether instruction occurs in a co-ed or single sex setting

SEA 482

➤ **Absenteeism and Student Discipline** (Sen. Donato) – Effective July 1, 2025

- ✓ Defines "chronically absent" and requires IDOE to do the following:
 - 1) Create a list of best practices to reduce student discipline and absenteeism
 - 2) Study and prepare a report regarding the basis for the categorization of certain suspensions and expulsions
 - 3) Establish a categorization framework for excused absences based on the reason for the absence that local board policy must adhere to
 - 4) Collect certain information regarding absences from school corporations and charter schools and the information on the IDOE website
- ✓ Requires a public school to hold an attendance conference not later than 10 instructional days (instead of five instructional days) after the student's fifth absence
- ✓ Prohibits a public school from expelling or suspending a student solely because the student is chronically absent or a habitual truant



LEGAL UPDATES





EXECUTIVE ORDERS



EXECUTIVE ORDERS BY THE PRESIDENT

Protecting the American People Against Invasion (1/20/25)

- Directs executive departments and agencies to revoke past guidance/policies
- Authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to take all appropriate action to protect the public safety and national security interests of Americans
- Directs the Attorney General and Homeland Security to take lawful actions to ensure that sanctuary jurisdictions do not receive federal funds



EXECUTIVE ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

Supporting Federal Immigration Policy & Protecting Hoosier Workers by Indiana State Agencies (No. 25-29)

- Directs state law enforcement agencies to fully cooperate with ICE
- Requests local law enforcement and political subdivisions to fully cooperate with ICE



EXECUTIVE ORDERS BY THE PRESIDENT

Defending Woman from Gender Ideology Extremism & Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government (1/20/25)

- Defines sex as an individual's immutable biological classification as either male or female
- Prohibits the use of federal funds to promote gender ideology
- Directs federal agencies, including the Department of Education, to rescind all guidance inconsistent with this EO
 - 2024 Title IX Regulations
 - Documents on LGBTQ+ Students



EXECUTIVE ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

Respecting the Biological Dichotomy Between Men & Women
as a Fundamental & Deeply Rooted Legal Principle Embedded
in Indiana Law (No. 25-36)

- States that the Executive Branch will adhere to specific definitions of sex and gender when interpreting Indiana law
- States that modern gender ideology is inconsistent with deeply rooted legal distinctions between men and women
- Prohibits the use of state funds to promote gender ideology



EXECUTIVE ORDERS BY THE PRESIDENT

Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling (1/29/25)

- Directs federal government to ensure that recipients of K-12 federal funds comply with nondiscrimination laws and laws protecting parental rights (Title VI, Title IX, FERPA, and PPRA)
- Requires the US Secretary of Education to provide an Ending Indoctrination Strategy to the President
- Reestablishes the 1776 Commission



EXECUTIVE ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

Ensuring All Hoosiers Have Equality of Opportunity by
Eliminating DEI in State Government (No. 25-14)

- Directs state agencies to adhere to Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard College
- Prohibits the use of state funds to support DEI activities/programs that grant preferential treatment based on a person's race, color, ethnicity, or national origin



EXECUTIVE ORDERS BY THE PRESIDENT

Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents,
States, and Communities (3/20/25)

- Directs the Secretary of Education to take steps to facilitate the closure of the US Department of Education
- Requires approval of Congress
- Significant personnel cuts already made



EXECUTIVE ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

Making Indiana Healthy Again By Promoting the Health and Wellness of Hoosier Students (No. 25-59)

➤ Requires the Secretary of Education to:

Establish a Governor's Fitness Test

Establish a School Fitness Month

Create recommendations on how to highlight harmful effects of excessive cell phone and social media

Request food service providers to give transparent and understandable nutritional data for school meals that can be given to parents



EXECUTIVE ORDERS BY THE PRESIDENT

Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth
(4/23/25)

- Creates the White House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Education
- Directs the Task Force to establish public-private partnerships with organizations that have expertise in AI and to develop online resources to teach K-12 students foundational AI literacy and critical thinking skills
- Directs the Secretary of Education to take steps to prioritize the use of AI in discretionary grant programs for teacher training



EXECUTIVE ORDERS BY THE PRESIDENT

Reinstating Common Sense School Discipline Policies (4/23/25)

- Directs the Secretary of Education to issue guidance to SEAs and LEAs regarding school discipline and their obligations to not engage in racial discrimination
- Directs the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to initiate coordination with governors and state attorney generals regarding the prevention of racial discrimination in the application of school discipline



COURT DECISIONS



US SUPREME COURT

Pending Cases:

FCC v. Consumers' Research

Issue: whether Congress violated the nondelegation doctrine

Oklahoma Statewide Charter School Board v. Drummond

Issue: the constitutionality of the state's virtual charter school board granting a charter to a religious virtual school

A.J.T. v. Osseo Area Schools

Issue: did a school district engage in disability discrimination by denying a student evening instruction

Mahmoud v. Taylor

Issue: did a school violate parents' rights by refusing to allow their children the opportunity to opt out of instruction on gender and sexuality that was against parents' religious beliefs

Thank You

