

EFFICIENCY SCAN & FISCAL ANALYSIS OF INDIANA SCHOOL CORPORATIONS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

IAPSS | ISBA | IASBO | IRSRA | IUSA |

COALITION OF
GROWING & SUBURBAN SCHOOLS

THE DATA TELL A DIFFERENT STORY

An independent evidence-based analysis
of Indiana public schools.



INDIANA'S STORY IN FOUR NUMBERS



#6

NATIONAL RANK

4th Grade Reading

NAEP 2024 –

Highest Ever Ranking



90.23%

GRADUATION RATE

Record high;

above national

average (2024)



16.7%

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

3rd consecutive year

improving

(national avg. –24%)



#38

PER-PUPIL SPENDING

\$3,447 below

national average

THE FUNDING GAP

Per-Pupil Spending (FY24)

NATIONAL AVERAGE



\$16,560

INDIANA

\$13,113

↓ **\$3,447**

LESS PER STUDENT

Indiana ranks **38th** in per-pupil
spending among all 50 states.

WHAT THE DATA SHOW



HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

Indiana students achieve
at high levels across
multiple measures
despite lower
investment.



TEACHER WORKFORCE

Teacher salaries have
declined more than 20%
in purchasing power
since 2002.



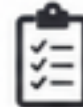
EFFICIENT DISTRICTS

Administrative spending
remains below the
national average.
District size does not
predict efficiency.



SHARED SERVICES

More than 90% of
school corporations
participate in at least
one major cooperative
mechanism.



ACCOUNTABILITY MATTERS

All publicly funded schools
should be measured using
the same metrics and
held to the same
standards.



INDIANA IS NOT UNDERPERFORMING.

IT IS OUTPERFORMING EXPECTATIONS WITH FEWER RESOURCES THAN MOST STATES.

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WHAT THE DATA RECOMMEND

Five policy actions to strengthen Indiana's future.

1



STRENGTHEN INVESTMENT IN TEACHER PAY

- Continue efforts to improve Indiana's national standing in teacher compensation.
- Address the long-term decline in inflation-adjusted teacher wages.
- Consider additional state investment alongside the \$191 million in local referendum support.

2



ENSURE CONSISTENT ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS

- Strengthen financial transparency through per-network Form 9 reporting for charter schools.
- Continue working toward consistent performance benchmarks and data requirements.
- Ensure accountability expectations are comparable across all publicly funded schools.

3



STRENGTHEN FUNDING FOR MANDATED SERVICES

- Review state support for special education and English Language Learner services to ensure funding reflects actual costs.
- Reduce the need for school corporations to supplement mandated services with general tuition-support dollars.
- Explore funding approaches that better align resources with student needs.

4



USE DATA TO GUIDE CONSOLIDATION DECISIONS

- Consider targeted, locally supported consolidation where evidence demonstrates clear benefits.
- Prioritize voluntary approaches and provide support to communities considering consolidation.
- Avoid broad approaches where Indiana data indicate consolidation may increase costs or adversely affect student outcomes.

5



REINSTATE TEACHER MENTORSHIP

- Restore a statewide teacher mentorship program to support new educators.
- Provide structured guidance and professional support during the critical early years of teaching.
- Strengthen teacher retention and help address Indiana's 18% teacher exit rate.
- Consider dedicated state support to ensure consistent mentorship opportunities across school corporations.

A DECADE OF EFFICIENCY

A timeline of progress.

2008



PROPERTY TAX REFORM

Shifted the responsibility to local communities.



2009–2025



DISTRICTS RESPOND

- Shared Services
- Purchasing Cooperatives
- Energy Efficiency
- Insurance Pools
- Operational Efficiencies



2026



INDEPENDENT STUDY

Confirms these efficiency strategies are largely saturated.



FUTURE



FOCUS FORWARD

- Sustain quality instruction
- Invest in our people
- Maintain accountability
- Protect student success

THE PATH FORWARD



INVESTMENT

Adequate, equitable funding for all students.



EFFICIENT OPERATIONS

Smart use of resources and strong partnerships.



STRONG OUTCOMES

High achievement, graduation, and attendance.



LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

A system that supports students and communities.



Indiana's public schools have become increasingly efficient and effective. Future policy should build on these strengths while addressing teacher compensation, equitable funding, and consistent accountability across all publicly funded schools.



— From the Executive Summary



READ THE FULL REPORT
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