

INPEA Update February 2015

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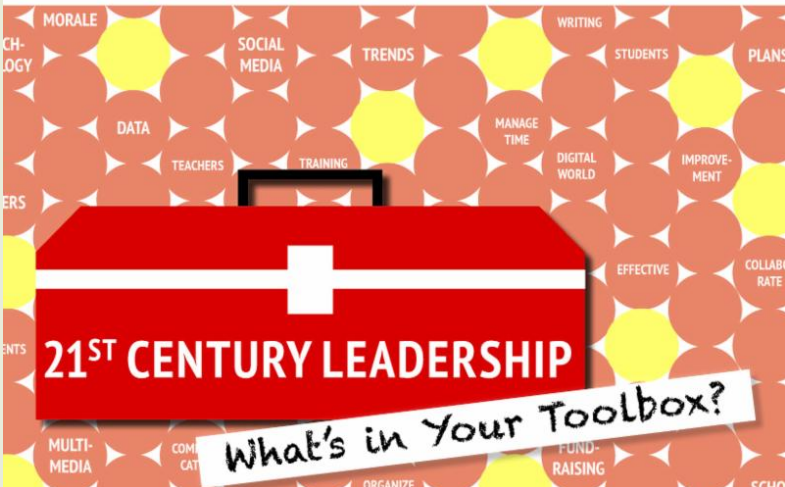


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Jurisdictions



Indiana Non-Public Administrators' Conference
September 10-11, 2015 • Indianapolis Marriott North



21ST CENTURY LEADERSHIP

What's in Your Toolbox?

INPAC 2015

Is the next INPAC on your calendar? The INPEA Administrators' Conference is **September 10-11, 2015**, at the Indianapolis Marriott North (3645 River Crossing Parkway, Indianapolis, IN 46240). Thanks to all who responded to our planning survey. This year's theme is "21st Century Leadership: What's in Your Toolbox?" Registration information will be coming soon. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY!**

Seclusion and Restraint Video Series

Additional training videos have been added to the Commission website: <http://www.doe.in.gov/srcommission>

[Agudath Israel of America](#)
[Archdiocese of Indianapolis](#)
[Association of Christian Schools International](#)
[Christian Schools International](#)
[Diocese of Evansville](#)
[Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend](#)
[Diocese of Gary](#)
[Diocese of Lafayette](#)
[Indiana Association of Independent Schools](#)
[Indiana Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists](#)
[Lutheran Church Missouri Synod](#)
[The Lutheran Schools Partnership](#)

Resources

[American Federation for Children](#)
[Council for American Private Education](#)
[Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice](#)
[Indiana Catholic Conference](#)
[Indiana Department of Education](#)
[Institute for Quality Education](#)
[National Center for Education Statistics](#)
[U.S. Department of Education](#)

INPEA Premier Business Partner



[VoWac Publishing Company](#)

INPEA Business ePartner



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We know a number of teachers and principals have received Seclusion and Restraint Training. Please make sure we know who you are. Others who are interested or plan on being trained should inform us as well. It is our hope to put together a list of trainers that member schools can access when looking for training.

Legislative Update

We have reached the halfway point of the legislative session, and the short summary at this point is "so far...so good"!

- **HB1001 (Budget)** passed the House with the Choice Expansion included and no damaging amendments added. The Senate side will probably be more challenging. (Referred to Senate)
- **HB1414 (Safety Drills)** Made a few clarifications on regulations around conducting school safety drills. (Referred to Senate)
- **HB1068 (Background Checks)** Makes changes to the definition of expanded criminal history checks and who conducts them. (Referred to Senate)
- **SB130 (Curriculum)** Requires the inclusion of cursive writing and reading in the curriculum.
- **SB403 (Athletes and Head Injuries)** Requires Coaches of certain sports down to grade 3 to participate in training on concussions. (Referred to House)
- **SB470 (Assessment)** Summer study committee will study providing choice of which standardized assessment a Private, Public or Charter would use. (Referred to the House)
- **SB500 (Dereg)** still includes the committee to review state reports. INPEA has a seat on that committee. (Referred to the House)
- **SB566 (BEST Test)** This would change the state's assessment to an off-the-shelf test. (Referred to the House)

State Issues

The following State issues (Disabilities Discrimination

Clause in Voucher Assurances, Null Schools Letter, A-F Rules, Freeway Accreditation, and ISTEP Opt Out) are described below.

Disabilities Discrimination Clause in Voucher Assurances

It has come to our attention that the IDOE made a number of changes in the voucher application assurances. In the discrimination clause, they inserted disability as a protected category. When the voucher law was passed, creed, sex and disability were not included. They were not omitted in an effort to promote discrimination. They were omitted to protect a school's admission decisions. INPEA has been consulting attorneys and IDOE to determine the impact of including disability as a protected category in the assurances.

IDOE contends that this protection is already covered in Indiana's Civil Rights Law and that including it has no additional implications. We thought this clarification would be reported in last week's choice update, but it was not. Since the student application window opens this Friday, we wanted to make sure you were aware of this change.

We will continue to address this issue and keep you informed of any further developments.

Language from the new assurances:

"School will not discriminate against any potential students based on race, color, national origin, or disability, and will follow the school's admissions policy in regard to choice scholarship students."

This is language we agreed upon with the IDOE attorney. It is our understanding now that it will be included in the Choice FAQ:

The recent addition of the discrimination clause in School Application assurances does not add any additional requirements of voucher schools that were not already in existence in current state civil rights law. Schools participating in the Choice program may still make admission decisions based on the school's ability to provide reasonable accommodations and related services for a particular students requesting admission and should take into consideration the best interests of the student when

making those decisions. However, schools may not have blanket policies that result in discriminatory admissions practices of students with disabilities. With respect to Choice students with special education and related service needs, Choice Schools should continue to look to Rule 49 of Article VII for guidance on making decisions related to admission or decisions regarding the provision of services to the student.

Null Schools Letter

44 voucher schools received a letter from IDOE stating that because they didn't have a sufficient "N" size and they received a null grade and because the law requires voucher schools to get a grade, they would be defaulted to a D or F and could lose voucher eligibility. We contacted IDOE, and they quickly sent a correction that the school would not be defaulted. The intent of that aspect of the law is related to performance not size.

There is still the issue of how do small voucher schools get the letter grade required by law. We are told that the new A-F rules will at least in part address this problem. INPEA continues to monitor this situation closely. The General Assembly is attempting to address this issue as well. Currently, the Senate and House have differing versions on how to fix it...go figure!

A-F Rules

Hearings were held the last week in February for the new A-F rules.

[Click here for a copy of the proposed changes.](#)

Freeway Accreditation

The State has been working on a revision of the Freeway process. We have had multiple meetings with IDOE and the State Board staff on the revision. Their efforts have focused, of late, primarily on formalizing a Freeway contract. A contract has always been implied, but in actuality, it has only been the petition. It is their intent to present the revised document to the Board at their March meeting. We feel the

documents are a very reasonable compromise.

ISTEP Opt Out

As the ISTEP window opens, there has a good bit of buzz (in both public and private schools) about parents requesting to opt out of ISTEP. The State does not have an opt out provision in the law, but I am told there is no penalty for a child who opts out. As schools address this, they should consider the required participation rate (95% - I think) and its impact on a school's accountability grade.

VoWac (INPEA Business Partner): An Orton-Gillingham approach to skills



Pilot includes FREE workbooks

Orton-Gillingham (O-G) has been embraced in the education circle for over 75 years. It provides struggling and emergent readers structured patterns of explicit, systematic phonics instruction to help teach how and why words are spelled and pronounced a certain way.

VoWac skills and spelling is an Orton-Gillingham based approach for grades PreK-4. Word attack skills presented through multi-sensory direct instruction, encouraging students to use their visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic modalities.

If your school is searching for curriculum to improve word attack and spelling skills, INPEA business partner, VoWac Publishing Company, offers a **pilot program** that includes free workbooks.

VoWac will provide the use of teaching materials for at least two classrooms, grades K and 1, or 1 & 2. Up to 18 free workbooks will be provided for each room.

Use VoWac for the entire school year. Compare it to your existing program or any other program under consideration. If you don't get better results with VoWac, simply return the teaching materials, no questions asked. If you do get better results, buy the materials you have on

loan, and let VoWac continue to help build your program.

Contact VoWac Publishing Company for complete details, 866-598-6922. Email us at vowac@vowac.com or visit www.vowac.com.

On My Way PreK Program

The second wave for applications has now opened for students applying for this coming school year. Application deadline for families is May 1, 2015. Some schools and jurisdictions have been looking to add PreK accreditation to their existing K-8 or K-12 accreditation. If any of these schools are hoping to participate in the pilot, they would need to move quickly to undertake the necessary process.

For more information, visit the On My Way PreK site: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/4899.htm>

Technology Buying Consortium with DAST Consulting

INPEA and DAST Consulting have partnered for a Technology Consortium for our INPEA member schools. DAST Consulting will provide technology procurement services at a reduced rate. The decision by an INPEA school or jurisdiction to utilize these technology procurement services is voluntary. As a part of the partnership, DAST has proposed that INPEA could receive 2% of any proceeds DAST receives from an INPEA member purchase. So all in all, this has the potential to be a **Win** (school cost savings), **Win** (INPEA benefits from the purchase), **Win** (DAST business). **If you have technology purchasing needs, check it out and see if it could be a benefit to your school.**

[Click here to learn how your school can participate in the program.](#)

[Click here to learn more about DAST Consulting.](#)

State Reporting Services

Meredith Bovin (retired IDOE Data Collection and Reporting Specialist) has started a consulting business, MB Reporting Services, to offer services to relieve schools of state reporting frustrations so that they can focus their time on educating our children instead.

For less than the amount of a typical voucher payment for a single student, you could have the following benefits for an entire school year:

1. Timely submission of state reports (compliance with state reporting is critical for accountability, A-F grading, and continued eligibility for voucher school status)
2. Submission of and assistance with the creation of the "C" reports (certified employee, certified position, and course completion)
3. Expert guidance and assistance on maintenance of student and staff records to meet state reporting requirements
4. More time during school hours to spend on the business of serving students

Please see her [introduction letter](#) and [proposal for service details](#). Please contact Meredith if you have any questions or would be interested in this service:

Meredith Bovin
Phone: (317) 844-6946
Email: mbovin@mbreportingservices.com

Welcome to our new INPEA Business Partners!

PREMIER BUSINESS PARTNERS

[Catapult Learning](#)

Contact Person: Pat Lacognata,
pat.lacognata@catapultlearning.com

[CISCO](#)

Contact Person: Laura Zapp, lazapp@cisco.com

[Sadlier](#)

Contact Person: Steven Allspaw, SAllspaw@sadlier.com

[VoWac Publishing Company](#)

Contact Person: John Pfeifer, vowac@vowac.com

BUSINESS ePARTNER

[Houghton Mifflin Harcourt](#)

Contact Person: John Hurley, john.hurley2@hnhco.com

INPEA Dues and Data

Many thanks to the schools who have already submitted their annual membership dues and survey data!

If you have not done so yet, please contact Rose Soliven at rsoliven@inpea.org if you need your school's dues assessment or your survey login information. Information about individual schools will not be shared without permission; data will primarily be shared in summary form. Having data from all our member schools will help us tell the Indiana non-public school story!

BrainWare SAFARI Study Opportunity

Neuroscience and Education are no longer the strangers they used to be. Indiana schools are now invited to participate in an important state-wide research study on the impact of cognitive skills development on students' learning capacity and their academic achievement. The study will provide your elementary schools with an opportunity to use BrainWare SAFARI at no cost.

This study is being planned by The Center for Evaluation and Education Policy (CEEP) at Indiana University related to Neuroscience and Education.

Overviews of the study, a letter from the director of CEEP, and background on BrainWare SAFARI can be accessed at <http://www.mybrainware.com/who-we-help/educator/indiana-neuroscience-in-education-study>

For more information, contact Betsy Hill, President & COO, The BrainWare Company, at bhill@mybrainware.com, 773-250-6467 (office) or 847-644-0093 (cell). You may also contact Roger Stark, CEO BrainWare SAFARI, at RStark@MyBrainWare.com, 773-250-6466 (office) or 312-420-3276 (cell).

Stay connected!

- Like INPEA on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for updates for INPEA events, programs and non-public schools-related news.
- Follow [John on Twitter](#) for live updates from the legislature or state board.
- Would you like to advertise for [jobs](#) in your schools on our website? Is your school making news and you would like to share it with the INPEA Community? Please send news to Rose Soliven at rsoliven@inpea.org.

Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,
John

John Elcesser
Executive Director
Indiana Non-Public Education Association

With support from
Rose Soliven
Office and Communications Coordinator
Indiana Non-Public Education Association

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Try it FREE today.

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