



INPEA Update

March 2015

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Legislative Update

We are almost halfway through the second half of the session. Much of the focus has been on non-educational bills, and many of the educational bills are public school specific. All in all, that is probably good.

A few of the bills that we continue to watch:

- **SB500 (Deregulation)** This bill, which was significantly amended in the Senate, is being heard this week in the House Education Committee. Although a number of areas of deregulation have been abandoned because of pushback, the aspect of the bill that affects non-public schools is still active. The bill calls for a committee to review all state reports, and INPEA has a seat on that committee. Public, charter and private (INPEA) school leaders spoke in favor of the bill and the issue of reporting in particular. Feel free to contact your Representative in support of this part of SB500. We will keep you posted and may send out an alert when the bill reaches the House floor.
- **SB566 (BEST Test)** This bill would change the state test to an off-the-shelf test. It had momentum in the Senate but will meet some resistance in the House, although a hearing is expected.
- **HB1001 (Budget)** The budget is now on the Senate side of the Statehouse. After some initial hearings, the Appropriations Committee has shifted its focus to other bills that have an impact on the budget. School Funding discussion have shifted to more backroom plotting.
 - **\$4800 1-8 voucher cap removal** is still alive, and we're not hearing huge pushback at this point since it's a small ticket item. It could

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always be a negotiating chip in late budget discussions. We will need to stay engaged to make sure it doesn't get negotiated away. We may not know how this fares until the final hours of the session on April 29th.

- **Scholarship Tax Credit Cap** - The current House budget asks for a statewide tax credit cap of \$12,500,000 (up from \$7,500,000). It also calls for an automatic accelerator (every time we reach the cap, it automatically increases 20%). Current word around the Statehouse is that we should get some increase in the cap but maybe not what we are asking for and Probably NO to the automatic accelerator. Nothing is certain at this time.
- **We will definitely need to mobilize our grassroots voice to move these issues, at some level, to the finish line. Stay tuned!!!**
- **HB1056 (Student Transfers)** This bill regarding non-public students migrating to a public high school but not living in the school's residence boundaries was written with a narrow focus but could impact some of our schools. It was written to specifically address an issue in Valparaiso. Here is a bill summary: STUDENT TRANSFERS (SOLIDAY E) Provides that a student may transfer to a school corporation if the student's parent is an employee of the school corporation and the school corporation has the capacity to accept the student. Provides that an elementary school student who attended an accredited nonpublic elementary school in the attendance area of a school corporation in which the student does not have legal settlement may attend a high school in the school corporation if the school corporation: (1) has the capacity to accept the student and the majority of the students in the same grade as the transferring student at the accredited nonpublic school have legal settlement in the transferee school corporation; (2) has only one high school; and (3) does not have a policy to accept transfer students.
- **HB1068 (Background Checks)** Places some requirements on the agency doing background checks. Changes the definition of "expanded criminal background check."
- **HB1414 (School Safety Drills)** Provides that a school or attendance center is required to conduct one tornado preparedness drill, or one manmade



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occurrence disaster drill (emergency preparedness drill), each semester. Provides that an emergency preparedness drill may be conducted instead of a periodic or monthly fire evacuation drill requirement established by the state fire marshal. Provides that an emergency preparedness drill conducted may not be made instead of more than two periodic or monthly fire evacuation drills in a particular school year. Provides that the governing body of a school corporation may direct schools to conduct additional emergency preparedness drills.

Freeway Accreditation

The State Board at their March meeting approved a revised Freeway Accreditation process, including a "freeway contract." A copy of the contract can be found [here](#).

ISTEP Testing Window (Part Two)

ISTEP+ UPDATE

Testing windows have been extended in regards to ISTEP+ Part 2 administration:

- April 20 - May 8, 2015: ISTEP+ Part 2 Paper-and-Pencil Administration
- April 23 - May 15, 2015: ISTEP+ Part 2 Online Administration

Ongoing Compliance Focus

Schools and jurisdictions should be continuing to address ongoing voucher compliance issues. We are working with IDOE regarding some video training options. The Department is also planning to schedule a summer leaders workshop again. More info to follow.

As has been discussed, schools/jurisdictions should have a compliance policy/process that includes assigned responsibilities, training and both internal and external reviews.

Seclusion and Restraint Update

Hopefully by now, all schools have plans in place. Training continues to a priority. Core teams need to be fully trained, while general staff should be using video training components from the Commission's website <http://www.doe.in.gov/srcommission> or by internal trainers.

Choice Program Operations

In our recent meeting with DOE Choice Office staff, the following issues were discussed:

- **Application:** Only 174 schools have submitted their school application to participate in the program for 2015-16. Last year, 317 schools participated. We assume a number of schools are just slow at submitting their school applications. School applications must be submitted before student applications can be submitted.
- **Endorsement Forms:** Getting endorsement forms signed by parents twice a year can be a huge challenge. This year 2 days prior to the deadline, 6,000 endorsement forms had not been received. IDOE provides a three-week window for processing endorsement forms. As you know, this is an important part of the process and is key in the constitutional nature of the program.
- **Compliance Visits:** IDOE is currently conducting their compliance visits of 8% of participating schools.
- **Special education part of the voucher program:** According to IDOE, there still seems to be confusion as to participation in the special education part of the Choice Scholarship Program. A couple of reminders:
 - Each year when a Choice student (with an IEP or ISP) applies for a voucher, they must also designate if the Choice School or the Public School will be their special education service provider.
 - The Choice school must be very clear in terms of what services they can or cannot provide to the child so that the parent can make an informed decision.
 - If the parent chooses the Choice school as the service provider and the Choice school agrees that they can serve the child, the school must develop a CSEP (Choice Scholarship Education Plan) outlining

accommodations and goals for the student. Templates can be found on [INPEA Resources page](#). The school must deliver on the outlined plan.

- In late February, the school will receive a special ed voucher payment based on the disability category of the students served. These funds come from state NOT federal dollars.
- Choice School Payment 2 - March 27th

ESEA Reauthorization

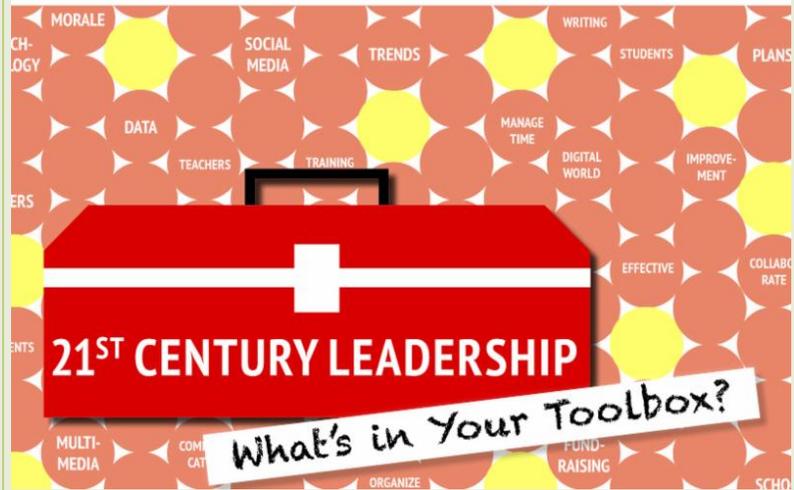
After many years of waiting for ESEA reauthorization, it appeared that the US Congress may make some progress this in HR5. That was until a blogger started an avalanche by promoting misinformation regarding its impact on non-public schools. [READ HERE](#) for the full story, courtesy of our California colleague Ron Reynolds at CAPSO.

2015-16 INPEA Membership Dues

The INPEA Board of Directors is committed to keeping INPEA strong and viable as an organization so that it can continue its efforts in legislative advocacy in public policy and other state issues. Therefore, on March 2, the INPEA Board approved to increase dues for the upcoming school year to \$3.15 per K-12 student. Dues for each Pre-Kindergarten student will remain the same at \$1.00 per PK student.



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



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). This year's theme is "21st Century Leadership: What's in Your Toolbox?" We are proud to announce that [Todd Whitaker](#) will be the keynote speaker and [Debbie Silver](#) will be the dinner speaker. Registration will open next month.

Preschool Pilot Update

The Phase II family application process is now open in the five counties for On My Way PreK "vouchers." [Click here for the family application](#). Families must apply, meet eligibility guidelines, be interviewed and then be selected in a lottery to participate. Following their lottery selection, they can go to eligible providers to apply for admission.

Schools that are in the process of meeting eligibility requirements (Accreditation or Paths to Quality) and will have completed the process before June 1st can have their PreK applicants that meet eligibility requirements (e.g., financial eligibility) apply for the OMWPK vouchers with the understanding that your program is in the process of becoming eligible.

A number of schools with K-8 accreditation are currently

working through associations like AdvancED and ACSI to add their preschool programs to their accreditation

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

IQE Opportunity Calculator for Families

The Institute for Quality Education (IQE) launched a new online tool for parents called the Opportunity Calculator. This free online tool is designed to provide Hoosier families with key information about all of the K-12 school options available to them so they may choose the best school environment for their children.

The Opportunity Calculator is the first tool of its kind for Indiana families. Users may explore all of their K-12 education options, including traditional public, public charters, private and virtual schools. Families can also easily access school accountability grades and determine if they qualify for a school voucher or tax credit scholarship to help pay for private school tuition.

The Opportunity Calculator may be found at www.myschooloptions.org. View a brief online tutorial here: <http://screencast.com/t/miJa39YyCl>.

Many thanks to our INPEA Business Partners!

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Sincerely,
John

John Elcesser
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