



INPEA Update December 2014

In This Issue

[Happy Holidays!](#)

[Voucher Compliance Report](#)

[Pre-K Pilot Rollout](#)

[High Performing High Schools](#)

[E-Learning Days](#)

[Legislative Engagement
Training Follow-up](#)

[BrainWare SAFARI Study
Opportunity](#)

[Quality of Education
Celebration](#)

[Kiwanis](#)

[Dues and Data](#)

[Stay connected!](#)

Quick Links



[Visit our Website](#)

Jurisdictions

[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](#)

Happy Holidays!

On behalf of the INPEA Staff and Board, we want to wish all members and friends a Blessed Holiday! During this holiday season, it is always fitting to be thankful for the gifts already in our lives. The caliber, commitment and professionalism of non-public school leaders and teachers in Indiana are true gifts not only to INPEA but to Hoosiers everywhere. Thanks for who you are and for all that you do! Wishing you a wonderful holiday and plenty of R & R, too!

Voucher Compliance Report

On December 17th, John Elcesser (INPEA) and Glenn Tebbe (Indiana Catholic Conference) met with Melissa Ambre and Fatima Carson (IDOE) to share the results of the Choice Scholarship (Voucher) Compliance Study that we recently completed. Our study reported that 80 schools had made errors in how they applied tuition discounts to their voucher amount request. Schools making errors returned any amount that was overcharged to the state. Checks totaling just under 4 million dollars were returned to the state. Although errors were made, reaction has been positive regarding the integrity in how the situation was handled. We found the errors ourselves, we self-reported, we returned any overage, and we were transparent by reporting the error publicly through the media. A copy of the press release can be found [HERE](#). An information packet was sent out via our 12 jurisdictions. If schools have additional questions, contact John Elcesser at jelcesser@inpea.org. It is critical that all schools have compliance processes in place to ensure these errors aren't made again in the future.

Indiana Conference of Seventh-
Day Adventists
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Resources

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Education](#)
[Friedman Foundation for
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Pre-K Pilot Rollout

Preliminary numbers look very promising for the state's new Pre-K pilot. Over 1,800 applications had been received the week of the final deadline. The last time we checked, 23 private providers had been approved in the 5 counties.

High Performing High Schools

The General Assembly passed legislation that allows high performing school districts AND high school some limited flexibility in regulations, in particular the 180 requirement (allowing the use of minutes instead). To be designated as a qualified district, a school corporation (public school) must be placed in the highest performance category for the 2011-12 school year or any school year thereafter. If the district qualifies, all schools within these districts also qualify without regard to their A-F grade.

High schools (including non-public schools) must meet these same requirements and can qualify independent of the district's grade. High schools are defined as schools that have the 9th or higher grade as the lowest grade in the school.

A list of high performing non-public high schools can be found [HERE](#).

E-Learning Days

The State Board continues to wrestle with the use of E-Learning days. A number of non-public schools have requested approval for E-Learning days. We will follow this issue closely and keep you abreast of any developments.

Legislative Engagement Training Follow-up

Final Webinar scheduled for January 8, 6pm ET

John conducted 8 training sessions around the state over the past month in preparation for the upcoming legislative

session. Thanks to all the schools who made the commitment to be represented at these sessions. As principals have heard John say, we anticipate this to be a tough session, and it is imperative that EVERY school OWN its responsibility to engage in the process to ensure the non-public school voice is heard so that we can protect the many advances of the past few years. No one can sit back and not engage. You owe it to the movement! **Every school should have an active and engaged legislative liaison, and ALL schools should set TWO public policy goals.**

We will have one final training session via webinar for schools who were not able to have representation at one of the 8 in-person trainings. It is scheduled for January 8th at 6pm ET.

BrainWare SAFARI Study Opportunity

Neuroscience and Education are no longer the strangers they used to be. Students and teachers are beginning to experience the benefits of understanding how learning happens in the brain and how students' capacity to learn can be increased.

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

For more information about [the study and the SAFARI software](#), please [see this introduction letter](#).

You may also contact Betsy Hill, President & COO, The BrainWare Company, at bhill@mybrainware.com, 773-250-6467 (office) or 847-644-0093 (cell).

Quality of Education Celebration

February 19, 2015

Hoosiers for Quality Education will be hosting the Quality Education Celebration at the Statehouse on February 19! Last year, nearly 400 students, educators, parents, and

concerned citizens packed the Statehouse to celebrate quality education and talk with policymakers about ideas that put kids first in education. Many of you have participated in the past, and we hope you will join us again this year for a successful event.

There are several ways to participate. Organizations may sponsor the event ([click here for sponsorship information](#)), attend as advocates, and/or invite members of their network to attend. Everyone who registers to attend will have a chance to talk with legislators about education issues that matter in Indiana. Simply fill out the registration form to let us know how you'd like to participate, and we'll handle all the details! (If you've already indicated you would like to sponsor, please help us by filling out the form for our records. Sponsorship commitments are due by January 15.)

The last day to RSVP will be February 5, 2015.

Register for the event

here: <https://www.formstack.com/forms/index.php?1879680-NXXU8fQY6f>

Thank you for all you do for the kids in Indiana. We look forward to celebrating with you on February 19!

For more information, please contact Tosha Salyers at tosha.salyers@h4qed.org.

Kiwanis

John recently spoke to a Kiwanis group in south Indianapolis. Leaders there encouraged school leaders to consider joining their local Kiwanis groups. For more info, contact your local Kiwanis group.

Dues and Data

Thanks to all the schools who have submitted their membership dues and annual data request. If you have not, please do so before leaving for the Holiday or when returning in the new year. THANKS!

Because we have not received data from all schools, we did a supplementary [Preschool/Pre-K Survey](#). Over 160 schools

have responded to date. PLEASE complete this survey ASAP. It should only take 5 - 10 minutes. Thanks again!

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.

Happy Holidays, and 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