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## INPEA February Update

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### February Message

We find ourselves in an interesting time for education! We now have new education leadership at both the State and Federal levels. As we watch to determine where our new leaders will guide us, it is important that we continue to be vigilant and engaged. How will these leaders see the contribution of the non-public school community in today's educational climate? What will be the role of school choice in their education agendas? In Indiana, what level of commitment will the General Assembly place on preschool education? How will Indiana continue to support providing family's educational options while respecting the independence of Choice schools? How will the federal education agenda include school choice? Or will/can it? How will the new leadership at Federal level support the implementation of ESSA, as it relates to the positive changes the new law brings for non-public schools? How and when will they approach reauthorization of IDEA?

There are many, many questions like these as we look to the future of education. Unfortunately there are fewer answers. Time will tell!

Let's all stay vigilant, informed, and engaged! These are important times for the education of all young people!

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### Mark your calendars for INPAC 2017!

#### Leading for Success in a Time of Change

Save the date for Monday September 25th-Tuesday September 26th, 2017

Book your stay at the Renaissance Indianapolis North Hotel today!

[Book here!](#)

Registration for INPAC will be coming soon!

### INPAC 2017 Keynote Speakers



### **ABC's of Operational Vitality**

Chris Mominey

Chief Operating Officer and Secretary for Education at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia



### **Grit and Growth Mindset: Why Some Environments Motivate People to Become Excellent**

Dr. David Yeager

Assistant Professor of Developmental Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin

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## **Legislative Update**

Crossover is next week! Bills from the House will head to the Senate, and vice versa.

Thank you for taking action on House Bills 1004 and 1384, it has helped tremendously thus far! Stay tuned for other calls to action as bills transfer houses.

Current bills we are watching are:

### **Senate Bills**

#### **SB 29** - Elective Course in Indiana Studies (Koch)

SB 29 would require an accredited non-public school to offer Indiana Studies as a one semester elective course in its high school curriculum at least once every school year. The bill makes an exception that if there are fewer than 15 students at an accredited non-public school that the school may offer the course as an independent study course.

**INPEA Stance:** We oppose the bill as it is currently written due to its addition of mandates and regulations on schools. In addition, we believe the content is already addressed in Indiana Standards.

**Current Status:** Passed Senate 47-3, on to the House.

#### **SB 30** - Choice (Koch)

SB 30 would require the IDOE, before the end of the fall semester and before the end of the spring semester of each school year, to distribute to each school corporation the name of the school and number of students who switched to a Choice school from the public school corporation. Names of students will not be given.

**INPEA Stance:** INPEA believe this bill is justified as long as it does not allow for the release of identifying student or family information.

**Current Status:** Passed Senate 48-1, moves on to the House.

#### **SB 34** - Background Checks (Merritt)

Requires a non-public school to conduct an expanded criminal history check and expanded child protection index check on each employee every five years. Additionally requires that a non-public school may implement this requirement over a five year period. Also states that the employee is responsible for costs associated with obtaining the background checks.

**INPEA Stance:** INPEA agrees that school employees need background checks, but

requiring an update of these checks every five years can be costly to teachers and schools, causing a financial burden.

**Current Status:** Passed the Senate 49-1, will move on to the House and most likely heard in House Education Committee.

### **SB 61** - School Resource Officers (Head)

Requires a school resource officer to report all incidents of seclusion and restraint involving the school resource officer. Requires the commission on seclusion and restraint in schools (commission) to adopt rules concerning reporting requirements for the use of seclusion and restraint by school resource officers.

**INPEA Stance:** INPEA is currently neutral on this bill, but will be watching it closely.

**Current Status:** Passed Senate 48-0, moves on to the House Floor.

### **SB 86** - Cursive Writing (Leising)

SB 86 would require accredited non-public elementary schools to include cursive writing in their curriculum.

**INPEA Stance:** This bill has passed out of the Senate Education Committee for the past few years, but always fails on the House side. INPEA believe this decision should be a local one, and left up to schools.

**Current Status:** Passed Senate 35-14, on to House.

### **SB 88** - School Calendar (Leising)

SB 88 would prohibits public schools and accredited non-public schools from beginning student instructional days for the school year before the fourth Monday in August, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

**INPEA Stance:** INPEA does not believe in the over regulation of schools. Schools should be able to decide when it is best for them to begin their school year.

**Current Status:** Failed to pass Senate, will NOT move on to the House.

### **SB 117** - US History Course (Kruse)

SB 117 would require that each high school United States history course must include the study of the structure of state and federal governments. Also requires that all students enrolled in a high school United States history course must take the United States Civics Test prepared by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

**INPEA Stance:** While INPEA understands the desire to want all students to be educated on US history and to be able to pass the citizenry test, this requirement can cause a burden on school who may not have the resources to do so. We also do not believe that adding an additional assessment will aid students when there is currently so much concern about the amount of time already spent testing. If the goal of the legislation is an engaged citizenry, the addition of a test will not accomplish that outcome.

**Current Status:** Passed Senate 39-6, on to the House.

### **SB 276** - Early Education Grant Pilot Program (Holdman)

SB 276 would expand the pre-kindergarten pilot program to include five additional counties. Expands the requirement that the FSSA carry out a longitudinal study of students who participate in the pilot program to include the students in the five additional counties. Establishes the prekindergarten pilot program fund. Makes an appropriation to the prekindergarten pilot program fund in an amount of \$16 million for each fiscal year.

**INPEA Stance:** INPEA fully supports the expansion of the early education matching grants and the prekindergarten pilot program.

**Current Status:** Passed Senate 41-9, moves on to the House.

### **SB 298** - Background Checks (Alting)

SB 298 would require a school employee to have passed their expanded criminal history check and expanded child protection index check within 30 days of starting their employment at a school. Currently the law allows a three month window where the employee can be employed until the background check is completed.

**INPEA Stance:** Although there may be additional costs involved in renewal of the checks, the priority of student safety should be paramount.

We do need to be sensitive and make allowance for late hires and any timelines on background checks.

**Current Status:** Passed Senate 48-0, will move on to the House and most likely heard in House Education Committee.

### **SB 337** - Ethnic Studies Course (Taylor)

SB 337 would require the study of ethnic and racial groups to be included as an elective option in high school.

**INPEA Stance:** INPEA understands the desire to have this included in all US history courses, but like other curriculum bills proposed this session, we believe it over regulates and burdens our non-public schools. It is also INPEA's position that the desired content in the bill is already being taught and is included in the Indiana Academic Standards.

**Current Status:** Passed Senate 35-15, while move on to House.

### **SB 355** - Child Abuse Education and Policies (Messmer)

Requires the department of education to make model educational materials and model response policies and reporting procedures concerning child abuse and child sexual abuse. These model materials will be to assist schools with the implementation of a child abuse and child sexual abuse education programs in kindergarten through grade 12 and a child abuse and child sexual abuse response and reporting policies.

**INPEA Stance:** INPEA strongly supports the prevention and education on child abuse and child sexual abuse. INPEA has concerns about the addition of the education being added to K-12 curriculum. INPEA has plans to discuss our concerns with the bill's author.

**Current Status:** Passed Senate 49-0, has been assigned to the House Education Committee.

## **House Bills**

### **HB 1001** - Budget (T. Brown)

There are a number of items in the budget bill this year. We are still working through what is in the bill and what it could mean for non-public education. Currently, there is a tax credit cap increase for the Tax Credit Scholarships distributed by scholarship granting organizations (SGOs). Also, there is a section including non-public schools in safety and security grant eligibility.

**INPEA Stance:** Currently watching the bill.

**Current Status:** HB 1001 has passed the House 68-29, it will move on to the Senate.

### **HB 1003** - Student Assessment (Behning)

HB 1003 would replace ISTEP after June 30, 2018, with a new statewide assessment program to be known as Indiana's Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network (ILEARN). HB 1003 would also return high school assessments to an end of year assessment model.

**INPEA Stance:** This bill comes from the work of the ISTEP Study Panel that met over the summer. It is evident that the current ISTEP is not the best system to provide Indiana valuable feedback on students achievement and learning, and HB 1003 looks to make changes to the way Indiana administers these assessments. INPEA is currently neutral on this bill. There will probably be lengthy committee and floor discussions, as well as multiple amendments added. We plan to closely watch this bill as it could have a significant impact on many non-public schools.

**Current Status:** Passed House 67-31, will move on to Senate.

### **HB 1004** - Pre-Kindergarten with Choice (Behning)

HB 1004 would expand early education matching grants, and expand the early education pilot program to 10 counties, up from the original 5. Allows for a grant or pilot recipient to also receive a Choice Scholarship for kindergarten the following year if the family meets the Choice Scholarship guidelines.

**INPEA Stance:** INPEA fully supports the expansion of the early education matching grants and the pre-kindergarten pilot program. Additionally INPEA supports the expanded Choice pathway for pilot and grant recipients to also be eligible for Choice Scholarships.

**Current Status:** Passed House 61-34, will move on to Senate.

### **HB 1079** - School Safety (Thompson)

HB 1079 would require schools who have hired after the beginning of the school year to complete the expanded criminal history check within one month of hiring. HB 1079 would also require that a school must conduct an expanded criminal history check and expanded child protection index check on each employee every five years. Would also require schools to implement updated background checks for current employees over a five year period. HB 1079 would require schools to adopt a policy requiring them to contact references and the most recent employer of a prospective employee before the school can hire them. HB 1079 would require DCS to notify a school if a report of child abuse or neglect is substantiated

against an employee or volunteer of their school. HB 1079 would allow the DOE to reinstate a license that has been revoked if the person's conviction record has been expunged. HB 1079 would also allow a school to pay costs associated with obtaining a background check and would not require an employee to pay more than one time during a five year period. **INPEA Stance:** Although there may be additional costs involved in renewal of the checks, the priority of student safety should be paramount. We do need to be sensitive and make allowance for late hires and any timelines on background checks. **Current Status:** Passed House 99-0, on to Senate Education Committee.

### **HB 1384** - Various Education Matters (Behning)

HB 1384 provides that in the case of a high school student who has not attended the same school within the school corporation for at least 90% of a school year, the department can assign the student to the high school at which the student was enrolled for the greatest proportion of school days during the school year for purposes of calculating a school's graduation rate. The SBOE can establish the definition of a high mobility school for schools with a high concentration of mobile students. The SBOE can place a school in a category or designation of school improvement, assign a school grade for a high mobility school. The grade calculated is for informational purposes only and may not be used to calculate a school's category or designation of school improvement. The SBOE may accredit a non-public school that enters into a contract with the SBOE to become a Freeway school at the time the non-public school enters the contract. A Choice Scholarship school may submit a request to the state board to waive or delay certain consequences if it is placed in the two lowest categories or designations of school improvement for a particular school year. Provides that the state board may grant a request to an eligible school that requests a delay or waiver if the Choice Scholarship school demonstrates that a majority of students in the eligible school demonstrated academic improvement during the preceding school year. **INPEA Stance:** INPEA supports this bill with Amendment #6 which would allow a Choice Scholarship school to submit a request to the SBOE to waive or delay certain consequences if it is placed in the two lowest categories or designations of school improvement for a particular school year. It would also allow that the SBOE may grant a request to an eligible school that requests a delay or waiver if the Choice Scholarship school demonstrates that a majority of students in the eligible school demonstrated academic improvement during the preceding school year. **Current Status:** Passed by House 60-32, on to the Senate.

### **HB 1430** - Youth Suicide Prevention (Olthoff)

HB 1430 would require accredited non-public schools to have certain school employees attend or participate in at least two hours of evidence based in-service youth suicide awareness and prevention training. **INPEA Stance:** INPEA is supportive of the intent of the legislation. We have some concerns about additional professional development requirement for teachers. INPEA hopes to work with the authors of the bill to explore alternative approaches. **Current Status:** Passed House 94-0, will move on to Senate.

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## **Freeway Accreditation**

Schools scheduled for Freeway Accreditation renewal have been sent a letter regarding their status in meeting their Freeway Accreditation requirements. The IDOE is currently reviewing the Freeway Accreditation language in the statute. Much of the language dates back many years, with a significant part of the language being outdated. INPEA is working with the IDOE and State Board staff to address any revisions.

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## **Next Generation Hoosier Scholarships**

Last week, the Commission for Higher Education selected 400 scholarship finalists based on academics, involvement and a writing sample. In order to select the 200 recipients, we are conducting a series of eight interview days statewide, with one interview location at the center of each of our eight outreach

regions. Interview panels will include teachers, business and community leaders, and lawmakers. Further, teachers assisting with the interviews may count their time toward Professional Growth Points. The Commission would love for you and your members to serve as interviewers!

If you would like to be part of an interview day, please click on the region where you wish to participate (this [map](#) shows which counties are in the following Commission for Higher Education Outreach Regions). If you know someone who might also want to help interview these finalists, please feel free to share this with others.

[Central](#) (Indianapolis – March 11)

[East](#) (Richmond – March 25)

[North Central](#) (Kokomo – March 25)

[Northeast](#) (Columbia City – March 18)

[Northwest](#) (Knox – March 25)

[Southeast](#) (Madison – March 18)

[Southwest](#) (Dubois – March 25)

[West](#) (Rockville – March 18)

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## American Federation for Children Choice Poll

The American Federation for Children released its third annual National School Choice Poll conducted by Democratic polling firm Beck Research. Results show support for school choice has remained strong with 68% indicating support for the concept. School choice programs, including innovative education saving accounts, opportunity scholarship and special needs scholarships, all garnered majority support as well.

To read more about the poll and results, go [here](#).

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## INPEA Dues Increase

As you know, dues are essential to the operations of INPEA and its advocacy and support of Indiana non-public schools. In order to continue serving and advocating for our schools, INPEA Board of Directors voted to increase its dues cost to \$3.60 per Kindergarten-12th grade student and to \$1.10 for Pre-Kindergarten students. This dues increase will affect the 2017-18 dues invoices (which are based off of 16-17' enrollment).

If you have any questions about dues, please feel free to contact our Office Operations Coordinator, Belinda, at 317-236-7329 or at [bbetton@inpea.org](mailto:bbetton@inpea.org).

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## Indiana Choice Scholarship Program

Indiana's voucher window opens Monday, February 27th. For more information visit the IDOE website [here](#).

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## Indiana Department of Education Turnover

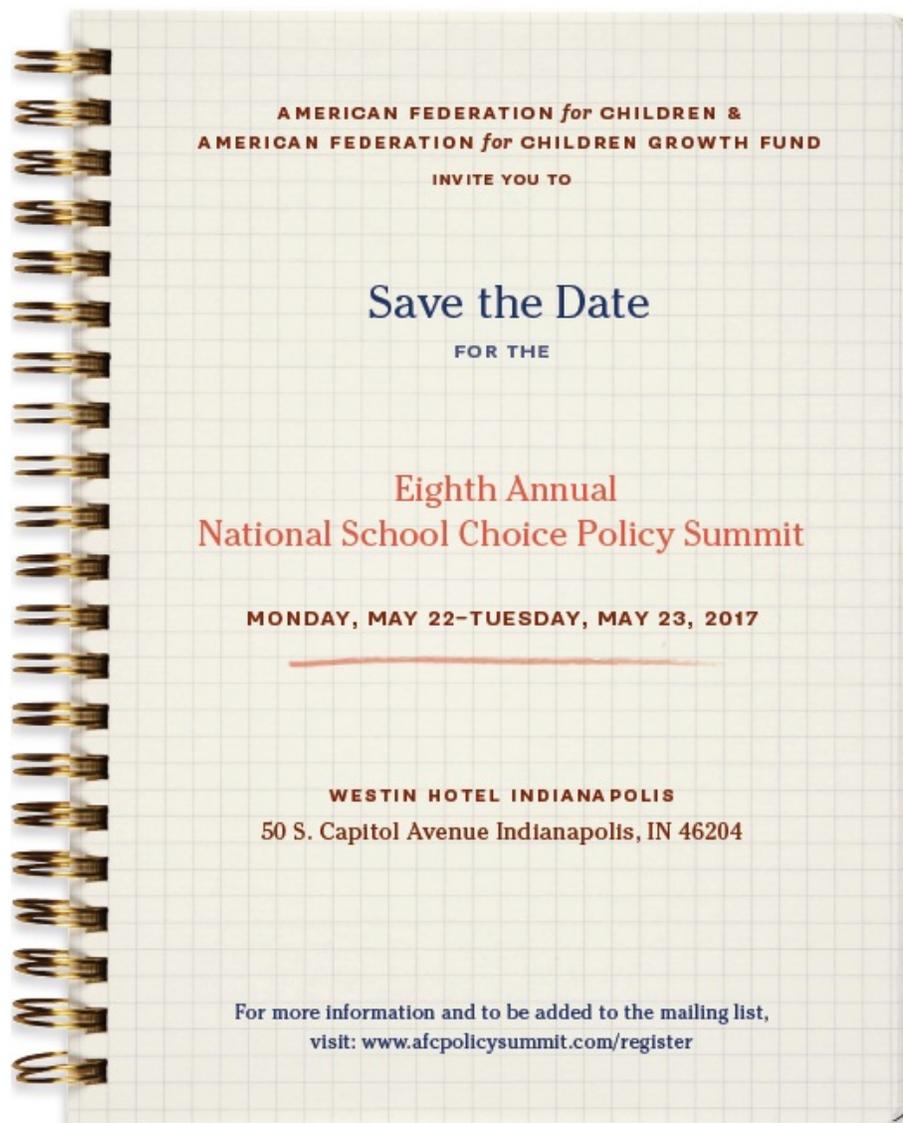
The DOE is currently going through employee turnover after the election of Superintendent Jennifer McCormick. Turnover is common after the election of a new superintendent. INPEA will work to form relationships with new staff in order to continue helping our non-public schools.

To see who holds current office positions, view the DOE chart [here](#).

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## A national school choice summit is coming to Indianapolis!

Interested in attending? Mark your calendars! Don't miss this event!



## The Summit's Passport: Innovative Education

The Summit's highly-acclaimed **Passport: Innovative Education** ([click here for a short video](#)) is celebrating its 5th Anniversary! This year's symposium will take place July 16-21, 2017, at The Summit in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Enjoy a week of encouragement and learning from award-winning educators, leadership experts, and a unique network of teachers from across the United States and around the world, as you learn how your leadership influence can shape the character development of your students. Registration for our FREE teachers symposium is currently open! Apply online at <http://www.thesummitfw.com/education>.

Teachers attending this year will have two options:

- Residential option: Stay as a guest in our Executive Retreat Center, with lodging, meals, social activities, and access to Fitness Center included.
- Commuter option: Local educators living near Fort Wayne, Indiana, have the option of commuting to The Summit campus located at 1027 W. Rudisill Blvd.

We hope you'll consider giving yourself a gift by applying to be a part of The Summit's 5th Passport: Innovative Education cohort! Don't delay! Applications are reviewed for acceptance on a first come, first serve basis! If you are looking for a professional learning experience that will excite and renew your joy of teaching, plan on joining us in Fort Wayne, Indiana this July!

[Apply Now!](#)

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## INPEA Invites You to Attend Regional Choice Meetings with IDOE for 2016-17

All meetings will take place from 9AM-12PM

**May 2017 - Content: Year End (Reporting, Legislation, etc.)**

**8th:** Diocese of Evansville  
4200 N Kentucky Avenue, Evansville, IN 47711

**10th:** LCMS Fort Wayne  
1145 S Barr Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

**12th:** Kingsway Christian School  
7979 E CR 100 N, Avon IN 46123

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[Veronica Scott](#)  
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## **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](#)  
[Indiana Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist](#)  
[Lutheran Church Missouri Synod - Indiana District](#)  
[The Lutheran School Partnership](#)

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## **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](#)

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## **Mission**

The Indiana Non-Public Education Association serves as an advocate, promotes engagement, and strives for the advancement of non-public schools.

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[Visit our Website](#)

## **STAY CONNECTED**

