

Indiana Non-Public
Education Association

INPEA

"A Hoosier Voice for Quality Schools"



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INPEA Legislative Update

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Half Time of 2014 Legislative Session!

We are 1/2 way there! Since this is not a budget year for the General Assembly and it is a short session, the types of bills that can be passed are somewhat limited. With that said, that doesn't stop legislators from authoring bills, many dealing with pretty insignificant issues (at least in INPEA's opinion). INPEA's focus has been primarily on doing no harm to our past legislative accomplishments and closely watching for any increasing regulations. A highlight of the legislation addressed in the first half of the session can be found below. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to our office. And PLEASE don't forget continued advocacy on the part of schools is critical!

Advocacy

As we continue to stress with schools, we cannot get complacent about our schools engaging in advocacy (participating in events and encouraging parents to contact their elected representatives) after our legislative successes in the past. It is important that all schools benefitting from those successes engage in advocacy to protect what we have accomplished. With that in mind, INPEA has asked each school to establish two advocacy goals. If schools would like assistance on developing appropriate goals, contact the INPEA office.

On February 12th School Choice Indiana is coordinating an advocacy event at the statehouse. If you haven't responded and would like to participate, contact Tosha

Salyers at tosha@hegnetwork.com .

Legislation Update

HB1004 Early Education Vouchers

This bill would allow a pilot program in 5 geographical areas in the state for a preschool voucher program. The bill passed out of the House but will have some challenges in the Senate.

SB91 Education Standards

This bill requires the State Board to continue their process to develop college and career readiness standards by July 1, 2014. The bill also negates the previous adoption of the common core standards. The State Board is using the prior Indiana standards, Common Core and other National standards (e.g., NCTM) to develop Indiana's new standards. There seems to be enough momentum to move this bill through the House, although it may be amended.

SB282 Special Education Vouchers

This is simply a clean-up bill putting into statute the opinion of the attorney general that parents can choose their providers and schools can say what services they can provide. It should pass the House easily.

HB1056 & SB114 Excuse Absence for State Fair Participation

One of those bills you just say, *why?* INPEA testified against this bill saying that absences should be a local decision, but unfortunately the bills passed. Since there were versions passed in both houses, it is likely that it will become law, and nonpubs are included.

HB1290 Health of Student Athletes

Requires IDOE to disseminate information about sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and that information be disseminated to coaches, parents and athletes and an acknowledgement form be returned. Students who experience symptoms of SCA must be removed from the activity and allowed to return until there is parent permission.

SB113 School Curriculum

Requires public and nonpublic schools to include cursive writing and reading in their curriculum.

SB222 Concussions

Requires training of coaches and a 24-hour waiting period before an athlete can return to participation.

Many other problematic bills died for lack of movement. [For a more detailed account of bill activity, read this Word document](#). Highlighted sections indicate priority or dead bills.

Thanks for your involvement in public policy issues like those mentioned above.

Sincerely,
John

John Elcesser
Indiana Non-Public Education Association