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## INPEA January Update

### **Celebrate the Good News in Private Schools!**

This past week we celebrated National School Choice Week with events all across the country, including a rally at the Statehouse and one in Fort Wayne as well! Lutheran Schools also celebrated Lutheran Education Week last week. This coming week Catholic Schools across the country will celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Why all the celebration? It's simple...it's important for the broader community to see the great contribution that these schools are making to the Common Good. Just take a look at the data. Take a look at our graduates. It's clear we are a vital part of the education landscape here in Indiana, and across our country as well. So, let's celebrate!

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### **National School Choice Week - Quality Education Celebration**

This week is National School Choice Week, where many schools across the country are rallying together to celebrate school choice and the opportunities it provides for families.

Here in Indianapolis, INPEA sponsored the Institute for Quality Education's Quality Education Celebration 2016 which took place Monday, January 25th, at the Statehouse.

The event had a wonderful turn out of over 1,000 people and exhibited the great strides Indiana has made in school choice. The event had Governor Pence, Rep. Brown, Campbell Brown, Speaker Bosma, and others speak on the benefits school choice has afforded the state, parents, students, and schools.



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## Legislative Updates

We are halfway through the 2016 short legislative session. Bills will be crossing over from the House to the Senate, and vice versa.

### Senate Enrolled Act 200 A-F Hold Harmless

The State Board of Education voted to approve school accountability letter grades according to Senate Enrolled Act 200. With SEA 200 and the SBOE approval, schools will be "held harmless" for the 2014-15 A-F school grades. A school's A-F accountability cannot drop lower than the previous year's letter grade. There is also a provision in the law that states "schools just entering accountability consequences must have two consecutive Fs, rather than a D or F for two consecutive years. Hence the accountability part does not apply to schools already receiving consequences (.i.e not receiving new voucher students).

To see the official State Board of education release, go [here](#).

INPEA has crafted messaging points for your use in talking to teachers, parents and members of the community. To view those, please go [here](#).

### Senate Bill 334

SB 334 is a Choice Scholarships bill which would provide some much needed and desired improvements to the Choice Scholarship Program. The bill addresses the need for students to have two application widows into the program, therefore allowing students to transfer in the second semester. Additionally, the bill would only require parents to sign a designation form once a year, rather than twice a year which would free up unnecessary paperwork and ease the strain on schools and parents.

### Senate Bill 93

SB 93 is a very arduous education bill with many factors. The original bill included a limit

on school transportation by a public school for nonpublic school students by limiting the pickup and drop off points to the regularly established route. Multiple safety concerns were address by many in committee testimonies. Though testimony and meetings with the Sen. Kruse, the author of SB 93, the provision was amended out.

### **House Bill 1002**

HB 1002 would create a next generation Hoosier educators scholarship. The Commission for Higher Education would be able to award scholarships for up to \$7,500 each academic year for four years. HB 1002 could help entice future students into studying to become an educator, and reduce the financial strain on those recent graduates. HB 1002 may also help to reduce the teacher shortage and aid the workforce. These scholarships would be available to high performing students willing to commit to teach 5 years in a public or choice school.

### **House Bill 1323**

HB 1323 would allow flexibility in state reading requirements. This bill would give principals and school leaders the choice in scheduling the number and length of reading periods for elementary school students during student instructional days. This could free up teachers to use the reading time as they see fit for their students.

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## **Lutheran Education Association to Award Mark Muehl**

The Lutheran Education Association annually recognizes members for their ministries. Mark Muehl, the President of The Lutheran School Partnership (and Chair of the INPEA Board), will be awarded the Christus Magister award, the LEA's most prestigious award. The Christus Magister award recognizes members that demonstrate excellence in classroom teaching, administration, supervision, parish education, research, publications, and educational leadership.

Please join INPEA in congratulating Mark on this wonderful achievement!

To view more on the Lutheran Education Association, go [here](#).

To see the official press release, go [here](#).

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## **New Title II Program for Professional Development Under ESSA**

Title II is entitled "PREPARING, TRAINING, AND RECRUITING HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, OR OTHER SCHOOL LEADERS." The title hopes to provide a system of professional growth. While the following list doesn't contain everything in the law, the uses of the funds include:

- Supporting the learning needs of all students, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and gifted/talented
- Developing evaluation systems based in part on student achievement and growth using multiple measures of data
- Recruiting, hiring, and retaining teachers, including incentives, supporting new

teachers, leadership skills, and new career paths

- Differentiating performance and using evaluation results from professional development plans
- Recruiting from other fields
- Reducing class size
- Evidence-based professional development (if reasonably available) for teachers, instructional leadership teams, principals, and other leaders
- Supporting teachers to effectively integrate technology, use data to improve student achievement, effectively engage parents, families, and community, help students learn readiness and academic success, develop policy, and learning through observation
- Develop programs and activities to increase the ability of teachers for helping students with disabilities, for students learning English as a second language, and providing programs and activities to increase the knowledge base for instruction in the early grades and strategies for young children
- Training to identify gifted/talented students and supporting their education
- Supporting and developing effective libraries
- STEM activities.

At this point there is no clear indication of which of these uses will be permitted for the benefit of private school students/teachers.

The second issue to note is that the funds, in the future, will be distributed differently than they have been in the past. For the first year of implementation, the distribution of funds from the federal government to the state will remain as it has been: 35% is based on the number of children ages 5–17 and 65% is based on the number of children ages 5–17 from families with income below the poverty line in the state.

Going forward, the distribution will be as follows:

- Fiscal year 2018 (2018–19 school year): 30/70%
- Fiscal year 2019 (2019–20 school year): 25/75%
- Fiscal year 2020 (2020–21 school year) and going forward: 20/80%

The distribution from the states to the local districts remains: 20% is based on the number of children ages 5–17 and 80% is based on the number of children ages 5–17 who are below the poverty line in the geographic area of the public school district.

The effect of this change is that states with higher poverty will begin receiving a higher proportion of the Title II funds available.

Information provided by **Michelle Doyle**

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## On My Way Pre-K

The Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning is now accepting pre-K applications for the 2016-2017 school year. The new and improved On My Way Pre-

K/Indy PSP online application is up and working! Applications can be found [here](#).

The OECOSL will be accepting applications until 5:00 pm ET on March 25th.

Remember, OECOSL accepts provider applications year round. Providers that meet the quality criteria can apply by contacting Beth Barrett at [beth.barrett@fssa.in.gov](mailto:beth.barrett@fssa.in.gov) at any time.

A current list of eligible On My Way/Indy PSP providers can be found [here](#).

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## National Catholic Schools Week

Next week is National Catholic Schools week! National Catholic Schools Week celebrates Catholic education from January 31st - February 6th. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." Schools usually celebrate with masses and community activities to focus on Catholic education.

To view more on National Catholic Schools Week, go [here](#).

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## Legislative Liaisons

Does your school have a Legislative Liaison? Join INPEA in being the voice for Hoosier non-public education!

To learn more about engaging with INPEA during the legislative session, view our PowerPoint [here](#).

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## School Scholarship Tax Credit Cap

A School Scholarship Tax Credit is available for those who donate to scholarship-granting organizations. SGOs will receive funding for scholarships, which will come from private, charitable donations. Those donors who have donated to an SGO approved by the Indiana Department of Education will then be eligible to take advantage of a 50 percent credit against their state-tax liability.

While there are no limits to how much a donor can contribute to a qualified SGO, the entire tax credit program cannot award more than \$8.5 million in credits this fiscal year, July 1st, 2015 to June 30th, 2016.

Currently, \$8,290,371 has been awarded, with a remaining amount of credits available to be awarded of just under a quarter million, at \$209,629.

To view more on School Scholarship Tax Credits, go [here](#).

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## APC Funding -State Special Education Dollars

We receive many questions about Special Education Funding, especially in light of the special education component of the Voucher Program. Special Education funding comes from both Federal and State dollars. Federal Dollars are based on a formula that requires a "proportionate share" being made available for services for parentally placed private school students. State dollars (these are the funds available for special education part of the voucher program) are allocated based on three tiers of disability categories. There are 13 disabilities within the three tiers. The funding by category and tier can be found below.

Additional Pupil Count funding is dedicated State dollars to provide services and support for students with disabilities. APC funding is based on the December 1st collection of the IDOE-Special Education report as well as the IDOE-Membership report.

The funding based on the collection is as follows:

01-Multiple Disabilities - \$8,800  
02-Orthopedic Impairment - \$8,800  
03-Blind/Visual Impairment - \$8,800  
04-Deaf/Hard of Hearing - \$8,800  
05-Emotional Disturbance, Full Time - \$8,800  
06-Emotional Disturbance, All Other - \$2,300  
07-Specific Learning Disability - \$2,300  
08-Developmental Delay (3-5A Only) - \$2,700  
09-Language or Speech Impairment - \$500  
10-Mild Cognitive Disability - \$2,300  
11-Moderate Cognitive Disability - \$2,300  
12-Severe Cognitive Disability - \$8,800  
14-Deaf/Blindness - \$8,800  
15-Autism Spectrum Disorder - \$8,800  
16-Traumatic Brain Injured - \$8,800  
17-Other Health Impairment - \$2,300  
Homebound - \$500

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## Dues and Data Reminder

Please don't forget the Data Survey and Membership Dues! INPEA is a dues funded organization, and through your support we can continue to be the voice for quality, Hoosier non-public schools! Additionally, the annual data survey provides INPEA with vital information to help us represent and serve you better!

Please contact us if you have questions on either!

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**Many thanks to our INPEA Business Partners!**

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[Laura Zapp](#)



DAST Consulting

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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](#)

[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  
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## **Mission**

To promote the highest academic standards and provide assistance for Indiana's non-public schools.

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Visit our Website

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