
INPEA January Update

January Message

INPEA hopes everyone is off to a great start this new year! For many, the new year often brings resolutions to improve for the year to come. What are some of your resolutions this year? With the Indiana legislature going into full swing this month, we hope some of your resolutions will be to set public policy goals for your school, as well as engaging with the legislature. Engagement could be done in a multitude of ways, such as attending rally days, calling your representatives, appointing school legislative liaisons, or using our Legislative Action Center. By engaging with the legislature, we can ensure the non-public school voice is heard, and show our support for the great work all of our schools continue to achieve.

We hope 2017 will be a great year for our schools, families, and students as well as for our Indiana General Assembly!

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!](#)

Legislative Update

Please make sure your school has a legislative liaison in order to help advocate for non-public schools! If your school does have a legislative liaison, please make sure Andrea Zimmerman has their contact information. Send all contact information to azimmerman@inpea.org. Legislative liaisons are vital to help INPEA show the importance of our schools and how legislation can affect them to the General Assembly.

Below are bills that have been proposed for the current legislative session. Most bills are in the first hearing stage and moving on to be heard by their respective committees. If a bill becomes something INPEA views needs action, we will put it up in our Legislative Action Center and notify you and liaisons to solicit your support. See the Legislative Action Center [here](#).

Curriculum

SB 29 - Elective Course in Indiana Studies (Koch)

SB 29 would require an accredited nonpublic 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 nonpublic 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

Current Status: Passed Senate Education Committee 11-0, on to Senate Floor

SB 86 - Cursive writing (Leising)

SB 86 would require accredited nonpublic elementary schools to include cursive writing in their curriculum. Bill also requires accredited nonpublic schools to include reading 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 Education Committee 8-1, on to Senate Floor.

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.

Current Status: Up for Senate Education Committee vote on 1/25/17.

Administration

SB 57 - Graduation Rate Calculation (Ratz)

Changes the definition of "cohort" for purposes of calculating a high school's graduation rate. Allows schools to not count those pursuing a certificate of completion or those determined ineligible to graduate by a case conference committee.

INPEA Stance: INPEA is currently watching this bill and does not have an official stance at this time.

Current Status: Was heard at the Senate Education Committee on 1/4/17.

SB 34 - Background Checks (Merritt)

Requires a nonpublic school to conduct an expanded criminal history check and expanded child protection index check on each employee every five years. Additionally requires that a nonpublic 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: Up for Senate Education Committee vote on 1/25/17.

SB 87 - Report Cards (Leising)

Requires accredited nonpublic schools use letter grades for student report cards, such as an A-F scale.

INPEA Stance: INPEA does not support requiring schools to grade a certain way. We know of a number of INPEA schools who do not use letter grades. INPEA believes schools should be allowed to grade academic work in a way that the school see fit.

Current Status: Passed Senate Education Committee 7-3, on to Senate Floor.

SB 108 - Education Matters (Kruse)

This bill has a wide array of education issues. The key issue to INPEA is the segment that discusses failing school. SB would change the time frame, from four to six years, in which the state board may take over a failing school.

INPEA Stance: INPEA is currently watching this bill and does not have an official stance at this time.

Current Status: Up for Senate Education Committee vote on 1/25/17.

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 before 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: While INPEA supports background checks on school employees, getting rid of the three month window would cause burden for schools in their hiring process, and could impede schools who are on a limited time frame to hire a replacement teacher.

Current Status: Up for Senate Education Committee vote on 1/25/17.

Choice

SB 30 - Choice (Koch)

SB 30 would require the DOE, 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 Education Committee 9-0, on to Senate Floor.

Bills to Watch

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 prekindergarten pilot program. Additional INPEA supports the expanded Choice pathway for pilot and grant recipients to also be eligible for Choice Scholarships.

Current Status: Has been referred to the House Education Committee.

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.

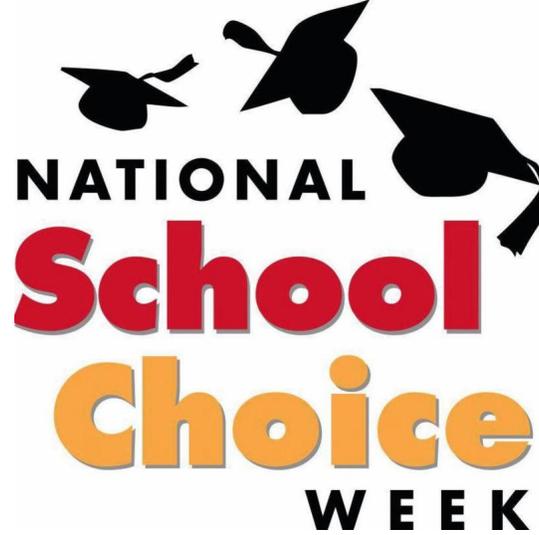
To see who holds current office positions, view the DOE chart [here](#).

School Choice Lobby Day

Parents and educators are invited to join Institute for Quality Education at the Indiana Statehouse for School Choice Lobby Day. Participants will deliver materials to all lawmakers to educate them on school choice in Indiana and meet with members of the Indiana Senate and/ or House of Representatives to share their personal experience with school choice.

Wed, January 25, 2017 from 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM EST

Register [here](#).



Pre-K Rally is the same day and same place as the School Choice Rally, so join us at the Statehouse to help support two excellent education initiatives!

Pre-Kindergarten Lobby Day

All IN 4 Pre-K, a pre-kindergarten advocacy group, is excited to host a day of meaningful action on behalf of Indiana's children and communities. From a morning information session to afternoon rally and legislator visits, you will have the chance to raise your voice, tell your story, and let Indiana's leaders know how access to high-quality pre-k is a priority for you!

Register [here](#).



2017 PRE-K STATEHOUSE ADVOCACY DAY

Join us at the Statehouse!

January 25, 2017 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Join other pre-k champions from across the state for the 2017 Pre-K Statehouse Advocacy Day to let your legislators know how important pre-k is for Indiana!

All IN 4 Pre-K is excited to host passionate Hoosiers like you -- people who believe that #SuccessStartsEarly -- for a day of meaningful action on behalf of Indiana's children and communities. From a morning information session to afternoon rally and legislator visits, you will have the chance to raise your voice, tell your story, and let Indiana's leaders know how access to high-quality pre-k is a priority for you.



Agenda:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 10 a.m. - noon | Training (for participants meeting with lawmakers) |
| Noon - 12:45 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Rally (for all participants) |
| 1:45 - 5:00 p.m. | Meetings with Lawmakers |

RSVP TODAY!

Get more information and RSVP at:
www.allin4prek.com/pre_k_statehouse_day

Higher Learning Commission approves Dual Credit Extension for Indiana

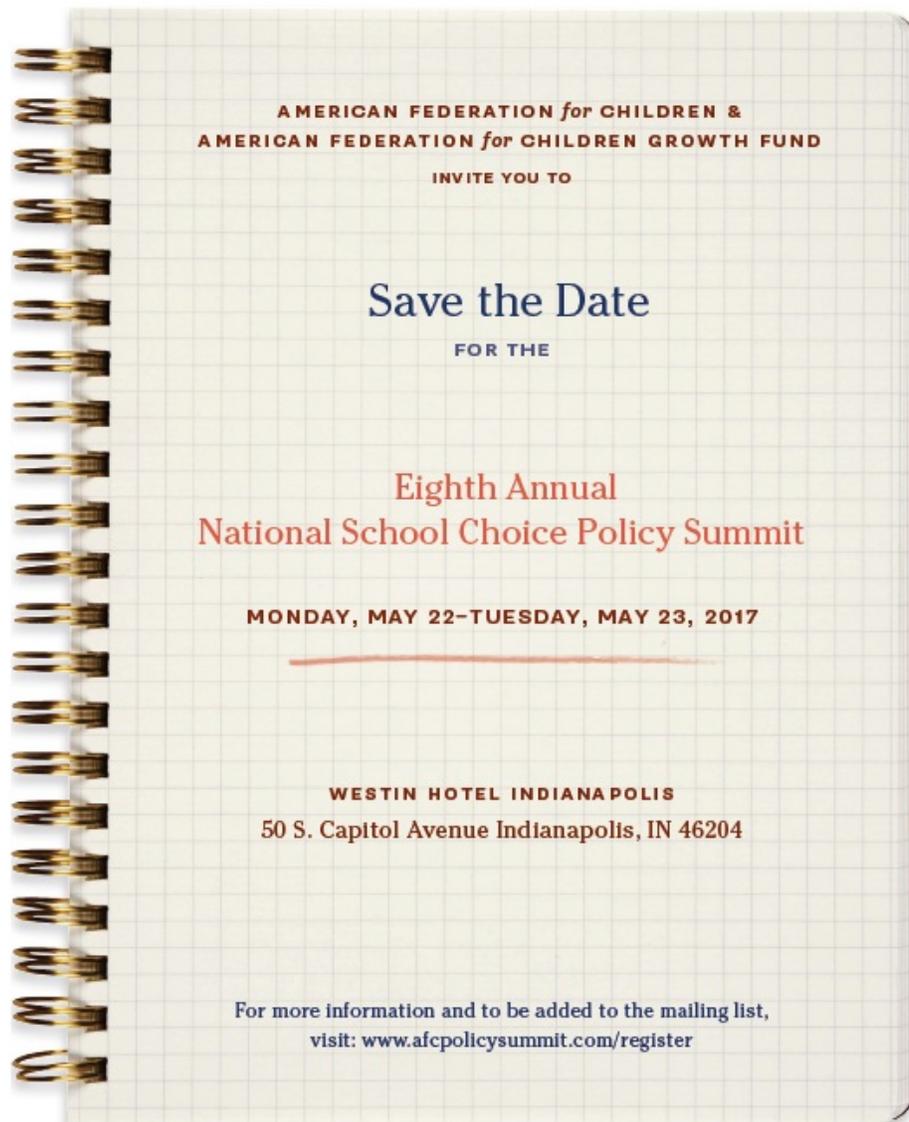
The regional college accreditor designated by the federal government for Indiana and 18 other states, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), has approved a five-year extension for Indiana teachers to meet new requirements affecting dual credit teachers. On Monday, December 19, the accreditor notified Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers and officials from 22 public and private Indiana colleges that the application was approved for extension through September 1, 2022.

See the full release [here](#).

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 awarding-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

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!](#)

Tell Us Your Stories!

INPEA would like to gather stories about families benefiting from the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program or the INDIANA Tax Credit (SGO) Program. We would love to hear how this legislation has impacted your students!

Why?: One of the best ways to advocate for school choice is to tell the stories of families whose lives have been impacted by the program.

What?: School choice advocates (like INPEA) are trying to identify families who would be willing to tell how the school choice (vouchers and SGOs) have impacted the education of their children and their family as a whole.

How?: With the help and guidance of choice advocates, families would be prepared to tell or write their stories to legislators, media, or possibly even to create promotional media, such as a video clip. Please note, willing families would be assisted in how to best share their stories and how to answer questions if prompted by the media.

Next?: If you are interested and willing to participate, please ask your school to share your contact information with us, and someone from INPEA will reach out to you! You can submit a story directly or send family contact information to Andrea Zimmerman at azimmerman@inpea.org and we'll reach out to them.

Thank you, and let's keep school choice in Indiana strong for years to come!

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

February 2017 - Content: Student and School Applications
All February meetings will take place from 9AM-12PM

6th: St. John's Lutheran School
111 Kingsbury Ave, LaPorte, IN 46350

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

10th: Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
201 W State St, Madison, IN 47250

- 13th:** LCMS Fort Wayne
1145S Barr Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802
- 15th:** Heritage Christian School
6401 E 75th St, Indianapolis, IN 46250
- 17th:** Tabernacle Christian School
2189 Burton Lane, Martinsville, IN 46151

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

- 8th:** Diocese of Evansville (Same address as above)
- 10th:** LCMS Fort Wayne (Same address as above)
- 12th:** Kingsway Christian School
7979 E CR 100 N, Avon IN 46123

Dues and Data

INPEA dues statements were mailed out and our annual data request has been sent by email. Your responsiveness to both items are essential to INPEA operations. Our data responses were down last year while our requests for data increased. PLEASE respond to both requests. We will be asking for input about how to improve our data collection process. We would appreciate your feedback!

Help Spread the Word about INPEA!

Share our logo and a link to our website on your school website:

Email us and we will send a web quality photo and link to add to your website as a resource for your school community!

Many thanks to our INPEA Business Partners!



Braden Business Systems
[David Sexauer](#)



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Jurisdictions

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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

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

Mission

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

Visit our Website

STAY CONNECTED



Indiana Non-Public Education Association | 317-236-7329 | office@inpea.org | www.inpea.org