



# e-Dition

## Key Updates for ISBA Members

by Terry E. Spradlin, ISBA Executive Director ([tspradlin@isba-ind.org](mailto:tspradlin@isba-ind.org))

### 2019 Annual ISBA-IAPSS Fall Conference

The 2019 Annual ISBA-IAPSS Fall Conference on September 30-October 1 is quickly approaching and will mark the 70th anniversary of this event. I hope you are planning to attend as we have planned an excellent conference with new strand themes, clinic session topics, a daily general session that will feature a nationally recognized keynote speaker, and many “special touches” to celebrate the occasion. We will have a sold-out exhibit hall of service members and other vendors, not to mention door prizes and anniversary cake along with beverage stations will be available in the hall. Come early for the Day 1 General Session to hear music from the Avon High School Chamber Orchestra. We will also have a photo wall for you and your team to take selfies, so show your team pride and wear your school corporation or ISBA logo wear. Please take a look at the agenda and go to register for this premiere conference, click [HERE](#).

### 2020 Decennial Census

On April 1, 2020, the nation will recognize Census Day to earmark the commencement of the decennial count. The U.S. Constitution requires that the federal government count all persons living in the country every 10 years, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, and citizenship status. The 2020 Census survey, for the first time, will be available to complete online, by phone, or paper form to be returned by mail. Residents should

expect correspondence on how to complete the survey in March 2020. Taking part is a civic duty and the survey is easy to complete. Furthermore, every response is confidential.

ISBA is a partner organization of the Every Hoosier Child Counts! Complete Count Committee. This coalition includes representatives from 17 different literacy, early childhood education, and K-12 education organizations. We are developing an action plan that includes distribution of a PR Toolkit for our members to use locally to promote participation and completion of the Census next spring. The toolkit will include strategies, key messaging, and online resources. Stay tuned for further details about the distribution of these resources.

### School Accountability Panel

The Indiana General Assembly debated legislation during the 2019 budget session that would have established the use of postsecondary performance metrics in the high school A-F accountability model. While that particular bill (House Bill 1404) died, a provision was added to House Enrolled Act 1002 (Public Law 143) to establish a School Accountability Panel to continue the discussion regarding which metrics to recommend to the State Board of Education and the legislature for inclusion in the high school accountability system. To see the provisions of HEA 1002 regarding the Panel, click [HERE](#).

This Panel is meeting biweekly through October to develop its recommendations. To learn more about the composition of the Panel or to monitor the work of this body, click [HERE](#).

### Governor’s Next Level Teacher Compensation Commission

Governor Holcomb’s Next Level Teacher Compensation Commission is holding public input sessions, and the voices of school board members and educators are critical. Dates, times, and locations of the last two sessions are listed below. Additionally, there is an opportunity for public comments to be made online [HERE](#).

Saturday, August 24, 10:00 a.m. CT  
Central High School Auditorium  
5400 First Avenue, Evansville, IN 47710

Tuesday, August 27 at 7:00 p.m. ET  
Concord Jr. High Cafeteria  
59397 County Road 11, Elkhart, IN 46517

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# Alignment and Balance

By Dr. Michael T. Adamson, ISBA Director of Board Services  
([madamson@isba-ind.org](mailto:madamson@isba-ind.org))

If you have ever driven a vehicle and you noticed that it pulled to the right or left or had uneven wear to the tires? Perhaps you noticed that the steering wheel was off center or maybe you felt a vibration when driving. If so, the problem was probably with the vehicle's alignment.

The vehicle's suspension system connects the vehicle to its wheels and the proper alignment is achieved by adjusting the suspension system to assure that the tires are set at the correct angle with the road. Perfect alignment is dependent on three measurements, camber, toe, and caster and it is important to have your vehicle's alignment checked if you experience any of the misalignment symptoms. Proper alignment, when combined with tire balancing to compensate for weight imbalances in the wheel-tire combination, improves handling, keeps the

vehicle from pulling in one direction or vibrating when on the road, and lessens tire wear.

Most of us are familiar with the terms alignment and balancing when talking about our vehicles, even if we do not understand how a mechanic performs those services. But have you ever thought about alignment and balance from a school board perspective? How is the board's alignment with each other, with the superintendent, or with the community? Were things running well until the board hit a pothole, a circumstance or issue that so divided the board that it has not performed well since? Are one or more members commandeering center stage at every meeting, causing the Board to veer from its primary responsibilities? If so, then it is really time for an alignment and balance check before the problems cause catastrophic damage.

Begin by reviewing your school corporation's foundational statements, i.e., the corporation's value and belief, mission, and vision statements. Those guiding statements provide focus by stating what is esteemed most highly, what will not be compromised, the overall purpose for all school personnel, and what your desirable, future looks like. While these statements are for all school personnel, the school board is responsible for setting the expectations by utilizing these guiding statements for all board conversation and action.

School boards who are aligned with their corporation's foundational statements are in the best position to support the administration in student achievement initiatives, will realize greater community support, and will ultimately find more time to be attentive to those educational issues that reflect the culture and climate of their communities. It is true that school boards do not run schools, but school boards are to provide a governance framework that supports the efficient and effective operation of their schools by their superintendent. Utilizing foundational statements to stay aligned with what is most important and making decisions that effectively balance priorities are keys to successful governance oversight.

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# Reduction in the School Employer's Contribution Rate to TRF

by Lisa F. Tanselle, ISBA General Counsel ([ltanselle@isba-ind.org](mailto:ltanselle@isba-ind.org))

One of the steps taken by Governor Holcomb and members of the General Assembly to increase monies available for teacher salaries was to appropriate \$150 million from the state general fund to the teacher retirement fund, and subsequently direct the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) to reduce the school employer's contribution rate to the teacher retirement fund. These actions were enacted as part of the budget bill passed this session and can be found in SECTION 257 of HEA 1001 (Public Law 108).

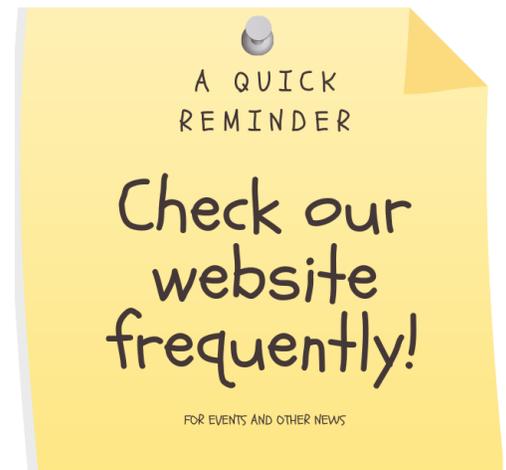
The General Assembly further mandated that all school boards identify the dollar amount of the reduction in their contribution rate and what actions boards intend to take with the money saved as a result of the reduction in the employer's contribution rate. These actions must take place at a public meeting held after July 1, 2019 and before October 1, 2019. This mandate is a one-time requirement since this section of the bill expires June 30, 2020.

Since the passage of the budget bill, the INPRS Board announced it had received the appropriation and reduced the employer contribution rate from 7.5% to 5.5%, effective July 1, 2019. Many school boards are now preparing for the required actions at a public

meeting. We have entertained several questions regarding this bill, and in particular, the need for the school board to pass a resolution. The language in the bill makes no reference to adopting a resolution; in fact the language merely states that the board, **at a public meeting**, must determine the dollar amount of the reduction and what actions the board intends to take with the money saved as a result of the reduction. A school board may choose to adopt a resolution as evidence of its compliance with this mandate, but the board could also choose to have the minutes of the meeting reflect that it identified the amount of money saved by the reduction of the employer's contribution rate and its intended actions with regard to the amount of money saved.

Additional questions have been raised about the specificity needed in regard to what actions a school board may take with the money saved. The language of the bill gives school boards complete discretion as to where the money will be directed. A school board may determine that some or all of the money will be used for a specific purpose or that some or all of the money will be directed to a specific fund. Clearly the intent of the governor and the General Assembly was to make more money available for teacher compensation, and ISBA encourages school boards to carefully consider dedicating

at least some, if not all, of the money saved to improve teacher compensation. While at this point there is no requirement to report to any agency what a school board did with the money saved by the reduction in the employer's contribution rate to TRF, because the school board is required to make these determinations at a public meeting, it may be that your area legislators or others are noting what actions your school board takes to improve teacher compensation.



## 70TH ANNUAL ISBA/IAPSS FALL CONFERENCE



**REGISTER TODAY!**

### ISBA/IAPSS Fall Conference

Check out page 4 of this e-Dition for information about the 2019 Fall Conference agenda, notable items and more! And don't forget to register!

[\*\*REGISTER HERE!!\*\*](#)

### FAST FACTS ON INDIANA K-12 EDUCATION

School Choice/Transfer: While Indiana has been a leader in promoting school choice, families are more likely to choose traditional public school for their children. In fact, **over 44% of all transfers** are into traditional public schools and charter (31%) and private schools (25%) are falling further behind. Parents recognize the history of academic excellence present in traditional public schools.

### ISBA IN THE NEWS

[Economist: 'Wild Card' Environment For School Referendum](#)

[2020 Census: Undercounting Kids Could Limit Indiana's Federal School Funding](#)

[How Much Did MCS Have To Pay For Its New CEO?](#)

[The Importance of the 2020 Census Count](#)

## Disclosure of Information Concerning Threats to School Safety

by Julie M. Slavens, ISBA Staff Attorney ([jslavens@isba-ind.org](mailto:jslavens@isba-ind.org))

The 2019 Indiana General Assembly passed a law amending the disclosure of public records law and adding a new law addressing the disclosure and exchange of information by law enforcement and school corporations in relation to the safety and security of a student or a school facility or in cases of health or safety emergencies. The law is House Enrolled Act 1398 and was effective July 1, 2019.

IC 5-14-3-4 regulates what documents a school corporation may not disclose. The law contains two lists – a confidential list which contains the public records that cannot be disclosed and a discretionary list which contains the public records that may be disclosed at the discretion of the school corporation. The Act amended the discretionary list to allow a law enforcement agency to disclose to a school corporation its investigatory records for the sole purpose of enhancing the safety or security of a student or school facility. It should be noted the investigatory files may be files of persons other than students in the school corporation as the law states the disclosure should be for the safety and security of not only a student (or students) but of a school facility. Law enforcement may have information from one of its investigation of a threat to the school made by someone other than a currently enrolled student such as an adult within the community or outside the local community, a former student, or a parent.

For purposes of IC 5-14-3-4, investigatory records of a law enforcement agency does not include a law enforcement recording, which is defined as a recording of law enforcement activity captured by a camera or other device used by law enforcement officers within the scope of their duties and worn by the officers or attached to the officers' vehicles. The recordings would cover such items as body and dash cam videos. Any other information from police investigation files may be shared with the school corporation.

The Act also added IC 20-33-7-4, which allows a school corporation to disclose personally identifiable and other information contained in an educational record to law enforcement officials, child services officials, or medical personnel without the consent of the parent in cases of health and safety emergencies as determined by a superintendent, a principal, an assistant superintendent, or an assistant principal. The law provides for civil immunity for the school corporation under the Indiana Tort Claims Act for a good faith effort to comply with the law. The law requires police officers to provide personally identifiable information from a law enforcement record in cases of a health or safety emergency to the appropriate above-named school officials. The Act also prohibits any information related to suspicious or potential criminal activity of a student exchanged between a school corporation and law enforcement agencies being stored or maintained in any database by either entity.

# ISBA/IAPSS 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference

The 70th Annual ISBA/IAPSS Fall Conference is coming! This year's conference will be focused on "Celebrating 70 Years of Effective K-12 School Governance and Leadership" and will be held Monday, September 30 -Tuesday, October 1, 2019. The meetings and exhibit hall will be again located in the Indiana Convention Center, centered around Halls J & K.

A comprehensive program is designed every year by ISBA/IAPSS to provide topics and presentations that appeal to any superintendent or school board member, no matter the size of your school corporation. Our conference is structured to bring to you the latest information, along with success stories from schools that have implemented change in their corporations. We will have some informative experts on current topics in education who are willing to share their knowledge with YOU!

This year, we're focusing on these strands:

- Optimizing School Budgets and Financing
- Ensuring Safe, Secure, and Supportive Learning Environments for Hoosier Students
- ISBA and IAPSS Priority/Hot Topics for Members
- Ushering in a New Era of Graduation Pathways and School Accountability
- Developing Educational Statesmanship

Register at [www.isba-ind.org](http://www.isba-ind.org) and mark your calendars now for the 70th Annual ISBA/IAPSS Fall Conference, because it is designed to help you become an effective and exceptional school leader in today's changing world!

## FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

This year, our Monday morning keynote address will be presented by **Dr. Stephen Sroka**. Dr. Sroka specializes in "The Power of One" which explores the barriers and the strategies needed to build relationships and lead. Challenges explored are communication, collaboration, cultural competency and caring. Dr. Stephen Sroka has spoken worldwide with The Power of One message, how one person can make a difference. This keynote will warm your heart, stir your soul, and ignite a fire in your brain. Let's see if it can spark the fire within you!

At the Tuesday general session, our keynote address will be from **Ravi Hutheesing**, who will speak on "Cultural Competence, the Pathway to Equity in Education." The world is changing, and schools are challenged with doing more than ever to prepare students for an unpredictable future. Therefore, we must overcome our own unsubstantiated fears and implicit biases so that we not only educate every child fairly, but also help them defeat their own fears and biases while cultivating their curiosity about the world.

### ITEM TO NOTE:

- There will be NO Tuesday Luncheon again this year. Together, ISBA and IAPSS realized that our time with attendees would be better served by convening the attendees together for a cohesive general session on Tuesday morning. Please note that the Tuesday General Session will take place in the 500 Ballroom.

### SAVE THE DATE!!!

**71<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL ISBA/IAPSS FALL CONFERENCE**  
**SEPTEMBER 28 – SEPTEMBER 29, 2020**

### STAFF

Terry Spradlin—Executive Director  
Lisa Tanselle, Esq.—General Counsel  
Dr. Michael Adamson—Director of Board Services  
Julie Slavens, Esq.—Staff Attorney  
Brooke Orner—Coordinator of Conferences  
Rae Anne Motsinger—Comptroller/Office Manager  
Kayla Baldwin—Administrative Assistant



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website :  
[WWW.ISBA-IND.ORG](http://WWW.ISBA-IND.ORG)  
317.639.0330



ISBA announces its Comprehensive Policy Management Services (CPMS), a more robust service beyond the policy advisories from ISBA that will be continued for all members.

As a board member, you know policy-making is a top priority of any school board's governance responsibility. The policies put in place should comply with current Indiana and federal laws and reflect the educational values of the school corporation and the community.

ISBA is your resource for Indiana public school policy development and management. Through a yearly subscription, ISBA can provide your school corporation with:

- Focused Consultation
- Policy Evaluation, Customization, & Manual Coding
- Quarterly Policy Updates Report and Webinar Meetings
- Sample Policies and Policy Lists
- Policy Training

Learn more about CPMS on our website at <http://www.isba-ind.org/cpms.html>.