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## ISBA WEEK 11 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear ISBA Members:

Here is your Week 11 Legislative Update with the essential information you need to know about the status of the budget session of the Indiana General Assembly. Bills must pass out of the second chamber by the third reading deadline on April 15, 2025, to remain active this session. Now, five and one-half weeks to go – please keep advocating for kids!

### **ISBA Bill Tracking List**

The updated ISBA Tracking List is available [HERE](#).

### **ISBA “Top 3 Things to Know” Weekly Video Update**

Click [HERE](#) to watch the Week 11 video update.

### **Key Legislation on the Docket This Week:**

[HB 1001 State Budget](#) (Author: Rep. Jeff Thompson; Sponsor: Sen. Ryan Mishler) – The Senate Appropriations K-12 Education Subcommittee met on Monday and heard nearly four hours of public testimony on the K-12 school funding provisions in HB

1001, the state budget. ISBA testified and spoke to the high return on investment that K-12 public education is for the state of Indiana. ISBA identified the following funding priorities as the Senate Republican Caucus considers its version of the state budget.

- ISBA requests that the Indiana General Assembly consider the following K-12 funding priorities:
  1. **Increase the K-12 education tuition support formula at a rate meeting or exceeding inflation (2.5%) per year** to help school corporations keep up with the cost of insurance and benefits and to maintain the momentum to increase teacher pay to reach new goals set in SB 146.
  2. **Restore the State Internet Connectivity Grant** of \$3.4 million per year to fund school broadband service for Internet, WAN, and special construction for matching grants for district construction costs related to laying new fiber in the state for schools.
  3. **Increase ELL Funding** by \$5 million/year to support the rapidly growing ELL student population in Indiana (now 8% of all students are ELL).
  4. **Increase Summer School Funding** by \$10 million per year to ensure availability of comprehensive summer school programs to support student literacy and numeracy proficiency while increasing the state reimbursement rate from 65% to full funding. The annual appropriation of \$18.3 million has not increased in more than two decades.
  5. **Increase funding for the Indiana Secured Schools Safety Grant** by \$10 million to \$35 million/year in FY '26 to fully fund Priority 1 grant requests.

ISBA encourages members to continue to advocate with your state senator to ask for their support for these funding priorities.

**[HB 1285 Education Matters](#)** (Author: Rep. Becky Cash; Sponsor: Sen. Brian Buchanan) – The Senate Education and Career Development Committee accepted an amendment to this bill that (1) prohibits the removal of a student’s property without allowing a parent the opportunity to collect the student’s property in cases where a student has died, transferred, or withdrawn; (2) prohibits the adoption of a policy that precludes a parent from recording case conference committee meetings; and (3) requires at least one school employee to be trained in nonviolent crisis intervention training. The amendment increases the number of employees who have to be trained in nonviolent crisis intervention from one to three, and specifies that one of the persons trained must be a school administrator. The bill passed out of the Committee unanimously and is eligible for a second reading on the floor of the House.

**[HB 1498 School Accountability](#)** (Author: Rep. Bob Behning; Sponsor: Sen. Spencer Deery) – This bill was amended by the Senate Education and Career

Development Committee and removed a provision that required the new school performance accountability model to include a high school graduation on track indicator. The bill passed out of the Committee unanimously and is eligible for a second reading on the floor of the House.

**HB 1660 Excused Absence from School** (Author: Rep. Beau Baird; Sponsor: Sen. Brian Buchanan) – The Senate Education and Career Development Committee heard testimony on this bill that requires school boards to excuse the absence of a student who participates in a scheduled competition, exhibition, or event offered by the National FFA Organization, the Indiana FFA Association, or a 4-H club. The bill limits the number of excused absences to six and requires the student to be in good academic standing. The Committee will vote on the bill next week.

**HB 1681 Local Public Questions** (Author: Rep. Tim Wesco; Sponsor: Sen. Travis Holdman) – The Senate Elections Committee considered on Wednesday HB 1681 that provides that a local public question or referendum may be placed on the ballot only at a general election. Provides that: (1) a state public question; or (2) an election of delegates to a convention to consider ratifying an amendment to the United States Constitution; may be placed on the ballot only at a general election. ISBA, Indiana Small and Rural Schools, Indiana Coalition of Growing and Suburban Schools, and the Avon Oriole Advocates all testified against this bill. Only the Secretary of State's Office testified in support of the bill. The ISBA testimony included a request for a compromise amendment to reinstate the option of primaries during the general election cycle for the ability of school corporations to pose a local public question. Both Senator Greg Walker and Senator Linda Rogers expressed some interest or support for this as a possible second reading amendment. The bill passed out of committee by a 6-2 vote and was recommitted to the Senate Tax & Fiscal Policy Committee for further deliberation.

**SB 146 Teacher Compensation** (Author: Sen. Linda Rogers; Sponsor: Rep. Jake Teshka) – Requires the Department of Education to submit a report to the Indiana General Assembly before November 1, 2025, that provides an analysis of the feasibility and cost of increasing school corporation employee health plan options. Provides 20 day of paid parental leave for a full-time teacher employed by a school corporation and 10 days of paid leave for a part-time teacher employed by a school corporation upon: (1) the birth of the teacher's child; (2) the birth of a child to the teacher's spouse; (3) the placement of a child for adoption with the teacher; or (4) the stillbirth of the teacher's child. Creates the Indiana Teacher Recruitment Program and Fund. Beginning June 30, 2025: (1) increases the minimum salary for a teacher employed by a school corporation to \$45,000 (current law requires \$40,000); and (2)

requires a school corporation to expend an amount for teacher compensation that is not less than 65% of state tuition support (current law requires 62%). ISBA changed its position on this bill from “Support” in testimony in the Senate Education and Career Development Committee in January, to “Neutral with Concerns” in the House Education Committee during the public comment period on Wednesday, March 12. ISBA testified that “They’re (teacher pay goals) the right goals. We need to accelerate past them. But it all needs to work together with the fiscal policy of the state of Indiana (in HB 1001) to make the goals attainable in the accelerated timeline (of beginning June 30, 2025). Without the resources, it going to take a while to get there.” On Wednesday of this week, the bill was amended in committee and then voted out by a 13-0 vote. The bill has been recommitted to the House Ways and Means Committee.

**[SB 249](#) Teacher Compensation** (Author: Sen. Spencer Deery; Sponsor: Rep. Jake Teshka) – SB 249 amends provisions that allow school corporations to provide a supplemental payment to teachers in excess of the salary specified in the school corporation's compensation plan. The bill was heard in the House Education Committee on Wednesday and amended to provide that a governing body of a school corporation may pass a resolution indicating that a portion or percentage of Education Fund revenue allocated for supplemental payments is not considered Education Fund revenue for certain purposes. ISBA testified in support of this bill to provide for continued flexibility for governing bodies in use of supplemental/differentiated pay options to help recruit and retain teachers in high needs or shortage areas. The bill passed out of committee with the amendment by an 8-4 vote.

### **Contact Your Area Legislators During Session**

To find your legislators visit [HERE](#). Once you know who your senator and representative are, you can use a legislative directory maintained by ISBA and available [HERE](#) to begin advocating.

Thank you for your participation in the ISBA Legislative Action Network. Let’s stand united in 2025 to put children first and support sound K-12 education policy in Indiana!

Sincerely,



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