

[View this email in your browser](#)



ISBA WEEK 15 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear ISBA Members:

Here is your Week 15 Legislative Update with the essential information you need to know about the status of the budget session of the Indiana General Assembly. The finish line to the 2025 budget session is thankfully in sight. To quote Roberto Duran, in his famous 1980 boxing match with Sugar Ray Leonard, “No más!” (no more!). If there is any good news to share in this update, it is only that indications are the session will conclude next week on Thursday or Friday, rather than on the statutory deadline of Tuesday, April 29. With perhaps one week to go – please keep advocating for kids!

ISBA Bill Tracking List

The updated ISBA Tracking List is available [HERE](#). After the third reading deadline of bills in the second chamber on Tuesday, the ISBA Tracking List has been reduced from 74 bills to 50. Remember that the original Tracking List included 174 bills. A handful of the 50 active bills may be removed due to their relevance to K-12 education and school governance. In addition, some of the remaining bills pending in the bill process may be in jeopardy during the conference committee process. After session

concludes, ISBA will provide you with a Digest of New Laws and summarize key legislation during the ISBA Spring Regional Meetings that begin on May 5th.

ISBA “Top 3 Things to Know” Weekly Video Update

Click [HERE](#) to watch the Week 15 video update. Thanks to Lisa Tanselle, General Counsel, for her repeat appearance for the third time this session!

Top Three Bills on the Docket This Week (and the list hasn’t changed but the updates have):

[SB 287](#), the legislation proposing to move to partisan school board elections, was supposed to be discussed in a conference committee meeting this morning at 9 a.m. but the meeting was cancelled. ISBA sent members a Call-to-Action Alert #5 yesterday morning to urge you to contact your area legislators one last time to ask that they oppose this legislation (in any form). If a conference committee report emerges, it will signify changes to the current version of the bill.

[SB 1](#) **Local Government Finance** (Author: Sen. Travis Holdman; Sponsor: Rep. Jeff Thompson) – The Senate, at 12:19 a.m. Tuesday morning, approved by a 27-22 vote the consent motion to accept the changes to the property tax relief bill significantly amended last week by the House of Representatives. Governor Braun has already signed this reform package into law, a day before the legislature received news yesterday it would lose \$2 billion in state revenue over the next two years from what was forecasted in December (and included in both the House and Senate versions of the state budget). As shared last week by ISBA, the net impact to school corporations over the three years is an estimated net property tax revenue decrease from CY 2026 to CY 2028 of \$750 million. For some school corporations the impact will be “a decrease to the increase” in levy dollars, but for other school corporations the levy dollars will decrease in CY 2026 and beyond from CY 2025 levy totals. The Legislative Services Agency Fiscal Impact Statement on SB 1 is available [HERE](#). It includes two helpful links to the following analyses to help you look at the impact on your school corporation:

- Unit-Level Estimated Change in Net Levies Compared to Current Law by Year: [Link](#)
- Unit-Level Estimated Change in Year-Over-Year Net Levies: [Link](#)

[HB 1001](#) **State Budget** (Author: Rep. Jeff Thompson; Sponsor: Sen. Ryan Mishler) – The Senate passed its version of HB 1001, the 2025-2027 biennial state budget, on Tuesday by a party line vote of 40-9. As mentioned last week, this version of the state budget was the best version for funding of K-12 education, albeit short lived given the state revenue forecast announced on Wednesday. The Senate’s version of the budget

did not include the expansion of the Choice Scholarship voucher program to become a “universal program” with no income eligibility guidelines. Instead, the revenues that would have been spent for the voucher expansion are now embedded in the tuition support formula and result in a tuition support increase of about 2% per year for public schools (the House version only included increases of about 1%). The per student “Foundation Amount” would increase in this version from \$6,681 in FY 2025 to \$7,007 in FY 2026 and \$7,086 in FY 2027. In addition, the new version of the budget includes increased funding for special education and ELL students by 5%/year. While it appears the curricular materials funding of \$160 million/year will be included in tuition support funding (rather than a separate categorical line item), there will be language to exclude curricular materials expenses from collective bargaining and the “65%” calculation. The bill also reduces the per student funding for virtual education to 70% of the Foundation amount (compared to 100% in the House version and 85% in current law). Click [HERE](#) to see the PPT presentation summary of HB 1001.

With that said, K-12 education will most certainly take a hit in the final version of the state budget because of the downgrade of \$1 billion/year in projected state revenues (largely sales and income tax revenues) over the next two years (see forecast [HERE](#)). As reported by the Indy Star, the large difference in anticipated revenue since the last forecast in December, upon which lawmakers largely crafted their budget proposal, stems from a number of federal policy actions, from tariffs impacting trade and the stock market to deep federal spending cuts and immigration crackdown. But it also partly reflects a return to normal following a period of exceedingly high revenues during the COVID-19 pandemic era.

Without some type of last-minute action, the run of six good years of K-12 school funding will be over and flatlined funding will be our reality. Of course, this equates to a loss, given funding will be significantly below the rate of inflation.

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,

Terry Spradlin

Terry Spradlin

Executive Director

Indiana School Boards Association

One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 1215

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2225

317-639-3588



Copyright (C) 2025 Indiana School Boards Association. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)