

**MAY**  
**2022**

# e-Dition



INDIANA SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION

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## Springing forward with purpose

By **Terry Spradlin**, Executive Director, [tspradlin@isba-ind.org](mailto:tspradlin@isba-ind.org)



I am especially fond of springtime. It signifies to me a time of renewal. The warmth and sunshine of spring have finally arrived. Flowers are blooming. I can enjoy outdoor recreation with family and friends. For many Hoosier families and students, this is an exciting time with promotions and graduations—the end of one chapter and the dawn of a new one! Best wishes to you and your administrators and staff for a successful conclusion to the semester.

### Spring Regional Meetings Recap

#### *Exemplary Governance Awards*

Thank you to the more than 900 school board members, school administrators, and ISBA Service Members who attended one of the 10 Spring Region Meetings. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to convene in-person, see so many of our members, and recognize 179 school board members as our 2021 Exemplary Governance Award (EGA) recipients. This recognition included school board members who advanced to one of the four levels in the EGA program, as follows: 82 Commendable, 48 Advanced, 24 Distinguished, and 25 Exemplary school board members.

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On behalf of ISBA, I commend these school board members for their dedication to the children and school communities they represent and for actively engaging with the Association's programs and services. A list of our distinguished EGA award recipients can be found at <https://www.isba-ind.org/ega-awards.html>.

### *Meeting Enhancements*

Thank you, too, to the attendees who completed the meeting evaluations. We have reviewed your feedback and appreciate the good suggestions regarding the program, facilities, and food. Haley Crnarich, ISBA Events & Promotions Specialist, is working with our venues to implement your suggestions for the Fall Region Meetings.

### *Toolkit of Resources to Support Public Participation*

It was good to have about a dozen legislators attend these meetings. You are an informed membership. You have a good understanding of the outcomes of the 2022 legislative session and the new K-12 education laws, of which most take effect on July 1.

Of most importance of these laws is your duty to implement House Enrolled Act 1130 and Senate Enrolled Act 83 regarding mandatory public comment at school board meetings. ISBA has developed a number of resources to guide and support your implementation of these laws, including a webinar, best practices memo, FAQ, and more, which are available at <https://www.isba-ind.org/public-participation-resources.html>.

### **Enhancing Communication with Policymakers**

As we look ahead to the next session, a budget session, we can use the summer and fall wisely and to our advantage with preemptive measures and proactive messaging. Share the "good news" of the school year and your efforts to provide an exemplary education to Hoosier students with your legislators. Detail the many ways you embrace and facilitate parental engagement. Share how parents are involved with curriculum review and textbook adoption. Invite legislators to visit schools and engage them with cordial conversation to share the successes happening in our classrooms every day.

### **Celebrating the Good News in K-12 Public Education**

As the school year nears completion, please be intentional to share the good news about the Graduating Class of 2022—their academic achievements, certifications, awards and scholarship news, and their post-graduation plans for employment, military enlistment, or enrollment in postsecondary education. During the summer, share news of the many ways you continue to support students and their families and provide community access to school facilities. Then, plan to promote more positive news with the excitement that will come with the start of the next school year.

Please enjoy the rest of your spring, and thank you for your dedicated public service!