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ISBA
INDIANA SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

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2019 Legislative Priorities Adopted by the ISBA Delegate Assembly

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The Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA) is dedicated to supporting and improving the quality of education provided to Hoosier children in every classroom throughout the state. ISBA recognizes the leadership role of the General Assembly in enacting legislation that impacts K-12 public education and is committed to representing the interests of its school board members when addressing legislative initiatives. There will be much at stake in the 2019 budget session as there will be a new two-year state budget adopted and more than 100 bills introduced affecting public schools and students. We need to be ready to be a strong champion for K-12 public education!

Simply put, the ISBA supports programs and policies to provide exceptional learning opportunities for Hoosier children. Given that more than 94 percent of all K-12 students attend a public school, the parents of more than 1 million students have spoken and have made public schools the “schools of choice.” We believe that through local control, we have created a rich and diverse public education system that provides a multitude of programs and curricular offerings to students. Through these opportunities we are preparing a new generation of students to be college and career ready that will in turn help drive the economic growth and prosperity of the state.

ISBA Membership Input

It is with this philosophy and mindset that ISBA listened to its membership during discussions at the Spring Regional Meetings about legislative proposals and priorities. The initial feedback gathered on key issues was subsequently presented to the ISBA Legislative Committee that met on July 14th, and continued working on our Foundational Statements and the 2019 Legislative Priorities into the month of August. Once the committee adopted both, these core documents were presented to the ISBA Delegate Assembly on September 10, 2018. The Foundational Statements and 2019 Legislative Priorities were adopted by separate motions and unanimous votes (no dissenting vote voiced) and are available for viewing at: <https://www.isba-ind.org/legislative-priorities-and-foundational-statements.html>

2019 Legislative Priorities

The following is a list of ISBA’s legislative priorities for 2019. Do know that we will be talking about the full legislative agenda in more detail during the Fall Regional Meetings that are October 29 through November 15. I also will share at those meetings details about our new grassroots advocacy program, the ISBA Legislative Action Network.

Top Priority: Increased Tuition Support Funding to Support K-12 Students

The ISBA supports the adequate funding of public schools that is annually adjusted to keep pace with or ahead of inflation. According to a 2018 report from the National Center for Education Statistics, Indiana ranked 36th in the nation (in 2015) for instructional spending per pupil at \$9,529, compared to the U.S. average of \$11,454.

State tuition support appropriations have not kept pace with inflation since 2010 when using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator. Had tuition support funding kept pace with inflation over this period, \$270 million more would have been available to school corporations for per pupil dollars in FY 2018, and more than \$573 million in total for the 2017-2019 biennium (Downs, 2018). An appropriation amount above the projected inflationary rate (currently 2.9 percent) in the next biennium will help school corporations keep up with the cost of doing business and allow for reasonable salary increases that are needed to maintain a high-quality teacher workforce in Hoosier classrooms.

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Other ISBA Legislative Priorities:

- ✓ Enhanced Teacher Recruitment and Retention Programs
- ✓ Expand State-supported Prekindergarten Programs in Indiana
- ✓ Change Kindergarten ADM Cut-off Date to September 1
- ✓ Expand Criteria of Safe Havens Grant and Secured Schools Grant
- ✓ School Board Vote on Local Redevelopment Commissions
- ✓ Tax Credits for Public Schools and Public School Foundations
- ✓ Assistance for Financially Distressed Schools
- ✓ Capital Referendum (Controlled Project) Ballot Language
- ✓ Tax Deduction for School Textbooks/Supplies

Please take time to acquaint yourself with the full details of the ISBA Foundational Statements and 2019 Legislative Priorities. Through the new ISBA Legislative Action Network to be announced soon, we intend to take ISBA advocacy efforts to the next level.

2018 ISBA/IAPSS Fall Conference Photo Recap



We had a wonderful 69th Annual Fall Conference this year! We had an efficient Delegate Assembly first thing Monday morning. We followed that up with our Monday General Session where we awarded Dr. Debra Howe the Lorin A. Burt Outstanding Educator Award, Bill Wilson the Outstanding Boardmanship award, and announced that Dr. Jeff Butts (MSD of Wayne Twp.) is the IAPSS 2018 Superintendent of the Year. We followed up our awards with a spectacular presentation on school safety by Michael Dorn of Safe Havens International. We had clinic sessions geared to school corporations of all sizes, along with time in the exhibit hall for valuable discussion. We opened on Tuesday with a General Session presentation from Dr. Jennifer McCormick, who gave a wonderful presentation about what the IDOE is working on currently. Don't miss out on this opportunity for next year, when we celebrate 70 years of ISBA/IAPSS Fall Conferences!