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ISBA
INDIANA SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

2020 Legislative Session End in Sight While the 2020 Census Nearing its Launch

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

The second regular session of the 121st Indiana General Assembly is about three weeks from its conclusion. Bills must be out of committee by February 27 and then pass on third reading by March 3 in the second chamber to remain eligible to become law. ISBA started the session by tracking 163 bills, and the bill list is now down to 49, with hopes for further reduction on February 27th. To continue to stay abreast of the latest session news, please see the many resources available via the Legislative Services page on the ISBA website accessible [HERE](#).

2nd Annual ISBA State House Day a Success!

Thank you to all who attended the 2nd Annual ISBA State House Day held on February 11. We had many school board members in attendance from all 10 ISBA regions. We began our morning with a briefing on the latest news and insights regarding the 2020 session of the Indiana General Assembly to prepare our delegation for the rest of the day. We then moved onto a panel discussion with five legislators, including the chairmen of the House and Senate education committees and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Our luncheon had approximately 100 people in attendance, including 30 legislators. Board members engaged in excellent table conversations with their area legislators during the lunch hour. We concluded the event with a visit to the State House for a group photo and many members continued their grassroots lobby efforts by seeking hall conversations with

additional legislators. Kudos to all who attended to show a strength in numbers and unity of message! Through board members like those who attended, we are striving to take ISBA advocacy to the next level – and it is working!

The 2020 Decennial Census

The 2020 Census is right around the corner—what can we do to ensure that every Hoosier child is counted? Our goal now is to get the word out directly to our community members, with the assistance of administrators and support of school boards. You can include information about the Census in newsletters, social media posts, email blasts, morning announcements, and exterior signage. Make brochures available for students to take home, hang posters within the school, and host a parent information night or a Census Day Community Open House.

Key messaging within these mediums should include:

- **What the Census is.** “The Census is a survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau every 10 years. To fill out the survey completely, each household should count everyone that sleeps there most of the time as of **April 1** (Census Day), including children. The survey is completely confidential. Survey information is used to allocate federal funding and representation to each state.”

- **How to complete the Census.** “Your family should receive directions on how to fill out the Census in the mail **March 12-20**. The Census can be filled out by phone, by mail, or online.”

- **Why the Census is important.** “The Census plays a vital role in obtaining funding for child support services and public education. For every child not counted, the state loses out on the opportunity for around **\$10,000** of federal funding **per child** over the next 10 years. This could mean **\$168,600,000** more to support public education and Hoosier children!

Please let administrators and teachers know that **Statistics in Schools week is March 2-6**.

Statistics in Schools offers free lesson plans and activities for teachers in a variety of subjects, K-12, using Census data. This program can be accessed here:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis.html>.

For additional information and access to our PR toolkit that provides online resources and suggested engagement strategies, visit the Every Hoosier Child Counts! page on our website: <https://www.isba-ind.org/every-hoosier-child-counts.html>.

We hope your school year continues to proceed successfully for your school corporation staff and students.