

NOVEMBER
2018



e-Dition

ISBA Launches Legislative Action Network as Advocacy Work Ramps Up for 2019

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

We hope you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving Day holiday! With calendar year 2018 coming to a close, it signifies the next session of the Indiana General Assembly is right around the corner. The 2019 budget session begins on January 3rd. Much is at stake, including adequate funding for K-12 public education. If you were among of the 1,023 people who joined us at an Fall Regional Meeting you've heard about our legislative priorities and the other hot topics that are emerging. If you were unable to attend you can view the ISBA 2019 Legislative Priorities ([here](#)) and the Foundational Statements ([here](#)).

Legislative Action Network

ISBA has established a **Legislative Action Network** to keep our members informed, engaged, and ready to advocate on behalf of public education. Legislators listen to their constituents back home. You're on the front lines of education policy and can explain to state policymakers the impact of their decisions. This influence is why the ISBA strongly encourages our members to deliver advocacy messages to legislators. Your board's legislative liaison will help to be your "eyes and ears" as advocacy champion coordinator. Please consider making a legislative update from your legislative liaison a regular agenda item between January – April.

We need to be ready to be strong champions of K-12 public education!

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

My previous *e-Dition* column highlighted the list of ISBA's 2019 Legislative Priorities. Here I want to comment on the importance of our top priority in more detail and ask that you begin advocacy engagement with your area legislators to make an appeal for necessary tuition support increase. Nationally, Indiana ranks below average on most metrics related to K-12 education funding and teacher compensation. Despite that reality, legislative and fiscal leaders are already suggesting publicly that they will have "inadequate resources to fund all priorities" and that we should have low expectations for what they will appropriate for tuition support. While state financial resources are always finite, it does not diminish the need to adequately invest in the future of our 1 million students in K-12 public education. We only get one shot to support this generation of children. We cannot continue to defer this obligation to a later date!

The ISBA supports the adequate funding of public schools that is annually adjusted to keep pace with or ahead of inflation. An appropriation amount above the projected

inflationary rate (currently 2.3%) 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.

Please write, email, or phone your area legislators now to ask that they support adequate funding increases for tuition support for K-12 education, meeting or exceeding the inflation rate of 2.3%. Here is a link to the ISBA white paper on K-12 school funding that will help you formulate your messaging regarding the tuition support increase: https://www.isba-ind.org/uploads/1/1/9/2/119210664/k-12_funding_white_paper-final.pdf

Please lend your voice today!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website :

WWW.ISBA-IND.ORG

317.639.0330