

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

### 71<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL ISBA/IAPSS FALL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 28 – 29, 2020

## ISBA IN THE NEWS

[Teacher training, pay and 'hold harmless' hot at Statehouse](#)

[Out of control: Stack of bills belies lawmakers' claims on keeping education decisions local](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### In this e-Dition:

2020 Legislative Session End in Sight While the 2020 Census Nearing its Launch —Terry Spradlin (page 1)

Indiana School Board Members in Washington D.C. (page 2)

Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps – Homeschool Students —Julie Slavens, Esq. (page 3)

Meeting Time: Too Long or Too Short?—Dr. Michael Adamson (page 4)

ISBA State House Day Photos—(page 5)

## Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps – Homeschool Students

by Julie M. Slavens, ISBA Senior Counsel | Dir. of Policy Services  
([jslavens@isba-ind.org](mailto:jslavens@isba-ind.org))

Federal law provides for the establishment of the military and its various activities. One of the military groups authorized by federal law is the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, commonly referred to as JROTC. Federal law provides JROTC units can be established at public and private schools. Students are eligible to join a JROTC unit if they are in Ninth Grade (9th) or above at the unit's school. A unit must have the lesser of 100 students or ten percent of the enrollment of Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors in the school. The law also sets out other requirements the local school must agree to in order to have a JROTC unit. The federal law addressing the JROTC units is 10 USC Section 2031.

The law requires students who are members of the JROTC unit to be physically fit, and citizens or nationals of the United States, or lawfully admitted aliens to the United States for permanent residence. In addition to being in the 9th grade or above, the students must have acceptable standards of conduct and academic achievement in addition to other qualifications set out by the Secretary of the military branch concerned. In December 2019, a federal bill was signed by the President that amended the JROTC statute in two areas and was effective December 20, 2019. The amendments are discussed in this article.

The first amendment changed the eligibility age for membership in the JROTC unit. This amendment allows 8th grade students to be a part of a JROTC unit when the 8th grade is in the same building or place as the 9th grade, such as combined Junior and Senior high school or a K-12 configuration in one building.

The second amendment requires a public secondary school that maintains a JROTC unit to allow homeschool students who have legal settlement in the school corporation to be members of the JROTC unit. Homeschool student members will count toward the minimum number of members required to maintain a JROTC unit. The homeschool student must meet all other requirements to be a member of the JROTC unit. The law is silent as to whether the local school may require the homeschool student to be enrolled in an academic class.

For board policy purposes, if a school corporation has a JROTC unit and also has a policy that prohibits homeschool students from participating in extracurricular activities, it must amend the policy to allow homeschool students to be in the JROTC unit as an exception to the prohibition and regardless of whether or not the homeschool student is required to be enrolled in a class at the school.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2020

Public Schools Week 2020 will feature the Pledge for Public Schools, where we are asking all parents and community members to show their support by signing the pledge and taking an action to help their school. Anyone can join in the celebration by taking the **Pledge for Public Schools** at [www.publicschoolproud.org](http://www.publicschoolproud.org).

