

## Open Letter to the Indiana General Assembly

Thank you for your service and leadership representing the students and families of the State of Indiana. As leaders of Montgomery County Schools, we are appreciative of your time and consideration regarding the drafting and development of sound, responsible legislation.

On behalf of the students, faculty, staff, and families of our three districts, we would like to share three specific concerns we have as it relates to HB 1005.

1. As written, HB 1005 fails to mandate the same auditing requirement for private schools that participate in the voucher program.
2. As written, HB 1005 creates state-funded Education Savings Accounts (ESA) that certain K-12 students could use for various educational services, including private school tuition, without fiscal accountability built into the system.
3. As written, HB 1005 expands voucher funding which is not taken away from the local school corporation if a student elects to use a voucher to attend a private school; rather, funding is subtracted out of the State's Tuition Support Budget lessening the funding available to all school corporations throughout the state. Specifically, voucher funding represents a funding loss at the local level of:

### 2018-19 **-\$864,671.42**

Corporation ID	Corporation Name	Non-Public Transfers: Outgoing (Choice Scholarship)	Public and Charter Enrollment Without Vouchers	District's Percent of State Enrollment without Vouchers	District share if Voucher money was added to Basic Grant	Total added if no voucher program and matching CPI	Economic Impact of Vouchers (Vouchers*4258 -Basic Grant Loss)
5835	North Montgomery Com Sch Corp	6	1,846	0.001794	\$277,435.51	\$806,693.58	(\$251,887.51)
5845	South Montgomery Com Sch Corp	5	1,788	0.001738	\$268,718.69	\$781,347.84	(\$247,428.69)
5855	Crawfordsville Community Schools	0	2,431	0.002362	\$365,955.22	\$1,062,335.91	(\$365,355.22)

### 2019-20 **-\$958,998.35**

Corporation ID	Corporation Name	State Funded Students with Legal Settlement (D + F + H)	Non-Public Transfers: Outgoing (Choice Scholarship)	Public and Charter Enrollment Without Vouchers	District's Percent of State Enrollment without Vouchers	District share if Voucher money was added to Basic Grant	Total added if no voucher program and matching CPI	Economic Impact of Vouchers (Vouchers*4670 -Basic Grant Loss)
5835	North Montgomery Com Sch Corp	1832	3	1,829	0.001785	\$300,725.73	\$753,118.91	(\$286,715.73)
5845	South Montgomery Com Sch Corp	1733	3	1,730	0.001688	\$284,448.07	\$712,354.13	(\$270,438.07)
5855	Crawfordsville Community Schools	2444	0	2,444	0.002385	\$401,844.55	\$1,006,354.63	(\$401,844.55)

### 2020-21 **-\$939,698.82**

School Year 2020-21 Fall Membership Count								
Corporation ID	Corporation Name	State Funded Students with Legal Settlement (D + F + H)	Non-Public Transfers: Outgoing (Choice Scholarship)	Public and Charter Enrollment Without Vouchers	District's Percent of State Enrollment without Vouchers	District share if Voucher money was added to Basic Grant	Total added if no voucher program and matching CPI	Economic Impact of Vouchers (Vouchers*4670 -Basic Grant Loss)
5835	North Montgomery Com Sch Corp	1811	9	1,802	0.001791	\$309,345.01	\$597,811.90	(\$267,315.01)
5845	South Montgomery Com Sch Corp	1694	2	1,692	0.001681	\$290,461.58	\$561,319.50	(\$281,121.58)
5855	Crawfordsville Community Schools	2392	4	2,388	0.002373	\$409,942.23	\$792,216.88	(\$391,262.23)

Under current law, Indiana's public K-12 schools are required to undergo a regular audit process from the State Board of Accounts in order to ensure the proper and efficient use of taxpayer dollars. As a public school corporation, we welcome and embrace the auditing process because it enables us to discover unintentional mistakes, as well as mitigate the risk of any potential misuse of taxpayer funds.

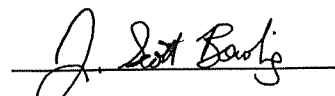
While we understand and respect the need for the separation of church and state, we believe it is equally important that all taxpayer dollars be accounted for. The fact that these specific taxpayer dollars are being spent at a private institution should not deter the Indiana General Assembly from ensuring taxpayer dollars are used in a proper, efficient, and judicious manner.

Indiana has established a strong record of financial oversight and transparency for its publicly funded institutions, which many consider a source of pride for our state. Financial accountability is a characteristic of good government and should be required for any entity that accepts taxpayer dollars.

In closing, our schools would be greatly served with the return of over **\$2,763,368** in tuition support funding for salary increases for the hard-working, dedicated educators in our school community. As documented in recommendations from the Governor's Next Level Teacher's Compensation Commission, our educators deserve increased compensation to invest in the future of our great State of Indiana.

Again, we thank you for your time and effort to serve the constituents of Montgomery County.

Sincerely,



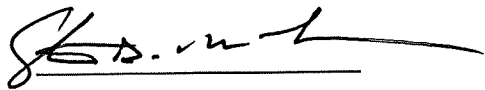
Dr. Scott Bowling  
Superintendent



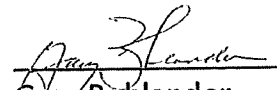
Dr. Colleen Moran  
Superintendent



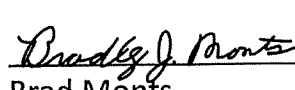
Dr. Shawn Greiner  
Superintendent



Steven McLaughlin  
Board President



Gary Bohlander  
Board President



Brad Monts  
Board President

Crawfordsville Com Sch Corp

North Montgomery  
Com Sch Corp

South Montgomery Schools