

North Miami Community Schools



Kenneth Hanson
Superintendent

Serena Francis
Treasurer

Meghan Miller
Deputy Treasurer

Peggy Owens
Secretary

Rich Robins
Transportation Director

Boog Jones
Maintenance Director

Susan Hobson
Technology Director

Judi Keifer
Student Data Specialist

394 E. 900N. – Denver, Indiana 46926 – Phone (765) 985-3891 – Fax (765) 985-3904

February 12, 2021

Dear Senator Donato & Representative Manning,

We have always appreciated the fact that you are willing to listen to us in regard to legislation and how it impacts the people that you represent. The North Miami Community Schools administration and The North Miami Education Association are writing to show you that we are truly united in advocating for what is in the best interest of our students.

We strongly oppose HB 1005, SB 412, and SB 413. The establishment of the Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and the dramatically increased funding for school choice scholarships diverts much needed resources from the public schools in your districts. We have spent a great deal of time talking with you about the needs of our students and the lack of adequate support to meet the needs of our students, and to provide the fair wage that our teachers deserve.

North Miami Community Schools not only provides a very solid educational environment for our students, but also works extremely hard to address students' Social Emotional Learning needs. Without the staff and community support that we have, this would not be possible. We continue every year to prioritize our students' needs above everything else. While there have been some small increases in state funding, this by no means has addressed the lack of consistent growth in funding over the past 10-15 years, which has not allowed us to even keep up with the rate of inflation when it comes to staff wages. And when there have been increases to the funding formula, the adjustment in the complexity index has negated an impactful fund increase.

We ask that you support North Miami Community Schools and the other public schools that you represent and vote NO to HB 1005, SB 412, and SB 413.

We would be more than happy to discuss this further with either or both of you when it is convenient for you. Please also do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this with us and our teams as to why you should vote NO on these bills.

Sincerely,

Kari Wilson, President of the North Miami Education Association

Kenneth Hanson, Superintendent

William Deeds, II, President of the North Miami School Board of Trustees

Resolution Opposing the Establishment of Education Scholarship Accounts and the Expansion of the Indiana School Choice Scholarship Program

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during the 2021 legislative session is considering the establishment of education savings accounts (ESAs) that funnel state funding to parents who withdraw their children from public schools, as well as a significant expansion of the Indiana school choice scholarship program.

WHEREAS, education savings accounts give parents a portion of per-pupil state funding to spend like a taxpayer-funded debit card on education products and services, including private school tuition, unregulated home schools, and tutoring.

WHEREAS, the expansion of the Indiana school choice scholarship program would direct additional resources to non-public schools that are not held accountable to taxpayers for the use of public funds.

WHEREAS, public funds should be invested in public schools, which serve all children.

WHEREAS, non-public schools lack fiscal transparency, public oversight, and taxpayer accountability.


WHEREAS, education scholarship accounts would be funded out of the K-12 tuition support appropriation at the expense of funding to support public schools.

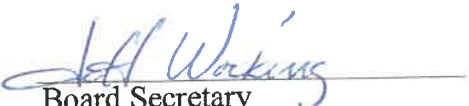
WHEREAS, House Bill 1005 creates an education scholarship account program called the “Indiana education scholarship account program” and Senate Bill 412 creates an education savings account program titled the “Indiana personalized education grant program”.

WHEREAS, this legislation would further erode the financial support provided to Indiana’s public schools, which serve over 90% of Indiana’s students, and divert resources away from improving Indiana public school teachers’ salaries as recommended by the Governor’s Teacher Compensation Commission report, released on December 14, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, the school board of the North Miami Community Schools opposes the establishment of education scholarship accounts and the expansion of the Indiana choice scholarship program as proposed by members of Indiana’s General Assembly in House Bill 1005 and Senate Bill 412.

Approved this 16th day of February, 2021.


Board President
North Miami Community Schools


Board Secretary
North Miami Community Schools