



Achieving our Personal Best in Pursuit of Excellence

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February 11, 2021

To the Honorable Representatives and Senators of the Indiana Legislature

RE: An Open Letter Regarding Public School Funding and House Bill 1005, Senate Bill 412, and Senate Bill 413

Dear Hoosier Legislators:

The Board of School Trustees of the Community School Corporation of Southern Hancock County is writing this open letter with concerns regarding House Bill 1005, Senate Bill 412, and Senate Bill 413 and their impacts on Indiana public school corporations. We believe these bills will cause a number of serious funding consequences for Indiana public schools.

The estimated costs associated with HB 1005, SB 412, and SB 413 would take significant money out of the education funds of Indiana's public schools. We know teacher pay is a high priority for Indiana legislators. Help schools increase teacher pay by adding additional money to the base grant for tuition support.

Of additional concern, vouchers and education savings accounts lack the financial transparency required for public schools, further increasing the accountability divide between public schools and charters or private schools in Indiana. Research has clearly shown that vouchers do not increase student achievement in our state. A Notre Dame study in 2018 showed significant learning loss for students who used a voucher to leave public schools.

Finally, Hoosier families already have a number of quality public schools options. In Hancock County, we are incredibly proud of the quality of education our four school corporations provide to families. We respectfully ask you to permit funding increases to come to our schools to continue to expand the already high-quality education we provide to all students who live in our area. This board does not support HB 1005, SB 412, and SB 413 and humbly requests you vote against all three bills.

Sincerely,

Brian McKinney, Board President

Dr. Matt Ackerman, Board Vice President

Dan Walker, Board Secretary

Laura Haeberle, Board Member

Jon Hooker, Board Member