



Indiana School Boards Association

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Dear ISBA Members:

*Here are the key developments of the 13th week of the 2019 budget session of the Indiana General Assembly pertaining to K-12 public education and school governance. There are just four weeks of the session remaining—the **marathon pace of the session is soon to become a sprint to the finish!***

WEEK IN REVIEW

We continue to await action on HB 1001, the state budget bill, in the Senate. It is anticipated that the Senate Appropriations Committee will move the bill out of committee the week of April 8th. Please continue to speak with your area senators regarding “adequate K-12 tuition support funding at or above 2.5% annually” and to maintain the House increases for: the Secured Schools Grant at \$20 million/year (or a \$5 m/year increase), ELL funding increases of \$2.6 m/year, increases to special education funding, and change in the kindergarten cut-off date for ADM count and funding purposes. ISBA continues to advocate for increased K-12 education funding and an op-ed column from me has been published in various newspapers across the state (see the op-ed as published in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette on Thursday here: <http://www.journalgazette.net/opinion/columns/20190328/smart-money>).

1004 – **School Safety** (Rep. McNamara); ISBA position: **SUPPORT**. The Senate Education and Career Development Committee met on Wednesday and held on taking further action regarding the Governor’s school safety bill. This bill expands permissible uses of the Safe Schools Fund and the Secured School Fund to include grants for school-based mental health services and school-based social-emotional wellness services. The bill also differentiates the amount of the matching grant available based on the ADM of a school corporation. Other provisions include requiring schools to conduct at least one active shooter drill each school year and administering the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey (at the discretion of the school corporation and subject to parental consent). Work continues on potential amendments to be presented and voted on during the Committee next week.

HB 1021 – **Education Finance** (Rep. Jeff Thompson); ISBA position: **OPPOSE AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE**. This bill passed on third reading in the Senate yesterday by a 47-1 vote. While the **five-year phase-in** of the higher “protected taxes waiver” threshold that was added on

second reading is appreciated, the threshold of 75% (of circuit breaker/tax cap losses in the Operations Fund) in 2023 is problematic. This will become a conference committee issue, and ISBA will continue to work with other K-12 education association groups to seek a lower threshold percentage to benefit a larger number of school corporations. If you are a board member of a school corporation that is impacted by the circuit breaker by more than 10%, please continue to contact your area legislators about the importance of maintaining the waiver at a reasonable threshold level (10% preferred).

HB 1003 – School Corporation Expenditure Targets (Rep. Dale Devon); ISBA

Position: **OPPOSE**. The Senate Appropriations Committee amended and moved this bill out of committee yesterday by a 9-3 vote. The amendment deletes provisions of the bill that would require a school board to publicly acknowledge that the school corporation is on the “excess education fund transfer list” (if they are transferring more than 15% of the Education Fund dollars to the Operation Fund). The section of the bill to require the creation of an annual teacher and administrator compensation report by IEERB was maintained without revision.

Per Denny Costerison with IASBO, “the amendment does not change the guideline of transferring no more than 15% of the total Education Fund revenues to the Operation Fund in a calendar year. The amendment does state that a school corporation who receives notice they are on the excess education fund transfer list must, within 120 days of receiving the notice, prepare an improvement plan to meet the 15% target percentage within the next three (3) years following the year in which notice is received. This improvement plan must be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget. A school corporation may have to explain their expenditures to the Fiscal and Qualitative Indicators Committee if they fail to meet the 15% target percentage within the three-year improvement plan or the transfer greater percentages over the previous year during the three-year improvement plan. Therefore, school corporations will have three years to get to the 15% target before there is any action. The amended bill continues to have no penalties if the 15% is not reached in the three-year period.”

SB 132 – Civics (Senator Dennis Kruse); ISBA Position: **NEUTRAL**. This bill was amended in the House Education Committee on Wednesday to remove the requirement that students pass the naturalization examination for high school graduation. As amended, the bill now provides that as part of the United States government credit awarded for the general, Core 40, Core 40 with academic honors, and Core 40 with technical honors designation, each high school shall administer the naturalization examination provided by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Requires an enhanced study of the Holocaust in each high school United States history course. Each U.S. Government teacher will have to administer the naturalization test, but has the discretion to determine how it will be used for course requirement completion and course grade.

[SB 562](#) – **Education matters** (Senator Jeff Raatz); ISBA Position: **Neutral**. This bill requires each teacher preparation program to report to the Indiana Department of Education: (1) The number of teacher candidates in each content area who complete the teacher education program during the year, disaggregated by ranges of cumulative grade point average; (2) The number of teacher candidates in each content area who, during the year: (A) do not pass a content area licensure examination; and (B) do not retake the content area licensure examination. This bill was amended in the House Education Committee on Wednesday to provide that the State Board of Education shall establish the education dispute resolution working group (EDR working group). Provides that an attorney or other advocate for an individual or entity who initiates a lawsuit or administrative proceeding against a public school or a nonpublic school is prohibited from representing the individual or entity without first disclosing in writing to the: (1) attorney's or advocate's client; and (2) court, administrative law judge, or hearing officer; any conflict of interest the attorney or advocate has in representing the individual or entity. More provisions not summarized here.

One amendment (#17) offered by Rep. Ed Clere during the committee hearing proposed to require the disclosure and website posting by school corporations of all attorney fees it pays. This amendment was defeated by a 5-7 vote due to concerns that this mandated disclosure would violate attorney/client privileges and confidentiality, as well as add excessive administrative costs associated with the redaction of portions of invoices prior to disclosure. Although the amendment failed, Rep. Clere declared his intentions to bring a similar amendment(s) to the floor of the House for second reading consideration. **Please contact your area state representative(s) to express opposition to these amendments.**

[SB 606](#) – **Teacher Salaries** (Senator Jeff Raatz); ISBA Position: **SUPPORT**. Synopsis: Teacher salaries. The Senate version of the bill removed a provision that provides that a combination of experience and advanced degree/education may account for not more than 33.33% of the calculation used to determine an increase or increment in teacher salaries. The House Education Committee amended the bill on Wednesday to restore a cap on those two factors to no more than 50% of the calculation. Further, the amendment would allow teachers currently employed by the school corporation to receive a salary comparable to the starting base salaries of new teachers, if they are presently earning a salary below that offered to a new teacher. The bill passed out of committee with this amendment by an 11-0 vote and now goes to the full House for second reading.

Here is wishing everyone a great weekend! I look forward to seeing many ISBA members over the next four days here at the NSBA Annual Conference in Philadelphia.