



## Indiana School Boards Association

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Dear ISBA Members:

*Here are the key developments of the 14<sup>th</sup> week of the 2019 budget session of the Indiana General Assembly pertaining to K-12 public education and school governance. **Word has it that legislative leaders now want to finish the session on April 24**—so perhaps less than three weeks of the session left. Look for the Senate-version of the state budget bill (HB 1001) to be pushed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee Wednesday or Thursday. Another key marker for the session will happen on April 17, when the State Budget Committee convenes to receive a revised revenue forecast that will be used to complete the budget (in conference committee) based on how much “new state revenue” the forecast projects will be available over the next two years. Stay tuned!*

### **WEEK IN REVIEW**

The lists of bills on the House Education Committee and Senate Education & Career Development Committee meeting agendas this week were extensive. I took the liberty to add to my testimony on SB 282 (value-added growth and projections analytics) that they were moving too many non-essential bills and that we don’t need 70+ new laws regulating K-12 education and schools. SB 282, is one example of a non-essential bill that would allow (via a “may” provision) the IDOE to create a growth model (in place already with ILEARN) and a predictive analytics system that they have already been constructing. SB 507 (education matters) was another example of a non-essential bill including various provisions to benefit vendors that were on the House Education Committee docket. Neither bill was voted on during the hearing on Wednesday, nor will they be moved on Monday (the last day for the House Education Committee to meet this session since the deadline for the adoption of committee reports in the House is on Tuesday). Chalk this up as a small victory—yet the legislature is on track to pass many new laws affecting public education by session’s end. Here is a summary of some of the bills that continue to move along in the bill process.

### **BILLS OF SIGNIFICANCE HEARD IN COMMITTEE THIS WEEK**

[HB 1004](#) – **School Safety** (Rep. Wendy McNamara); ISBA position: **SUPPORT**. The Senate Education and Career Development Committee met on Wednesday and amended and voted the Governor’s school safety bill out of committee by a 9-0 vote. The bill was significantly amended and now would: (1) allow a school corporation to apply to only the secured school fund for a matching grant for the purpose of providing school-based mental health services to students or forming partnerships with mental health providers to provide such services; (2) add new provisions on student privacy that require parent consent for medical and mental health assessments and services; (3) allow the Attorney General to impose a civil penalty on school corporations that violate the privacy rights of students; and (4) delete provisions regarding schools’ participation in the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

[HB 1253](#) – **Handgun training for teachers** (Rep. Jim Lucas); ISBA position: **SUPPORT**. The bill would allow an employee who has been authorized by the school board to possess a firearm on school property to apply for a grant from the Indiana Safe Schools Fund for the purpose of enrolling in a course of specialized firearms

instruction. ISBA testified before the Senate Education and Career Development in support of the bill so that employees who have been authorized to possess a firearm on school property have the opportunity to be appropriately trained in the use of firearms. ISBA suggested that the bill be amended to require the school corporation, as opposed to the individual employee, to apply for the grant. The bill will be voted on next Wednesday.

[HB 1398](#) – **Information Concerning Threats to School Safety** (Rep. Cook); ISBA position: **SUPPORT**. This bill passed the House by a vote of 94-2, but some members of the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee expressed concerns about the bill. As amended, the bill would allow law enforcement officials to share investigatory records with school officials for the purpose of enhancing the safety of a student or school facility, and likewise, allow school officials to share information from student education records with law enforcement and other public safety officials in cases of health and safety emergencies. There was no testimony in opposition to the bill, but it was held and will be voted on next Wednesday.

[HB 1404](#) – **School accountability** (Rep. Tony Cook); ISBA position: **OPPOSE**. This bill provides that a high school may count a: (1) work-based learning course; or, (2) career and technical educational course that is an approved course under the rules established by the State Board of Education (SBOE); as satisfying an Indiana diploma with a Core 40, academic honors designation, or another designation requirement. Provides that, before July 1, 2022, the SBOE shall establish new standards of measuring school performance (for Indiana's K-12 school accountability system). This bill would require the SBOE to redesign and align a new K-12 accountability system to the Indiana Graduation Pathways, include "on-track indicator based upon student credits," AND include post-high school graduation outcome measures. The post-graduation outcome measures would reflect outcomes 6-12 months after students graduate from high school, and the SBOE is required to consider including: (A) Successful completion of at least twelve (12) credit hours at a higher education institution and a student's continued enrollment and status of good standing at a higher education institution; (B) Successful completion of a high-wage, high-demand certificate as defined by the Department of Workforce Development; (C) Enlistment in, and continued service in, any branch of the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, the National Guard, or the Indiana National Guard; and, (D) How to account for adverse life experiences or other unique circumstances that occur after graduation.

ISBA testified in Senate Education & Career Development Committee on Wednesday that, while there are many good provisions of the bill (to align the high school accountability system with the new graduation pathway components and using on-track indicators), the post-graduation metrics remain unreasonable and inequitable metrics for which to hold schools accountable. Rather, higher education institutions, the branches of the U.S. military, and employers should own the further development, training, and advancement of young adults in their respective systems. Finally, ISBA did ask that the graduation rate be restored as a metric in the accountability system (but not presently included in HB 1404).

Other organizations testifying in opposition to the bill were representatives of IDOE, IAPSS, IASP, IFT, ISTA, and local educators. Conversely, among those testifying in support of the bill were a handful of superintendents (Pat Mapes, MSD Perry Township; Jim Snapp, Brownsburg CSC; Matt Prusiecki, MSD of Decatur Township; and Mary Roberson, Perry Central CSC) and local educators.

[SB 325](#) – **Student mental health** (Senator Mike Crider); ISBA position: **SUPPORT**. The introduced version of this bill would have created a student safety awareness fund for the purpose of awarding grants to schools to fund public

service announcements prepared by students to raise student awareness on personal safety issues. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 47-2. However, when presented to the House Education Committee this week, the bill was stripped and now would allow school corporations to apply to the Secured School Fund for a matching grant for the purposes of providing mental health services to students (or form partnerships with mental health providers), providing school-based social-emotional wellness services to students (or form partnerships with social-emotional wellness providers), or implementing an integrated school-based mental health and substance use disorder identification and parent support plan. The bill passed out of the Committee, as amended, by a vote of 10-0.

[SB 562](#) – **Education matters** (Senator Jeff Raatz); ISBA Position: **NEUTRAL**. This bill requires reporting by teacher preparation programs of certain outcomes data to the Indiana Department of Education and provides that the State Board of Education shall establish the education dispute resolution working group (EDR working group). More provisions not summarized here.

As reported last week, Representative Ed Clere had stated publicly that he was planning to propose second reading amendments to require the disclosure and website posting by school corporations of all attorney fees it pays. There was much backlash and opposition from the K-12 school community and the Indiana Council of School Attorneys, among others. Ultimately, Rep. Clere decided to pull his amendments, so for now, this proposal is dead.

[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 to restore a cap on those two factors to no more than 50% of the calculation. Furthermore, 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 by a 12-0 vote and now goes to the full House for second reading.

Here is wishing everyone a great weekend!