

Students are at the center of everything we do



Provide resources to all schools so students have more one-on-one attention.



Make investing in community public schools the first priority.



Commit to providing professional teacher salaries to attract and retain the best.

Improving Student Learning

ISTA supports ensuring that all public school students have the tools and resources necessary to help them improve their learning and to reach the college- and career-readiness standards the state has established.

- **Indiana has the fourth highest number of enrolled students per teachers in the country.** Provide resources to all schools so students have more one-on-one attention and a well-rounded curriculum.
- **Indiana has the fourth lowest per-student expenditures in the country.** Investing in our community-based public schools first, must be our first priority.

Recommendations:

- **Provide** a 3 percent increase each year of the biennium on regular education funding.
- **Allocate** an additional \$25 million each of the next two years to provide supplemental assistance to students needing additional help vs. expending funds to take over schools.
- **Lower** the compulsory school attendance age to 5-years-old. With considerable focus on funding full-day kindergarten and preschool, it's time to address this loophole in public policy.

Improving the Practice of Teaching

We support helping all teachers improve their practice to better student learning.

- **Students of Nationally Board Certified (NBC) teachers outperform students of non-board certified teachers on achievement tests.** The positive effect is even greater for minority students.
- **NBC helps change teachers' formative assessment practices and their instruction in general.** Even teachers who start at a lower skill level end up with better teaching practices than those who did not go through the process.
- Adjusting for inflation and since 2003, Indiana had the second worst decline in teacher salaries. **If Indiana wants to attract and keep the best and brightest teachers, we need to commit to professional salaries.**

Recommendations:

- **Provide** NBC fee subsidies to up to 200 NBC-candidates each year for the next 10 years and provide each NBC teacher a salary stipend of \$2,000 for each year over the life of the 10-year license.
- **Suspend** school grade and teacher evaluations consequences that are tied to student test scores so that Indiana can fairly transition to its new state assessment.

Sources: Congressionally-mandated report from the National Research Council for the Academies, 2008; Sato, Wei and Darling-Hammond, 2008, "Improving Teachers' Assessment Practices through Professional Development: The Case of National Board Certification;" NEA Rankings & Estimates, 2013-2014.