

Indiana State Teachers Association ADVOCATE

Volume 46, Issue 1

Summer 2016



Become National Board Certified

National Board Certified teacher, Catherine Marchese, explains why it's the most valuable professional development.

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November Election Outlook Pages 4 and 5

Our kids. Our schools. Our future.

ISTA Website Under Construction



The ISTA website, ista-in.org, is undergoing an overhaul this summer. Easier navigation, improved mobile viewing, and an all new look are some of the changes you will see. Your favorite content from ISTA events and professional development opportunities to our latest blog posts will remain with improved functionality, making the ISTA website a better experience.

If you have any questions about the website, please contact communications@ista-in.org.

@ISTAmembers Make a Difference





HSEA Teachers @hseateachershse
@ISTAmembers We were ready and ROCKED the “New Hires” presentation! #istasc2016



Aaron Andrew Hall @aaronahall
Doing the @ISTAmembers Reading Challenge—just finished a book I previously abandoned—The Shining by @StephenKing. So glad I did—scary!



 Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/indianastateteachers.
 See event photos: flickr.com/photos/indianastate.

ISTA ADVOCATE

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The Indiana State Teachers Association *Advocate*, 150 West Market Street, Suite 900, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2875, is the official publication of the Indiana State Teachers Association, the state level of the United Education Profession. The content of the Association's publications will be consistent with its mission, strategic objectives, and policies.



Indiana
State
Teachers
Association

PURPOSE, MISSION, AND VALUES

PURPOSE

To advocate for and advance the interests of Indiana's students, educators, and public schools.

MISSION

The Indiana State Teachers Association is a professional association organized to sustain quality public education, improve students' educational opportunities, and advance the professional status of educators.

VALUES

INTEGRITY: Demonstrated by ethical behavior, professionalism, and commitment to stakeholders.

LEADERSHIP: Demonstrated by vision, progressive advocacy, and the resolve to be an inspiration to the future.

FAIRNESS: Demonstrated by a diverse and inclusive professional community that values its democratic, equitable, and empathetic culture.

COLLECTIVE ACTION: Demonstrated by the power of a unified voice, collaborative action, and mutual support.

Who We Are

**What an amazing heritage we have!
We have a history of which we can be proud.**

Since 1854, educators have been standing up for what's right for Hoosier kids. Many of us who grew up attending Indiana's public schools benefited from those who came before us. The educators who fought for students' civil rights, the educators who demanded the right to organize, the educators who made the security of contract employment possible, the educators who battled for increased funding, the educators who secured our sick and maternity leave, the educators who paved the way for retirees to retire with dignity, and so much more. Now, we have a responsibility to keep carrying the torch for a new generation. To keep fighting. To keep raising our collective voices. To never forget who we are.



Teresa Meredith

students we serve. Let's educate our neighbors, friends, and family about those candidates and encourage them to get involved.

As the school year gets underway and we head into the heart and heat of the election season, remember how far we've come. Remember how far we still have to go. Together we will ensure the kids of today are equipped to be the leaders of tomorrow. Because everything we do is in service to our kids, our schools, and our future.

Best wishes in the new school year.

- We are **PROFESSIONALS**, and the work we do is vital to the future of our state and our country.
- We are **VOTERS** who engage in the democratic process and support policymakers who care about the future of public education.
- We are **PARENTS**, teachers, and support staff who understand the educational needs of our kids.
- We are **EDUCATORS**, and we must use our voice and our vote to demand better for our students and for each other.

Nearly all of you have returned to the classroom, the bus route, the cafeteria, ready to start another year with another group of eager learners. Never forget that YOU are making a difference every single day for the more than 1 million students attending our public schools.

The educators who came before us made a difference and understood our great responsibility. Robert H. Wyatt served as executive director from 1930 to the 1970s and during that time he said, "We just keep hammering away at this because I believe very sincerely and without any apology that it's our job as an organization to advance the cause of education."

So let's keep hammering. Let's keep doing what we do best. Let's share our passion for public education as we advocate for candidates who truly care about the

Save the Date: ESP Conference



Indiana ESP Conference

November 18 — 19 | Indianapolis

Connect with colleagues | Share best practices

Plan for retirement | Expand public education support

I Am an Educator and I Vote

Election Day Nov. 8

Are you registered to vote?

Have you recently moved? Have you changed your name? Did you register years ago and need to check your registration status? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you have until Oct. 11 to register to vote in Indiana.

Hoosiers with a current Indiana driver’s license or state issued identification card can visit IndianaVoters.com to register to vote online, check their registration status and more.

If you feel that you may not be able to make it to a polling place on Nov. 8, the first date to vote absentee-in-person is Oct. 12. Voters also have the option of voting absentee-by-mail. Applications for an absentee-in-person or absentee-by-mail ballot must be received by your county clerk by Oct. 31.

Voting at the Polls on Election Day

Your polling place is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Remember, as long as you are in line by 6 p.m., you have a right to vote.

Indiana residents are required to present a government-issued photo ID before casting a ballot at the polls on Election Day. Your photo ID must meet four criteria to be acceptable for voting purposes. It must:

- Display your photo
- Display your name, and the name must conform to your voter registration record
- Display an expiration date and either be current or have expired sometime after the date of the last General Election (Including Military IDs with expiration dates of “INDEF”)
- Be issued by the State of Indiana or the U.S. government

In most cases, an Indiana driver license, Indiana photo ID card, Military ID, or U.S. Passport is sufficient. A student ID from an Indiana state school may only be used if it meets all of the four criteria specified above. A student ID from a private institution may not be used for voting purposes.

If you encounter problems at your polling location or are challenged by a poll worker, it is important to remember that you should make every effort to vote on a voting machine. Voting using a provisional ballot should be a last resort.



Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 11
Deadline to register to vote in Indiana general election

Oct. 12
Absentee-in-person voting opens at your county election board office

Oct. 31
Deadline for applications for absentee-in-person or absentee-by-mail

Nov. 8
Election Day

Program Helps Elect Pro-Public Education Candidates

Options Guaranteed is a program that supports bipartisan friends of public education in the Indiana legislature, statewide officeholders, and local school boards at \$24 a year. Electing officials that respect our profession and the kids we serve is more important than ever.

Did you know that you can give more to the political action committee (PAC) than the suggested \$24? Consider the

I-PACE Leveled Giving Program to make a bigger difference this November. It’s easy. Go to ipace-in.org/donate. You can contribute to friends of public education with one easy click!

Remember contributions to local and state PAC’s or the NEA Fund are voluntary, non-tax deductible, not a condition of membership, and not a condition to receive membership services or benefits.



What Makes a Great Public School?



Not only does the Every Student Succeeds Act take steps to reduce the amount of standardized testing, it decouples testing and high-stakes decision making—a major improvement over No Child Left Behind’s one-size-fits-all approach to accountability and the U.S. Department of Education’s criteria for granting waivers to the law.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Eliminates **Adequate Yearly Progress**, the impossible one size fits all goal driving No Child Left Behind’s failed accountability system
- Incorporates the SMART Act to provide funding for states to **audit and streamline** assessments, and eliminate those that are **unnecessary or duplicative**
- Creates a state pilot program (in seven states initially, then could be available to all) for **local assessments** driven by teaching and learning, not accountability alone, that could be used in place of the state’s standardized tests
- Requires school districts to inform parents and guardians of **opt-out policies**, and allows them to have their children opt out of statewide standardized tests where state and local policies permit
- Allows states to **set a cap** limiting the amount of time students spend taking annual standardized tests
- Continues annual statewide standardized tests in **reading and math** in grades 3 – 8 and once in high schools, but districts could seek approval to use the SAT, ACT, another nationally recognized assessment, or Advanced Placement assessments to fulfill the high school requirement—a **potential reduction** in federally-required standardized testing

The Every Student Succeeds Act gives us an unprecedented opportunity to make certain every child—regardless of their ZIP code—receives a great education. And it’s up to all of us including our elected officials, educators, parents, and community members to make it possible. Learn more about ESSA at nea.org/essabegins.



Jumping into National Board Certification

National Board Certification is a nationally recognized professional development program proven to strengthen teaching practices and improve student learning. Teachers who have completed National Board Certification are recognized for meeting the highest standards in the profession. The performance-based, peer-reviewed professional certification is available in 25 areas, from preK to twelfth grade.

Indiana is well-behind its neighbors in the promotion and completion of certification.

ISTA is committed to increasing the number of National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) statewide.

ISTA will host NBCT JumpStart Workshops in late summer through fall around the state. These workshops target interested candidates who want to learn more about the certification process, components, and resources available to become an NBCT.

Visit ista-in.org/nbct-workshops for the latest workshop near you!

What Does National Board Certification Mean for Me?

ISTA Member Discusses Experience

Only 169 teachers in Indiana have achieved National Board Certification, while states like Kentucky and Ohio have thousands of certified teachers. National Board Certified Teacher, Catherine Marchese, is working to change that statistic. After becoming an NBCT, she also serves as a candidate support provider guiding new candidates through the process.

Marchese was the first English as a new language early and middle childhood NBCT in Indiana. “I decided to be a pioneer, but because I was the first nobody really knew what that looked like,” said Marchese.

National Board Certification revolves around the practice of teaching and how that impacts students. Certification results in tangible student learning and pushes teachers to evaluate their teaching practice to identify how to further their lessons to make an impact to students.

“What I gained was the ‘ah-ha’ moment when you realize this is what I did right and what I didn’t do right,” explained Marchese. “National Board Certification is not initially about us [the teachers]; it’s about the kids. I do not walk into my classroom



CATHERINE MARCHESE

“National Board Certification is initially not about us [the teachers]; it’s about the kids.”

without thinking about what I’m doing, and how it’s impacting my students.”

Certification is not only about in-class lessons. “It requires proven collaboration with colleagues, active participation in the community, and student enrichment—really any influences beyond the school day,” said Marchese.

The professional development extends beyond most of the typical webinars and conferences offered to teachers for licensure. Marchese recognizes the informal support she had from colleagues and mentors

when she went through the process. She is giving back to new candidates mentoring four candidates and acting as an ISTA JumpStart trainer. While she isn’t able to share her submitted materials, Marchese walks candidates through interpreting instructions and pushes them to focus on student learning.

Her advice for teachers considering certification. “Get involved in the new support groups from ISTA,” said Marchese. “Make sure you have a personal support group. You shouldn’t do this alone.” ISTA’s commitment to NBCT extends to offering scholarships through the ISTA Foundation for active candidates. Visit ista-in.org/scholarships-awards for more information.

Hats Off

ISTA Recognizes Members and Public Education Advocates

Awardees were recognized at the ISTA Representative Assembly and the Summer Conference.



Joyce J. Click
(right), Horace Mann
Hoosier Educator of
the Year pictured
with **Lynn Schmale**,
Horace Mann



Lourdes Davis-Gordon,
Minority Educator of
the Year



Al Wolting and
Diana Singleton,
David Hanna
Golden Touch Award



Mark Kessans,
Pacesetter

Leslie Brown, N. Robert
Montfort Communications Award

Leah Timmons, N. Robert
Montfort Communications Award

**New Albany Floyd County
Bus Drivers**, N. Robert Montfort
Communications Award

**Prairie Heights Education
Association**, N. Robert Montfort
Communications Award

David Knies, Lifetime
Achievement Award

Kathy Parks, Lifetime
Achievement Award

Susan Thimlar, Lifetime
Achievement Award

Celia Motz, Community
Service Award

**Michelle Sokol with *The
Elkhart Truth***, School Bell Award

Kevin Cross, J.D. Miller Young
Activist Award

Grace Cross, J.D. Miller Young
Activist Award

**Indiana Pacers Community
Relations Team**, Friend of
Education Award

Plan Your Fall Schedule with ISTA

Sept. 30 – Oct. 1
Early Career Educators Conference,
Indianapolis

Oct. 28 – 29
ISEA Fall Conference, Horizon Center, Muncie

Nov. 8
Election Day

Nov. 14 – 18
American Education Week

Nov. 16
Education Support Professionals Day

Nov. 18 – 19
Education Support Professionals Conference,
Indianapolis

ISTA in Action



District meeting breakout during the ISTA Representative Assembly.



Mark Nash and Chike Odigboh with East Allen EA attended the ISTA Representative Assembly.



Delegates to the ISTA Representative Assembly applaud action taken at the meeting.



Bob Barcus, Duane Miller, and Jim Clauser were delegates representing ISTA-Retired at the ISTA Representative Assembly.



Indiana Student Education Association (ISEA) members paint a mural during Outreach to Teach in Lafayette.



Eric Cupp (left) and AJ Kupstis from the Manchester University ISEA chapter spent their Saturday rehabbing Oakland Elementary School.



The ISEA Outreach to Teach committee celebrating this year's successful event!



Susie Coil with East Allen County Schools Transportation Association attended an ESP session at the Summer Conference.



Diana Bucher, North Miami Education Association, participated in political action committee training to prepare for November's elections.