

2020 ISTA Legislative Priorities

PRIORITIZE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND RESTORE RESPECT FOR EDUCATORS

Hoosier public school educators and students deserve and expect bold action from legislators in the 2020 legislative session. It's time for legislators to demonstrate real change in state policy by making Indiana's public schools the top priority.

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Invest \$75 million of the state's unanticipated budget surplus to provide an increase to teachers' salaries.
- Hold schools and teachers harmless from low baseline ILEARN scores until educators feel confident in the system.
- Repeal unnecessary PGP requirements for teacher licensure.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ENCOURAGE STUDENT SUCCESS

- Reform school complexity funding through the creation of a study committee focused on the levels of adequacy in funding.
- Create a multi-year grant program designed to lower Indiana's student-to-counselor ratio and encourage investing in additional school psychologists and social workers.
- Ensure continued student access to dual credit programs by investing \$10 million over the next three years to reimburse teachers or higher education institutions for the costs associated with the additional coursework needed to qualify.

RESPECT AND PAY TEACHERS AS PROFESSIONALS

- End the use of high-stakes standardized tests to evaluate teachers. Uncouple teacher evaluations from salary calculations.
- Reinstate collective bargaining for the issue of days and hours worked.
- Restore students' learning and educators' working conditions and the school calendar as mandatory subjects of discussion.
- Strengthen teacher safety by closing legal gaps in reporting violence against teachers and toughen enforcement mechanisms.
- Remove the arbitrary 50 percent salary cap on years of service and additional degrees used toward salary.

INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Require financial and policy transparency for all schools that receive state funding.
- Require charter school organizers who apply with an authorizer to start or renew a charter school to also report to the Indiana Department of Education, which could serve as a centralized repository of applications.
- Restore a state board of education that is elected.
- Ensure Indiana's appointed secretary of education has held a license as a teacher, superintendent or principal with at least five years of public school work experience.

