

2022 ISTA Legislative Priorities

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RESTORE RESPECT FOR EDUCATORS AND PRIORITIZE ALL STUDENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic exasperated already existing issues impacting the state's teacher shortage and student growth. Indiana must take steps this session to address educator workload and burnout as well as improve students' learning conditions.

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Restoring teachers' ability to bargain contracts that include health and safety conditions, class sizes and prep periods for teachers to create lessons and grade student work.
- Ensuring schools receive 100% funding for students who may have been counted as attending virtually due to COVID-19 quarantine.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ADDRESS SCHOOL FUNDING ISSUES

- Strengthen existing teacher salary goals by clarifying school expenditure goals on teacher pay and reallocating school districts existing funds for funding teacher salaries.
- Improve educators' health insurance by reining in hospital costs without reducing quality and access. Cap insurance rates for hospital care to a specific percent of Medicare reimbursement in addition to other changes that increase pricing transparency.

PROVIDE A LIVING WAGE AND RESPECT FOR SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF

- Address the state's shortage of bus drivers, teacher aides and other support staff by providing a state wage increase.
- Provide professional respect to education support professionals by providing them with collective bargaining rights.

SUPPORT RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Resist efforts to restrict students' access to an honest and accurate education that enables them to learn from the mistakes of our past and create a better future for all.
- Creation of a study committee to determine whether there exists impediments to underrepresented groups seeking to become teachers or other school-based professionals.
- Bolster social services for kids by supporting an increase in student-service staffing, such as counselors, social workers and psychologists.
- For pre-service teacher candidates, require that all teacher preparation institutions in Indiana include meaningful professional training in de-escalation techniques and other preventative strategies.

TAKE CARE OF RETIREES

- Provide a follow-up cost-of-living adjustment of no less than 2% and/or a new 13th check for FY 2023 to recognize the lifetime of public service Indiana Public Retirement System retirees gave to the public.

