

# 2025 ISTA Legislative Priorities

## Invest in Indiana's Future: Empower Educators and Students

The Indiana State Teachers Association is dedicated to strengthening public education in Indiana. Our 2025 legislative agenda focuses on investing in educators and students, ensuring equitable funding and fostering supportive learning environments.



### Equitable Funding and Strengthening Early Education

Increase funding to efficiently support Indiana's public schools.

- **Fully Fund Indiana's Public Schools** to ensure that all students and educators have the resources they need.
- **Ensure State Funding for Textbooks** covers all curricular material expenses for students.
- **Expand Pre-K Funding and Mandate Kindergarten** by lowering the compulsory attendance age to six.



### Fair Compensation and Benefits for Educators

Ensure fair, competitive pay and benefits to attract and retain quality educators.

- **Raise Teacher Salaries** to align with inflation-adjusted benchmarks and close the 22.8% pay gap with other professions.
- **Implement 12 Weeks of Paid Parental Leave** for all public school employees.
- **Support Retiree COLAs and the MyChoice Second Chance Program** to maintain financial stability post-retirement.



### Professional Development and Regulatory Reforms

Support educator growth by refining standards.

- **Consolidate Recurring Training Requirements** by creating a five-year cycle for state-mandated professional development, including trainings such as suicide awareness and child abuse prevention, to reduce redundancy and improve efficiency.
- **Eliminate High-Stakes Testing for Literacy Endorsement** for veteran teachers, allowing completion of an 80-hour Science of Reading course instead.
- **Secure Funding for Literacy Endorsements**, including stipends and professional development support.

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## Student Support and School Safety

Create supportive learning environments by addressing mental health and safety.

- **Add 500 School Counselors Statewide** to lower counselor-to-student ratios from 694:1 to 500:1 and reduce non-counseling duties.
- **Establish Clear Reporting Mechanisms for Violence Against Staff**, with penalties for non-compliant districts.
- **Promote Restorative Justice Programs** over suspensions for non-violent offenses.

*"Hoosiers value strong public schools that provide equal opportunities for all students, whether Black or white, Latino, Asian, Native, or newcomer. Every Hoosier child deserves a quality education, and that starts with well-funded schools."*

— **ISTA President Keith Gambill**



## Advancing Educator Safety and Equity

Restore educators' voices in decision-making and promote diversity within schools.

- **Ensure Educator Safety** by giving teachers mandatory collective bargaining rights in decisions impacting their safety and working conditions.
- **Increase Funding for Diversity Scholarships and Programs** to support minority educators and "grow our own" initiatives.
- **Address Deficit Financing in School Budgets** by allowing the bargaining of reserve funds that exceed 25% of a district's budget.

## Learn More About Our Legislative Priorities



Scan the QR code to view our full list of priorities.