

Red For Ed Action Day Priorities & Talking Points

- 1) Invest budget surplus in teacher compensation**
- 2) Hold students, teachers and communities harmless from I-LEARN**
- 3) Repeal PGP/externship requirements**

TEACHER COMPENSATION

Lawmakers must demonstrate a commitment to addressing teacher pay by using the state's budget surplus to begin increasing base salaries for teachers.

The lack of significant and sustainable investments in our schools over the past decade has placed Indiana behind neighboring states on funding levels and places us last in the nation in teacher salary growth.

The state has accumulated a \$2+ billion surplus and an additional \$419 million surplus from last year's budget. The legislature should use a portion of these funds to continue the work to make teacher pay competitive in the region.

HARMLESS FROM I-LEARN

Low I-LEARN scores don't reflect the hard work Hoosier kids and teachers are doing in our classrooms. Test scores certainly shouldn't determine how our communities are labeled by accountability grades.

Legislators must hold schools and teachers harmless until educators feel confident in the system.

Hold harmless should not only include letter grades for schools and teacher evaluations, but also for school intervention and state takeover of schools. The scores at this stage are questionable and should be used only as a benchmark - nothing more.

REPEAL PGP/EXTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Changes under HEA 1002 require teachers in traditional public schools using a PGP for renewing their license to complete 15 of the 90 PGP points in one or more of a series of program options focused on career navigation or economic development – including corporate externships.

As of July 1, 2019, over 50,000 of the approximately 60,000 teachers initiated their next license renewal so that the 15-credit requirement will not apply to them until their next re-licensure.

This new requirement has placed an undue burden on teachers and is misplaced in its implementation. Relevancy of this requirement aside, real feasibility issues exist in many areas of the state to comply with the options listed in the law. The PGP licensure language in HEA 1002 should be repealed.

