

Below are sample letters to the editor that you may personalize to send to your local newspaper – or draft your own letter that outlines why you choose and support public schools. The highlighted sections in the letters should be updated to reflect your personal details.

Check your local newspaper for instructions on how to submit a letter to the editor. Be sure to keep it brief – no longer than 300 words – and identify yourself with your full name, title and any credentials that establish your expertise on the topic, as well as your address and contact information (if not included in the submission process).

If you have questions or your letter is published, let us know by emailing [communications@ista-in.org](mailto:communications@ista-in.org).

### **Parent**

More than 90 percent of Hoosier families send their kids to public school. I send my kid[s] to *[insert school name]*.

My kids benefit from the sense of community our public school creates. It offers diversity and inclusion for all students to achieve their best. My kids love their teachers, custodians and bus drivers, who all come together to make their day brighter.

But, I'm concerned by education reforms that threaten the foundation of public schools. I see more and more taxpayer dollars leaving our public schools to fund failing charter schools or religious, private schools.

It's time to reverse course on education reforms. Instead, let's support schools and educators and adequately fund our K-12 public schools.

It's time to make a choice, and I choose public schools.

Name

City/Town

### **Educator**

The chances kids have for success should not depend on winning a charter lottery, securing a private school voucher or living in the right ZIP code. As a public-school educator, I commit to educating every kid who walks into my school – regardless of race, background or religion.

My role is to offer each student access to a well-rounded education that includes art, music and PE, along with health, nutrition and after-school programs.

But, education reforms such as vouchers, charter schools and online, virtual schools threaten public education. It's time we stop experimenting with education reforms that siphon dollars away from rural and urban public schools.

We must ensure our public educators have the resources they need to engage and inspire all students.

It's time to make a choice, and I choose public schools.

Name

Position

School

### **Student**

I love my public school. I know that's hard to believe from a kid, but I do!

My teachers support and encourage me to do my best. They are very knowledgeable, and I even have fun learning in their classes.

And, there are so many options.

I can sing in the choir or learn to play an instrument and join band or orchestra. I can get creative in art class or burn off extra energy in PE. There are Advanced Placement (AP) classes if I want to challenge myself *[high school student only]*. After school, I can act in the school play, shoot some hoops or gear up for football.

I can get everything I need at my public school.

I choose public schools.

### **Rural Resident**

We don't have any charter or voucher schools in our community, but our local public schools still feel the impact. Education reforms such as vouchers, charter schools and online, virtual schools are siphoning dollars away from Indiana's rural schools.

More than 34,000 Hoosier students use vouchers – it's now the largest program in the country. What was originally created as a program to serve low-income families, now extends eligibility to families earning nearly \$90,000 and kids who have never attended public schools.

This means that fewer dollars are available for public education. This compounds challenges facing our rural schools such as school closures, higher transportation costs and teacher shortages.

Let's give our kids the same educational opportunities we had. It's time to stop experimenting with education reforms and fully support public schools.

It's time to make a choice, and I choose public schools.

Name

City/Town