



Schoolhouse News

February 18, 2011

The IASP Board of Directors met at the Indiana State House on Wednesday, February 16 for a legislative breakfast. In preparation for that meeting, IASP prepared [Talking Points](#) on current legislative topics. Please take time to read through these important bills. We are almost done with the first session and will know soon the status of the 103 bills we are tracking.

We consistently heard that legislators will react to your voice. IASP needs you to help our 2000 members be heard on key legislative issues. Calls or emails, especially to the Republican Senators and Representatives, from you will help shape the education legislation.

- **Legislative Resources:** Click here for [State Legislator Contact Information](#). You can look up your legislator by going to <http://district.iga.in.gov/DistrictLookup/> and entering your address. This produces both Senators and Representatives who represent you. Be sure to also include your school address to widen your contact list. You can also go to <http://www.in.gov/legislative/2345.htm> to access Legislative District maps
- The 2011 IASP Legislative Platform was adopted by the IASP Board and you can read the [Full Platform](#) here. IASP has also prepared a [Synopsis](#) which summarizes the key elements of the agenda.

IASP LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- **Senate Bill 1:** Senate Bill 0001 contains language on Teacher Evaluations, Teacher Salaries, and the role of administration in the school corporation. IASP testified of our concerns for the time involved in annual evaluations for all principals and how the relationship will be between principal, superintendent, and school board. We also specifically opposed unlicensed teachers for Charter Schools and that Principals would not be considered teachers. You can read the full text of the bill at

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2011/IN/IN0001.1.html>

This bill passed out of committee and will now be debated by the full Senate. Now is the time to read the bill and contact your senator so they understand the implications of passing this bill along. It does not contain the level of detail necessary and places large emphasis on the State Board of Education developing criteria.

- **House Bill 1003:** This bill is titled School Scholarships, but it is really the Voucher bill for the House. It does target the vouchers for lower income students, but the wording they use is “Choice Scholarship”. This bill will take money away from public schools and provide tuition to private schools. You can read the full text of the bill at

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2011/HB/HB1003.1.html>

This bill also passed out of committee and will now get a hearing before the full House. Call, email, write and let your legislators know of your opinion of this bill. Focus on what strides your school is making with all students, the need to allow the potential changes to positively impact the school system, and that the public schools take all students. The legislators (especially Republicans) need to understand that the public does not support vouchers and it is more than an issue of taking money from public schools.

- **Third Grade Reading Plan:**

The Indiana State Board of Education took action to adopt LSA Document #10-635, a proposed rule to implement the requirements of IC 20-32-8.5. The document adds further explanation to HEA 1367-2010, the 3rd Grade Reading Bill, approved during last year’s General Assembly. HEA 1367-2010 required the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to “*develop a plan to improve reading skills of students and implement appropriate remediation techniques,*” up to and including retention after 3rd grade.

The full text of the [adopted rule](#) can be read here. The state board adopted Amendments 1-4 and these are reflected in the adopted language. The State Board did not adopt Amendment number 5.

The Indianapolis Star published an article this week that gives a wide interpretation on retention. We will get further updates on this issue and send those out to you.

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011102150323>

- **IASP Board Update:** The IASP Board of Directors met on Wednesday, February 16. The [Board Update](#) can be read here and provides timely news of the Association. We once again had great attendance and we appreciate the time that is given by the Board on behalf of our Association. Stay involved with your District through the upcoming meetings and through your communication with your colleagues.

Thanks to all those who can attend the District meetings. They are a great way to stay connected and to hear timely information. Contact your District president to find out how you can help at the next meeting.

Gerald and Todd