



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2025

Summary

1. **Public schools need first priority in state education funding and the funding must keep up with inflation.**
2. **Public funds belong in public schools. Hoosier taxpayers cannot afford universal vouchers, or further expansion of voucher programs (Indiana Choice Scholarship Program, SGO scholarships, the Indiana Educational Scholarship Account Program, etc.).**
3. **All K-12 schools that receive public funds should be publicly audited for transparency and accountability.**
4. **K-12 schools that receive public funds should teach historically and scientifically accurate curricula in order to prepare students for careers and to be good citizens in a democracy.**
5. **All children deserve fully-resourced, inclusive public schools with teachers who are educated and experienced in their fields and who have a voice at the table in educational decision making.**
6. **Public schools should be locally controlled and represented by nonpartisan publicly-elected school board members who ensure schools are accountable to the communities they serve.**



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Expanded Explanation

1. **Public schools need first priority in state education funding and the funding must keep up with inflation.**
 - a. ICPE supports increasing State Tuition Support Funds to fully fund public schools and account for the loss of purchasing power caused by high inflation rates.
 - b. We urge the legislature to allocate the necessary resources and funding for public schools to support staff, curricula, and programmatic needs. Redirecting critical funds to "school choice" programs hinders the state's ability to increase teacher salaries and provide essential services to students.
 - c. We support simplifying referenda/ballot questions to help voters understand exactly what they are voting for.
 - d. We are against unfunded and underfunded state mandates on public schools.
2. **Public funds belong in public schools. Hoosier taxpayers cannot afford universal vouchers, or further expansion of voucher programs (Indiana Choice Scholarship Program, SGO scholarships, the Indiana Educational Scholarship Account Program, etc.).**
 - a. ICPE calls for a halt on further diverting public funds and resources from public schools to private institutions such as private schools and charter school boards that lack transparency and accountability. We strongly oppose the expansion of "school choice" programs, including ESAs (education scholarship accounts), vouchers (Choice Scholarships), microschoools, and charter schools.
 - b. We oppose mandatory sharing of referendum dollars with charter or private schools. It is hypocritical to force consolidation of local traditional public schools while supporting the creation of more small charter schools that aren't held to the same rules for transparency and accountability.
 - c. We support sunsetting the SGO (Scholarship Granting Organization) program. Recent radical expansion of private school voucher eligibility eliminates the need for the SGO program
 - d. ICPE opposes any legislation that would remove control of transportation from public school corporation(s), or require two or more public school corporations to combine their transportation with each other or with charter or private schools.



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3. **All K-12 schools that receive public funds should be publicly audited for transparency and accountability.**
 - a. All schools (and other private or nonprofit education providers) that accept public tax dollars should be audited by the State Board of Accounts and be as transparent by law as traditional public schools.
 - b. All schools that take public funds should accept and be willing to educate all children—no exceptions.
 - c. All schools (and other private or nonprofit education providers) that accept public tax dollars should be subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for access to their buildings and facilities,
 - d. All schools (and other private or nonprofit education providers) that accept public tax dollars should be subject to the same background check requirements as employees of public schools to ensure the safety of all Hoosier students regardless of the type of school they attend.
 - e. ICPE supports transparency in curriculum. All laws and regulations related to public access and review of curriculum should be equally applied to all K-12 education entities that accept state funding.
 - f. ICPE supports legislation requiring academic and fiscal transparency and accountability for all.
 - g. We also support legislation that would give public school foundations access to the same tax credits limits that scholarship granting organizations (SGOs) receive.
4. **K-12 schools that receive public funds should teach historically and scientifically accurate curricula in order to prepare students for careers and to be good citizens in a democracy.**
 - a. We support educating the whole child through the work of social-emotional learning and removing barriers to learning through diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.



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- b. We support historically and scientifically accurate and inclusive curricula as well as local control over educational materials.
 - c. ICPE supports legislation that prepares all children for a bright future through pre-K, general education and special education. Children learn best in a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment.
- 5. All children deserve fully-resourced, inclusive public schools with teachers who are educated and experienced in their fields and who have a voice at the table in educational decision making.**
- a. ICPE supports funding for the education and licensing (certification) of teachers through accredited post-secondary institutions of higher education. We oppose lowering the standards for the teaching profession. Teachers who are not fully qualified or are working under an emergency license should be required to pursue proper licensure, with financial support to help them achieve this goal.
 - b. We support the repeal of mandatory retention of third graders using IREAD-3 or any other high-stakes testing. We propose providing supports and interventions for students and professional development for teachers. We support conducting holistic and accurate assessments of students and expanding options for learning (all of which necessitate additional funding for adequate support).
 - c. We support the work and professional expertise of all who help our children: nurses, psychologists, counselors and social workers and we recognize the need for funding in these areas to bring student to professional ratios in line with best practices.
- 6. Public schools should be locally controlled and represented by nonpartisan publicly-elected school board members who ensure schools are accountable to the communities they serve.**
- a. ICPE supports local control of education through nonpartisan publicly-elected school board members who ensure schools are accountable to the communities they serve.
 - b. ICPE supports legislation that restores local control by reinstating the election of school board members in Gary and Muncie, granting these communities the autonomy to manage resources in the best interests of their students and residents.