



## **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2026**

### **Summary**

- 1. Indiana must invest in its traditional public schools and that funding must keep up with inflation.**
- 2. Public funds belong in public schools. Hoosier taxpayers cannot afford the continued expansion of voucher programs like the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program, SGO scholarships, the Indiana Educational Scholarship Account Program, and so forth.**
- 3. All schools receiving tax dollars should be locally controlled and represented by publicly-elected school board members who ensure schools are accountable to the communities they serve.**
- 4. Any tax dollars spent by K-12 schools should be publicly accounted for, overseen by elected officials, for transparency and accountability.**
- 5. K-12 schools that receive public funds should teach historically and scientifically accurate curricula, open to the public, in order to prepare students for careers and to be good citizens in a democracy.**
- 6. All children– from preK to their senior year– deserve fully resourced, inclusive public schools led by educated and experienced teachers who have a voice at the table in educational decision making.**



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### Expanded Explanation

- 1. Public schools need first priority in state education funding and the funding has not kept up with inflation.**
  - a. ICPE supports “fixes” to SEA1 (2025) or measures which will help increase funding to public schools (or decrease the loss of revenue to public schools).
  - b. 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 an immediate halt to the diversion of public funds and resources from public schools to private institutions—including private schools and charter boards—that operate without transparency or accountability. We strongly oppose the continued expansion of “school choice” programs, including Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs), vouchers (Choice Scholarships), microschools, virtual schools, and charter schools, that lack elected oversight of taxpayer spending.
  - b. ICPE calls for the development of clear, consistent criteria to determine when consolidation should be considered by any schools receiving tax dollars. 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. ICPE opposes any legislation that would remove control of transportation and education services from public school corporation(s), or force two or more public school corporations to combine their transportation with each other or with charter or private schools.
  - d. ICPE calls for the repeal of the \$1 law. We stand firmly against any legislation that forces local taxing entities to sell assets purchased with taxpayer funds for less than their full fair market value. Assets held by a public school corporation should be sold or transferred at no less than market value to ensure fiscal responsibility.



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- 3. Any tax dollars spent by K-12 schools should be publicly accounted for, overseen by elected officials, 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 including a monthly accounting of the funds and the disclosure of funds supplanted by public tax dollars.
  - 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, including charter and voucher schools.
  - f. ICPE supports legislation requiring academic and fiscal transparency and accountability for all K-12 education entities that accept state funding.
  - 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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- c. 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.