



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Jim May, vice president & board member
317-213-4410, info@indianacoalitionforpubliced.org

Indiana Coalition for Public Education Releases Results of Inaugural School Funding Survey

Report reveals school corporations in crisis, grappling with decisions to reduce staff and services

Indianapolis, Indiana, December 4, 2025 – Indiana Coalition for Public Education (ICPE) today released the results of its inaugural school funding survey of traditional public school corporations, revealing a statewide crisis. The report documents that school corporations across the state are facing hard decisions to cut staff and services in the wake of substantial revenue shortfalls.

Over half of the state’s 290 traditional public school corporations participated in the survey, which focused on evaluating the scope of budget shortfalls and understanding the actions schools are taking to survive. Over 99% of school corporations face negative impacts from Senate Enrolled Act 1 (SEA 1) and other actions taken at the state and federal level.

As a result of funding shortfalls, 65.3% of school corporations have already reduced or committed to reducing support staff, 55.8% have reduced or committed to reducing teaching staff and 40.8% have reduced or committed to reducing facility improvements. Over 90% of school corporations are at least considering each of these reductions.

The 2025 session of the Indiana General Assembly proved especially consequential for traditional public schools. Indiana school corporations receive the vast majority of their funding from a mix of state allocations and local property taxes. Previous years have seen the legislature effectively reduce the state allocation side of the equation, both by failing to increase budgets enough to match inflation and siphoning funds to other initiatives, such as approximately \$500 million annually to the School Choice voucher program. In the 2025 session, the legislature took aim at restricting local communities’ ability to support their school corporations, using SEA 1 to impose dramatic reductions on property tax funding.

The defunding of traditional public school corporations coincides with ongoing, significant increases in costs related to insurance, utilities, IT infrastructure and school safety. The combination of shrinking funds and growing costs has created an unprecedented crisis in Indiana public education.

“Our legislature has steadily deprioritized adequately funding public education in Indiana,” said Jim May, vice president of ICPE and coordinator of the study. “With these latest actions, we’ve reached the point where

Hoosier schools and the families they serve will start to feel the impact in very real ways. Every parent across our state should pay close attention to exactly how little SEA 1 saves them on their taxes, and then ask if that's worth damaging not just their children's futures, but the future economic health of our state."

A full copy of the 2025 School Funding Survey Summary & Results can be obtained at <https://indianacoalitionforpubliced.org/reports/>.

About Indiana Coalition for Public Education

Indiana Coalition for Public Education is a non-partisan non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and improving public education for Indiana students. The organization advocates for all Hoosier children having access to high quality, equitable, well-funded public schools that are subject to democratic oversight by their communities. For more information, please visit <https://indianacoalitionforpubliced.org>.