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New Laws and Rules Coming to School Corporations

by Terry E. Spradlin, ISBA Executive Director (tspradlin@isba-ind.org)

The lawmaking and rulemaking bodies of state government have or will be soon completing significant work that will have far reaching impact on K-12 public education in the Hoosier state. The 2018 short session of the Indiana General Assembly adjourned "sine die" on Wednesday, March 14, after 10.5 weeks. On Monday (March 19) we learned that Governor Holcomb intends to call a special session in the month of May to have a handful of the issues that died in the last minutes of the session revisited and passed into law. Similarly, the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) is moving toward completion of its deliberation on a new K-12 school accountability rule. I will speak briefly to the work of these governmental bodies here, but do plan to share a more comprehensive update, including a new laws legislative bulletin, during the ISBA Spring Regional Meetings around the state from April 23rd to May 8th. Please register to attend ([here](#)) if you haven't already.

What were the results of the legislative session?

When the session convened on January 3, 2018, there were 901 bills introduced for consideration. ISBA identified and began tracking 110 bills that had implications for K-

12 public education and school corporation governance. Ultimately, 212 bills became law (some still pending the governor's signature), 25 of which were relevant to ISBA members ([see 2018 ISBA Bill Tracking List here](#)). Most important was the passage of House Enrolled Act 1001 that ensures the tuition support shortfall is funded through a transfer from the state tuition reserve account. Without this legislation school corporations would have faced a collective reduction in funding of \$23 million in Fiscal Year 2018 and between \$16 million to \$55 million in FY 2019. The other highly-significant bill enacted was House Enrolled Act 1426 that moves Indiana to one diploma with four "designations." It also calls for a new alternative assessment for severely cognitively-disabled students and requires the SBOE to modify the Core 40 curriculum in mathematics and science to provide multiple course pathways for credit completion.

Regarding the adoption of the SBOE proposed accountability rule for schools and school corporations ([School Accountability Rule](#)), there was one work session of the board on March 21 for discussion of public comments received to date. The SBOE is scheduled to meet on

Wednesday, April 4, during its regular monthly meeting and the proposed rule will be discussed further. On behalf of ISBA, I submitted a position memo that outlined 10 concerns and suggestions ([here](#)). I encourage ISBA Members to submit comments and concerns on the rule before the comment period ends on **March 29** at: sboe_comment@sboe.in.gov

I look forward to speaking with you on these issues and more at the ISBA Spring Region Meeting in your area of the state. Please bring ideas and suggestions concerning the ISBA 2019 legislative agenda.

ISBA Executive Director, Terry Spradlin, (third from left) speaks on a panel at the Indiana School Public Relations Association Annual Conference.

