



Dear ISBA Members:

I hope this message finds you well and off to a great start in 2024! Best wishes for a successful spring semester for your students, staff, and your school board. Today marks the conclusion of the first week of Second Regular Session of the 123rd Indiana General Assembly. This is a short session that must conclude by March 14. As a reminder, ISBA will be sending you an ISBA Weekly Legislative Update every Friday for the duration of the session to highlight key developments and actions occurring during the week and may preview legislative activities for the following week. We hope you find these updates timely and informative.

ISBA “Top 3 Things to Know” Weekly Video Update

NEW in 2024 we are offering you a video series titled “Top 3 Things to Know Video Update” to supplemental all the many resources that will continue as a part of ISBA’s Legislative Action Network. We strive to make sure our members are the best-informed members of any organization in the state about legislative activities. Each week I will record a video message of 2-5 minutes to spotlight the most important “three things” you need to know that happened during the course of each week. The ISBA communications and promotions team (Adam

VanOsdol and Haley Crnarich) has done a fantastic job creating a format that is appealing for you to view. I welcome your feedback on whether these are helpful and what you like about them, or any suggestions for enhancements are welcome, too. Check out the inaugural “Top Three Things to Know Video Update” [HERE](#).

Calendar Deadlines for First Half of the Session

- 1/30 - Committee Report Deadline for House Bills
- 2/1 - Second Reading Deadline for House Bills
- 2/1 - Committee Report Deadline for Senate Bills
- 2/5 - Third Reading Deadline for House Bills
- 2/5 - Second Reading Deadline for Senate Bills
- 2/6 - Third Reading Deadline for Senate Bills

To view the complete 2024 session calendar by month for each Chamber, go to: [House Calendar](#); [Senate Calendar](#)

Week 1 Highlights – Priorities Announced

Governor Holcomb’s Legislative Priorities (Watch the State of the State Address [HERE](#))

Governor Eric Holcomb announced on Monday his commitment toward reaching the state goal of 95% of third graders reading proficiently by 2027. This year, the focus is on providing early intervention tools and resources to assist students and educators with reading efforts. Among the governor’s proposals are:

- Requiring schools to administer IREAD in second grade and to offer summer school reading programs to students in second grade who are not on track for reading proficiency and third graders who did not pass.
- Continuing to test students who have not passed IREAD through sixth grade or until they demonstrate reading proficiency.
- Strengthening retention efforts for students who have not passed IREAD in third grade.
- Ensure the state’s 2023 promise that a free public education includes free curricular materials is implemented statewide by requiring schools to annually report to IDOE any and all student

fees charged to families, regardless of type, and the data will be posted online.

- Establish a computer science course requirement for high school graduation beginning in 2029 to better equip Hoosier students with the necessary digital skills to enter the mid-twenty-first century workforce.

Senate Republican Legislative Priorities

- ***Improving Hoosier Students' Reading Skills***

Senate Bill 1, authored by State Sen. Linda Rogers (R-Granger)

WHAT: Ensure Hoosier students get the best reading education by providing Science of Reading instruction, committing to early detection and remediation for students not reading at grade level, and as a last resort, retaining those students who are not reading well enough to move on to fourth grade

WHY: Nearly 1 in 5 Hoosier third graders lack basic reading skills. Ensuring students can read is the single most important thing Indiana's education system can do so students can be successful.

- ***Childcare Access and Affordability***

Senate Bill 2, authored by State Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso)

WHAT: Increase the number of childcare providers in Indiana by eliminating red tape

WHY: Lack of childcare access and affordability is a big hurdle for many Hoosiers who want to enter the workforce. Increasing childcare access and affordability will ensure more Hoosiers who want to enter the workforce can do so while making sure their families are taken care of at the same time.

House Republicans Legislative Priorities

- Expand work-based learning (HB 1001 expanding use of O'Bannon Grant & 21st Century Scholar Program to include job training)

- Boosting Student Reading Proficiency
- Supporting our Jewish Students

Senate Democrats Legislative Priorities

- Pre-K eligibility expansion
- Pre-K grant funding program
- Compulsory age of school attendance

House Democrats Legislative Priorities

- Support homeowners/renters (property tax credit for everyone – increased tax credit for seniors)
- Setting Hoosier kids and families up for success through childcare and early learning; and
 - Child and dependent care income tax credit
 - Establish a statewide pre-K program
 - Increase before and after school care funding

ISBA Bill Tracking List

ISBA makes available to members an automated bill tracking list to assist you in monitoring the status and progress of all the bills that the Association will be tracking. As of today, of the more than 700 bills released to the public, there are 103 bills on the ISBA Bill Tracking List that are relevant to K-12 education policy, school governance, or child-related legislation. The number of bills on the tracking list will continue to grow as the final bill lists are released early next week. In addition, whenever an action occurs on any bill on the list, it will be captured and updated in real time. You can view the ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#).

ISBA in Action

Each week we will report on the legislative committee hearings that an ISBA team member attended and what bills we monitored or testified on.

- [Senate Homeland Security and Transportation](#)
- [SB 30](#) **School bus stop arm violation enforcement** (Author Senator Niemeyer) This bill would allow law enforcement to charge the registered owner of a vehicle with a Class B infraction in cases where the vehicle passes a school bus when the arm signal device is in its extended position without having to identify the driver of the vehicle. The bill also establishes certain defenses for the registered owner of the vehicle. ISBA, IAPSS, IASBO, and IRSRA testified in favor of the bill. The bill passed out of the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee by a vote of 8-0.
- [House Education](#)
- [HB 1001](#) **Education and Higher Education Matters** (Rep. Goodrich). Passed out of committee with an amendment by a 9-4 party-line vote.
- [HB 1002](#) **Defining Anti-Semitism** (Rep. Jeter). Passed out of committee 12-0 after more than two hours of public testimony.
- [HB 1042](#) **Transition to Teaching Scholarships** (Rep. Heine). Passed out of committee by a 13-0 vote.
- [HB 1243](#) **Various Education and Workforce Related Matters** (Rep. Behning). Bill held and will be back on the agenda on 1/17.
- [House Ways & Means Committee](#)
- [HB 1120](#) **Property Taxes** (Rep. Thompson). This bill was held for an amendment forthcoming after public testimony was heard.

Live Legislative Update

Please join us for the first ISBA Live Legislative Update Webinar of the session. I will be joined by Representative Jake Teshka to discuss

House Bill 1219, an education deregulation bill, and other key K-12 education bills that have been introduced for consideration during the 2024 General Session. Senator Linda Rogers has been invited to join the discussion as well to speak on Senate Bill 1, the Senate Republicans' top legislative proposal focused on Grade 3 reading proficiency. This hour-long webinar will include a status report on ISBA's 2024 Legislative Priorities. Attendees will be able to pose questions regarding the bills that are being highlighted.

Webinar Time: Thursday, January 18, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EST; [Register HERE](#)

6th Annual ISBA State House Day

Nothing is more powerful than ISBA members in action via grassroots advocacy empowered by the ISBA Legislative Action Network! The 6th Annual State House Day is a prime opportunity for you to have firsthand engagement with your area legislators. In addition to hearing from caucus leaders and education committee leaders during two excellent panel discussions, we encourage you to invite your area legislators to join you for conversation during the noon luncheon portion of the event. For more information, see the [Agenda HERE](#) and [Register HERE](#). As a reminder, we encourage your school board president and board legislative liaison, or some combination of two board member representatives of your board, to attend the complimentary event and receive a \$35 stipend for parking and mileage.

Contact Your Area Legislators During Session

To find your legislators and contact information visit [HERE](#)

Thank you for your participation in the ISBA Legislative Action Network. Let's stand united to support sound K-12 education policy in Indiana!

Sincerely,

Terry Spradlin

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