



Dear ISBA Members:

I hope this message finds you doing well and off to a great start in 2023! Welcome to our 339 new school board members from across the state. If you are a new ISBA member and want to participate in the ISBA Legislative Action Network, please review our advocacy guide and training resources [HERE](#). Today marks the conclusion of the first week of the First Regular Session of the 123rd Indiana General Assembly. The session is commonly referred to as the “long session” and must finish by April 29, 2023. The core duty of the legislature is to adopt a biennial state budget via House Bill (HB) 1001. As a reminder, I will be sending you an ISBA Weekly Legislative Update every Friday for the duration of the session that will highlight key activities and news that have transpired during the current week and may preview key legislative developments for the following week.

### **Bill Tracking List**

ISBA makes available an automated bill tracking list available to members to assist you in monitoring the status and progress of all the bills that the Association will be tracking. As of today, there are more than 110 bills on the tracking list. I suspect this list will grow to more than 175-200 bills once all bills are released to the public next week. You can view the ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#).

## **Significant News of The Week**

Governor Eric Holcomb and the supermajority Republican Caucuses have now released their legislative priorities for the session. The legislative priorities of the Senate Republican Caucus available [HERE](#) were released on Tuesday and focus on taxation and “fiscal responsibility,” mental and public health systems, health care costs, and law enforcement/public safety, but did not include mention of any K-12 education issue. The legislative priorities of the House Republican Caucus were released on Thursday and are available [HERE](#), and include [HB 1002](#) “to expand work-based learning, apprenticeship and internship opportunities in high schools.” In addition, the 86-page bill would “allow quality, work-based learning to count toward high school graduation requirements and create a framework for students to earn a post-secondary credential.” The House Republicans' budget proposal for HB 1001 will also include “expanding opportunities for parents to choose the best school that works for their child.” Other components of their legislative agenda include healthcare costs and housing development supports. Governor Eric Holcomb announced his [legislative and budget priorities](#) last week at Liberty Park Elementary School on the eastside of Indianapolis. Holding the event at a public school was symbolic of the governor’s significant proposal for increased K-12 school funding for tuition support, teacher compensation, early literacy, STEM education, and school safety. ISBA lauds Governor Holcomb for setting the pace in support of K-12 public education this session!

## **Partisan School Board Election Bills**

As anticipated, bills have been filed again this session that would move Indiana to partisan school board elections. As of today, there are three partisan school board election bills: [HB 1036](#) (Rep. Cash, HD 25), [HB 1074](#) (Rep. Morrison, HD 42), and [SB 188](#) (Senator Sandlin, SD 36). I anticipate a couple of more bills on this subject to be released next week. The bills will vary in scope from candidate discretion to self-identify party affiliation on the general election ballot, mandatory declaration of party affiliation on the general election ballot, or adding a primary and requiring school board candidates to meet the same election requirements as other local partisan offices. ISBA will oppose these bills. Please join ISBA in our advocacy against these bills by communicating with your area legislators about why this change would be detrimental to effective board governance. ISBA talking points to maintain nonpartisan elections are available [HERE](#).

## **5th Annual ISBA State House Day**

Please mark your calendar for the 5th Annual ISBA State House Day on

February 21, to be held in Indiana Ballrooms E-G at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott, 350 W. Maryland Street, Indianapolis. We are asking board presidents and legislative liaisons for every school board to attend. If you cannot make it, please ask another board representative from your school board to attend. We are requesting only two members from every board to attend to contain costs. This will be at no charge to attendees. We will also be providing each attendee a stipend of \$35 to assist with any parking and mileage expenses. A separate email was sent last week with full details and the agenda for this event. Another comprehensive email will be sent next week, or if you have any questions, please email me at: [tspradlin@isba-ind.org](mailto:tspradlin@isba-ind.org).

Please RSVP your attendance via email to Casey Conrad at: [cconrad@isba-ind.org](mailto:cconrad@isba-ind.org). We have sent a letter of invitation from ISBA to all legislators inviting them to attend, but once you know that you will be coming, please extend a personal invitation via email message or letter to your legislators to join you at your table (that will be indicated by table markers by ISBA region).

In closing, do commence efforts to reach out to your area legislators to (re-)introduce yourself and offer your service as a trusted resource on K-12 public education issues during the session and on an ongoing basis. Contact information for the state legislators can be found [HERE](#). Take the opportunity to advocate for the [ISBA 2023 Legislative Priorities](#). In addition, offer your perspective on the impact of the proposal to move Indiana to partisan school board elections. Thank you for your efforts and contributions to engage in the ISBA Legislative Action Network and grassroots advocacy on behalf of the more than 1 million public school students and effective school board governance.

Sincerely,



**Terry Spradlin**

**Executive Director**

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