



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, JAN. 24**

Happy Friday and welcome to week three of the 2025 legislative session.

### **Collective Bargaining Defense Update**

Over the past several weeks, Indiana teachers faced a serious threat to collective bargaining rights. Until the final moments before the bill filing deadline, legislation aimed at eliminating collective bargaining remained a real and significant possibility.

Thanks to the tireless advocacy of ISTA staff, members and supporters, this immediate crisis has been averted.

This highlights the power of collective action in safeguarding educators' rights. While we celebrate this important win, we must remain vigilant in protecting these fundamental rights, which are vital to the teaching profession and the future of public education.

### **HB 1136 Update**

HB 1136, a controversial bill proposing the dissolution of five school corporations and their conversion into state-run charter schools, appears to be stalled. Last week, ISTA and members of the Indiana Educational Equity Coalition met with Rep. Teshka, the bill's author, to discuss its intent and implications.

The meeting confirmed that the bill targets Indianapolis Public Schools, citing declining enrollment and financial struggles. For now, HB 1136 is unlikely to move forward as IPS has been tasked with proposing its own plan to address these issues. ISTA will continue monitoring this legislation and advocating for equitable, locally driven solutions.

## **Senate Committee Action on SB 146**

This week, the Senate Education Committee voted to amend SB 146, initially containing a provision essentially mandating teacher participation in the state health plan. ISTA raised concerns that this would undermine collective bargaining and local decision-making.

Thanks to advocacy efforts, Sen. Rogers agreed to remove this mandate. ISTA now fully supports the revised bill, which includes:

- A \$45,000 minimum starting teacher salary.
- A requirement that school districts allocate 65% of tuition support to teacher compensation.
- Expanded paid leave of up to 20 days for full-time educators.

We will continue working to ensure the bill delivers meaningful improvements for educators across Indiana.

## **Budget Bill Posted**

The proposed 2025–27 state budget posted this week includes modest increases in school funding. However, it also expands private school vouchers and education savings accounts. This proposal is just the starting point. ISTA will advocate for a budget that prioritizes public schools, ensures equitable funding and provides competitive compensation to address the educator shortage. With your support, we can push for a budget that benefits all Hoosier students and educators. We will be providing more information on the budget soon.

Thank you for your continued engagement during this critical session. Together, we can protect educators, strengthen public schools, and advance our shared priorities.

**Join us for a Day of Action:** Feb. 11 | [Register](#)  
**Virtual Legislative Briefing:** Feb. 3 | [Register](#)



## **SB 366 (Sen. Linda Rogers – Granger)**

# EDUCATION MATTERS

### **Overview**

SB 366, currently moving in the Senate Education Committee, includes provisions that could weaken teacher voice and professional respect. Among ISTA's primary concerns is the removal of language granting the exclusive representative pro-rata authority to appoint teachers to local committees. Additionally, the bill eliminates the requirement for superintendents to discuss evaluation plans with teachers or their representatives before these plans go to the school board. Both measures are being advocated for by the Indiana School Boards Association.

### **Why you should care**

These changes reduce teachers' voices in decision-making and transparency in evaluations, potentially leading to unilateral decisions that don't reflect educators' needs.

### **What you can do**

ISTA is actively working with the bill's author on amendments to address concerns. Stay tuned for updates.

Read the ISTA [blog](#) and follow us on social media for more legislative updates and ways you can take action.

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