



02/18/19
Vol. 23, No. 04

www.hannah-in.com

INDIANA EDUCATION INSIGHT

Slew of safety bills not slowing

Sen. Holdman doubles school safety voting max levy, but with a caveat

Let's skip the formalities and proceed directly to the hot policy issues that are simmering in the 2019 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

The 85% Solution

The Indiana House voted along party lines to establish a goal that school districts spend 85% of their state funding in the classroom. Districts that are out of compliance with the target would have to submit a corrective action plan and could be ordered to appear before a state panel at a public meeting to answer questions. The legislation is intended to maximize the allocation of education funding to student instructional expenses, and to encourage districts to shift spending away from administration and overhead so that more money will be available for teacher compensation.

House Bill 1003 is authored by Rep. Dale DeVon (R) of Granger and coauthored by House Committee on Ways and Means Co-Chair Todd Huston (R) of Fishers, and the Senate sponsors are Senate Committee on Education and Career Development Chair Jeff Raatz (R) of Centerville and Senate Committee on Appropriations Chair Ryan Mishler (R) of Bremen.

Unlike House Enrolled Act 1006-2006, the original Daniels-era "Dollars to the Classroom" measure, HB 1003 would not create any new or expanded opportunities for districts to participate in shared services arrangements, purchasing cooperatives, or insurance pools.

Virtual Education

In a speech on the Indiana House floor, Rep. Ed DeLaney (D) of Indianapolis decried House Bill 1172 for making only minor changes to virtual education programs offered by charter schools and traditional public school corporations.

From the outset, Rep. Delaney vowed that he has "no objection" to "using virtual education for children who have physical or emotional issues that preclude their being comfortable in a standard environment or succeeding in a standard school environment. That is not the problem."

The problem, he insisted, is "the incredibly light touch we put on virtual education. We don't know if the students are watching. We don't really know who is teaching them. The teacher is often in some cases at home. The students are able to, you know, play video games while they are allegedly watching the teacher. It's not working. We don't have \$70 million dollars to spend on things that are not working."

Rep. DeLaney then ventured into the economics of virtual education. "It's being used by a few school districts that are in real financial trouble, and they have generally low enrollment, poor finances, so they go out and either become an authorizer or they become an actual owner/operator of a virtual school and draw in students from outside their district and enhance their revenue. I don't think virtual education is meant to be an alternative to fiscal integrity or to consolidation, but that's how it's being used."

He singled out the Union School Corporation in Randolph County and its contract with K12 Virtual Schools LLC to operate three schools: Indiana Digital Alternative School, Indiana Digital Elementary, and Indiana Digital Jr./High School.

For more, please see the following page . . .

One accreditation for all

Overhaul flies through with little attention

The Indiana House voted 87-0 to approve House Bill 1640, which would direct the State Board of Education to create a unified school accreditation system for traditional public schools, charter schools, and private schools.

HB 1640 would also eliminate the freeway accreditation program. That the bill has attracted so little attention so far speaks volumes about the value of the school accreditation system (which had been proposed for outright elimination several years back).

Language was added to the bill at the request of the Indiana Department of Education to amend the definition of instructional time to include "virtual education or electronic learning days (E-Learning days)" and to specify that a school day counts as a full day of instruction even if, due to weather or safety concerns, the school delays the start of the school day by two hours or dismisses students two hours early.

An unrelated amendment offered on Second Reading by Rep. Greg Porter (D) of Indianapolis would have mandated the application of existing bullying prevention laws to private schools . . . but his proposal perished on a party line vote.

IAPSS
Indiana Association of
Public School Superintendents

Serving Indiana Public School
District Leadership Since 1960

www.iapss-in.org

“They arranged with a for-profit company. You can look it up on the New York Stock Exchange, LRN is the symbol of the company. A for-profit company contracts with the school district to run the program. My understanding is the school district gets about five percent off the top and the rest goes off to the for-profit corporation,” asserted Rep. DeLaney.

Rep. DeLaney continued, “I don’t think that’s what we are intending to do with public education in this state, is to finance for-profit organizations who are taking advantage of two groups. It’s interesting. The two groups that are being taken advantage of are students whose parents aren’t committed to getting them into the classroom, or whose schools perhaps don’t want them in the classroom. And the other victim is the districts that have real problems that aren’t being addressed. Instead they are putting this band-aid on. The band-aid involves getting very little money for themselves and sending most of the money off to somebody else.”

The DeLaney bottom line: “I frankly think this needs to end ... these programs are not worth \$70 million per year when we can’t raise our teacher pay.”

House Committee on Education Chair Rep. Bob Behning (R) of Indianapolis responded that “The very principle of the bill is to go after some of the things you discussed,” and proceeded to share the stories of families he has met who have chosen virtual schools because they provide the flexibility their children need to be able to train for the U.S. Olympics and travel around the world to compete in motor cross.

Rep. Vernon Smith (D) of Gary, a co-author on the bill, was measured in his remarks. “While this bill does not address all of the concerns expressed by the State Board of Education, it is an attempt to increase the accountability of virtual schools,” said the ranking minority member of the House Education Committee.

But Rep. DeLaney was not finished. He exclaimed in disbelief that the Union School Corporation “didn’t set up a virtual program because they were worried about some Olympic athlete. They set up the program as a device to get money, and let me assure you the company on the stock market, LRN, isn’t worried about Olympic athletes either. If you’re fortunate enough to have an Olympic athlete in the family, I suggest you’ll find plenty of places that would be happy to provide them scholarships, training, and all sorts of help. Let’s not use the athletes as an excuse. The reality is districts are in trouble, and they take desperate acts. That’s what’s going on in this particular case.”

Finally, Rep. DeLaney warned that he could restrain himself no longer. “This issue in my view is the greatest threat to those people who claim they are advocates of quote choice, alright? Those who believe in educational choice sometime have to make a decision as to what choice is too much choice, what choice is a bad choice, what choice we should not support. I understand that all these national groups that advocate choice with all this money coming in from billionaires, telling us what to do, putting money in our school board races, helping us poor ignorant Hoosiers out – they want to protect this virtual thing. They gotta huddle together. They have to protect everybody.”

DeLaney concluded, “If you really believe in choice you ought to believe in good charter schools and enforce the requirement that they be good. You’ve taken them outside the system of control by the taxpayers, you’ve set them up as private entities, you’ve given them money. If they fail, say it. You are killing the choice movement ultimately by keeping this cancer onto your slogan.”

The bill was approved 92-3 and now heads over to the Senate where it will be sponsored by Sen. Raatz and Sen. Eddie Melton (D) of Gary, a former member of the State Board of Education.

School Safety Funding

The Indiana House voted unanimously to allow grants from the Secured School Safety Fund to cover the initial set-up costs of an active event warning system like the Rave Panic Button app.

During Second Reading on House Bill 1225, freshman Rep. Tonya Pfaff (D) of Terre Haute offered an amendment to eliminate the required match component for receiving a Secured School Safety grant. “We know that many schools are unable to apply for grant funding due to the fact that they cannot come up with matching funds,” said Rep. Pfaff, a math teacher at Terre Haute North Vigo High School. “All students deserve the opportunity to feel safe in their schools no matter what the fiscal situation of the school district they live in. We support this bill. We are just trying to make it better.”

Rep. Jim Lucas (R) of Seymour rose in opposition to the amendment because, he said, it would deplete the “limited, paltry resources we are putting into school safety.”

Rep. Lucas intoned, “Personally, I find it appalling that we are arguing about money for school safety. We’re talking about putting \$90 million into trails, but we’re up here arguing about \$5 million and \$14 million to keep our kids safe.”

Rep. Pfaff’s amendment was defeated on a largely party-line vote. HB 1225, which originated with the Indiana Sheriff’s Association, now moves to the Senate and will be sponsored by Sens. Randy Head (R) of Logansport, Ed Charbonneau (R) of Valparaiso, and Karen Tallian (D) of Portage. Refer to our last few issues for information about the biggest school safety bill of the year, House Bill 1004, which was voted through to the Senate back in January.

Guns in Schools

The House Committee on Education voted to approve House Bill 1253, which would allow teachers and other school employees to receive grants from the Safe Schools Fund to pay for firearms and active shooter scenario training. Grants would be limited to school districts that authorized their employees to carry or access handguns on school property. An Indiana School Boards Association survey found that five districts have authorized firearms for employees.

Allowing teachers who volunteer and undergo training to carry concealed weapons at school was a major recommendation of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission, claimed the bill’s author, Rep. Lucas of Seymour, during the committee hearing.

But freshman Rep. Chris Chyung (D) of Dyer claimed on the House floor on Second Reading that he has read the Parkland panel report, and that on no page does the report endorse the arming of teachers.

The Republican House majority rejected Democratic amendments seeking to require all armed school employees to successfully complete the specialized training course outlined in the bill, exclude virtual charter schools from receiving the grants, and prevent school boards from being sued if their teachers do not go through with the specialized training. Keith Gambill, vice-president of the Indiana State Teachers Association, and Sally Sloan, executive director of the American Federation for Teachers Indiana, opposed the bill in committee. The Indiana Student Safety Association testified in support. HB 1253 is co-authored by Rep. Chris Judy (R) of Fort Wayne and Rep. Christy Stutzman (R) of Middlebury.

High School Accountability

Rep Behning's House Committee on Education advanced House Bill 1404, which would direct the State Board of Education to align the high school accountability model with Graduation Pathways and incorporate postsecondary and workforce outcomes - potentially including employment and earnings.

Terry Spradlin, executive director of the Indiana School Boards Association, testified, "If this bill had stopped at graduation pathways, we would have supported it. But introducing the post-graduation metrics is problematic."

Spradlin observed that student success in college depends on a myriad of factors in addition to academic readiness. "For graduates going onto higher education, we should be proud that higher education institutions found the student's academic credentials worthy of admissions, but many students choose not to persist in college because of finances, life circumstances, family matters, and other non-academic reasons. How can school corporations be held accountable for young adults who no longer attend secondary education and make life decision that are independent of any support, guidance, ongoing education or training from our teachers, counselors, and school administrators?"

Similar concerns were voiced by the Indiana Department of Education, teachers, superintendents, and principals.

The author, Rep. Tony Cook (R) of Cicero, bristled at the pushback. High schools need to be held accountable for preparing students to succeed in college, affirmed the retired superintendent of the Hamilton Heights School Corporation. "We've dodged that bullet far too long in education," he said.

Preschool Expansion

The House Committee on Education also voted to approve a statewide expansion of the preschool pilot program for low-income four-year-olds, although the bill does not increase the amount of money available for the program, and Republicans have indicated they do not plan to increase funding for preschool until 2022 at the earliest.

However, unspent funds from the preschool appropriation (totaling approximately \$6.2 million, according to the Legislative Services Agency) have accumulated and will carry over to the upcoming biennium.

Rep. Jim Lucas (R) of Seymour noted during committee proceedings, "In the interest of protecting the taxpayer, we are going down a very expensive path very quickly," adding, "Head Start was a 50-year failure."

Rep. Behning, the bill's author, did not disagree. "There's no question the research is mixed. That's why we're focused on high quality to avoid the fade-out that can occur."

Although House Bill 1628 would allow all Indiana counties to participate in the pilot program, there are still nine counties (according to the Early Learning Advisory Committee) that do not have a single high-quality early childhood education provider, while 37 counties (40%) have two or fewer high-quality providers. Of the more than 5,200 early childhood education providers in the state, only about 1,198 (23%) meet the definition of high quality that's required for programs to participate in the pilot.

School Safety Referendum

The Senate voted 42-7 to approve SB 127, which would authorize school districts to impose a school safety tax levy if approved at a

referendum. The bill's author, Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy Chair Travis Holdman (R) of Markle, says "we just don't have adequate funds in the state budget and through the appropriations process to fund school hardening, mental health, school resource officers, all the things we think need to be done on school safety."

The bill as introduced allowed a school safety levy of up to five cents, but an amendment incorporated by the Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy at the author's request doubled the max levy to 10 cents - but with a trade-off. If the levy exceeds 7.5 cents, the district would forfeit its ability to receive grants from the Secured School Safety Fund. A school safety tax levy referendum could last for up to 10 years before it would need to be approved, unlike a regular referendum which is limited to eight years. SB 127 is very prescriptive, says Sen. Holdman, on the one-time costs and ongoing operational expenses that the school safety referendum dollars can support. The House sponsor is Ways and Means Co-Chair Huston.



FIRST TO KNOW, FIRST TO ACT
Legislative Information in Real-Time

Research | Track | Report | Communicate | Analyze

www.hannah-in.com

Also added in Tax and Fiscal Policy: language from Sen. Jim Tomes (R) of Wadesville, president of Second Amendment Patriots, expanding the purpose of the Secured School Safety grant fund to cover firearms training for school personnel.

Jay County Schools Superintendent Jeremy Gulley testified in committee in support of armed and trained teachers because, he said, law enforcement “response times will never be fast enough to save lives, as rural as we are.” He reminded the panel that the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooter killed 15 and wounded 17 in less than five minutes. Jay County Sheriff Dwane Ford conceded that Jay County will likely never be able to afford to put a full-time police officer in all eight of the district’s schools.

Superintendent Gulley made it clear that JCS does not arm teachers in the classroom. “I do not accept the risks associated with accidental discharge or loss of a firearm,” he said. Instead, firearms are stored in biometric safes placed in strategic locations throughout the schools. The volunteer employees who were chosen to have access to the firearms to protect students underwent a psychological evaluation and screening and 33 hours of training.

Dr. Gulley, who also serves as a battalion commander in the Indiana Army National Guard, endorsed the school safety referendum option because it’s “locally driven” and “gives us the flexibility to increase armed security, possibly add school resource officers, mental health, and sensible physical hardening.”

District Annexation

The Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy reluctantly agreed to approve Senate Bill 421, which would establish a process for school districts to expand their boundaries via annexation. The measure was authored by Sen. Mike Bohacek (R) of Michiana Shores to settle a dispute in St. Joseph County involving Greene Township residents who are seeking to leave the South Bend Community School Corporation and join the John Glenn School Corporation after the SBCSC school board voted to close the only Greene Township school.

Sen. Bohacek disagreed with testimony predicting that the bill sets the stage for “referendum shopping.”

Lisa Tanselle of the Indiana School Boards Association testified the bill could impact any school corporation whose boundaries happen to be near an elementary or middle school of a neighboring school corporation. “It’s going to allow those individuals to say ‘we would prefer to go to this school because it is closer,’” she speculated. Sen. Raatz, the education panel chair, agreed “this could get really ugly.”

However, Chris Lagoni, executive director of the Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association, testified that ISRSA views annexation of townships as a positive solution for its member districts.

IN Elementary & Secondary Ed

IN General . . .

- Stand for Children Indiana tweets, “Indiana teacher salaries plummeted 15% between 2000 and 2017. Enough is enough. Leave a voicemail for our Governor and tell him to boost teacher pay.”

- Governor Eric Holcomb (R) names the members of the Next Level Teacher Compensation Commission tasked with providing recommendations prior to the 2021 legislative session on making teacher pay more competitive. Much of the initial reaction seemed to focus on the lack of any current K-12 educators . . . and the number of individuals with a corporate and financial background. Note also the geographic diversity. The seven-person panel will work “hand in glove” with the advisory council, the Governor’s Office explains.

Commission Members

- Chair Michael L. Smith (Indianapolis), former chair, president, and CEO of Mayflower Group and former executive vice president and CFO of Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Jená Bellezza (Gary), COO of Indiana Parenting Institute and member of the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet
- Tom Easterday (Zionsville), former senior executive CP and chief legal officer for Subaru of Indiana Automotive, former senior litigation attorney for Mayflower Group, former chief counsel for the Indiana Senate
- Marianne Glick (Indianapolis), chair of the Eugene & Marilyn Glick Family Foundation, board member of the Gene B. Glick Company
- Bob Jones (Evansville), Old National Bancorp Chair and CEO
- Katie Jenner (Madison), vice president of K-12 initiatives and statewide partnerships at Ivy Tech Community College, former assistant superintendent of the Madison Consolidated Schools
- Nancy Jordan (Fort Wayne), senior vice president of Lincoln Financial Group

Advisory Council Members

- Melissa Ambre (Noblesville), director of the Office of School Finance for the Indiana Department of Education
- Lee Ann Kwiatkowski (Greenwood), senior education advisor to the Governor, executive director of the State Board of Education
- Emily Holt (Arcadia), math teacher at Westfield High School
- Dan Holub (Indianapolis), executive director of the Indiana State Teachers Association
- Denise Seger (Granger), chief human resource officer for the Concord Community Schools in Elkhart
- David Smith (Evansville), superintendent of the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation
- With funds from a Secured School Safety Grant, the Jay County Schools has acquired a walk-through metal detection system, in addition to the hand-held metal detection wands that were offered at no cost to all Indiana school districts from the State of Indiana. A survey that garnered 599 responses found that 90% supported the use of random metal detection in the event of a threat against the school, and 77% supported metal detectors to deter weapons being brought into the school. The district recently conducted a “very successful” first test of the walk-through metal detection system at Jay County High School.

- Indiana earns an overall grade of C- in the *State Student Privacy Report Card* published by the Parent Coalition for Student Privacy and the Network for Public Education. Indiana was identified as a state that places no restrictions on the commercialization of student data.

- During an event in Merrillville sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Coalition for Public Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction **Jennifer McCormick (R)** noted the state recently saw the largest increase in teacher licensing since 2000 . . . but added that it's hard to get excited when 35% of Indiana teachers leave the profession within their first five years of teaching, reports the *Times of Northwest Indiana*.

- In a guest column about workforce alignment for Building Indiana, Superintendent of Public Instruction **Jennifer McCormick (R)** writes that the Indiana Department of Education has committed to “piloting career exploration programs in middle schools across our state, realigning advanced courses for high-wage and high-demand career sequencing, providing business externships for educators, creating and implementing a statewide STEM plan, and providing comprehensive professional development for educators.” She says schools need to be “offering a wide variety of relevant career preparation and exploration opportunities for our students” and that students need the tools to make informed decisions when selecting “a future career that ignites their passions and considers lifetime earning powers.”

- The Indiana Department of Education submitted its amendment to Indiana’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan on February 1.

- The League of Women Voters of Henry County hosts Superintendent of Public Instruction **Jennifer McCormick (R)** and **Julia Vaughn**, policy director of Common Cause, for their presentation “How Gerrymandering Defines Indiana’s Educational Policies.” The event will take place Tuesday, February 26, at 7:00 PM in the auditorium of the New Castle-Henry County Public Library at 376 South 15th Street, New Castle. The presentation will explore the connection between the drawing of voting districts and what is happening in education. The League will provide information on how to get involved in redistricting reform “that will make lawmakers more accountable to their constituents and more responsive to educators’ and the community’s educational goals.”

- The Carmel-based education and technology firm that you have known as CuroGens Learning changes its name and relaunches as GoNext Education.

IN Administration . . .

- Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy in Gary remained closed for two weeks because of the extreme cold and polar vortex causing pipes to burst, reported WBBM-TV *CBS 2* in Chicago. “Everyone involved agrees that major repairs are needed to be made at the high school. What’s not clear tonight is what those exact fixes are and who’s going to pay for it,” the TV station reported. Students finally went back to class - but at the Gary Area Career Center, while crews continue to assess Roosevelt.

IN Budgets & Finance . . .

- After four consecutive years of deficit spending, the superintendent of the Lakeland School Corporation has proposed closing two of the three elementary schools at the end of the school year. With the associated staff reductions, the closure of Lima-Brighton Elementary School and Wolcott Mills Elementary School would save about \$1 million. Both facilities are operating at less than 50% capacity. At the first school board listening session on the deficit-reduction plan, the *Kendallville News Sun* reported “none of the 200 or so people who attended were even remotely in favor of the school system’s proposal to close two elementary schools by year’s end in order to save the corporation money.”

- The MSD of Warren County’s Seeger School Building Corporation goes to market on Tuesday with \$14 million in Ad Valorem Property Tax First Mortgage Bonds, Series 2019, with maturity dates between 2023 and 2026. Umbaugh LLP is the financial advisor.

IN Compensation . . .

- The Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools Board approved new pay incentives for bus drivers, including reimbursement of all fees associated with certification, a \$500 year-end bonus for no absences, and health insurance eligibility for drivers who drive 30 or more hours a week on regular routes and extracurricular events.

- The Indianapolis Public Schools Board of School Commissioners approves 3.0% raises for most of the 1,700 non-teaching staff, many of whom have not receive an increase in more than a decade. Select employee groups received pay bumps exceeding 3.0%, including food center workers (22%) and police (10%).

IN Non-Public Schools . . .

- The International School of Indiana is the only school in the state offering the rigorous International Baccalaureate as the default curriculum for all students beginning at age three - and Indiana’s only school offering full language immersion in three languages for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. Most of its students are trilingual by the time they graduate. Students in pre-school and lower-elementary school receive education almost exclusively in an immersion model in French, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. In grades four and five, the immersion language reduces, and English makes up about half of the day. Students who are proficient in French, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese by sixth grade may begin studying a third language.

- Cathedral High School in Indianapolis freezes tuition at \$15,765 for the 2019-20 school year.

- The Indiana Non-Public Education Association hires **Julian Peebles**, former president and CEO of Cathedral High School, as part-time director of advancement.

IN Charter Schools . . .

- The GEO Foundation submits the winning \$4.1 million bid to purchase two buildings and 29.6 acres of land from Ivy Tech Community College in Gary. With the opening of a new Ivy Tech building on the campus of IU Northwest and programs relocating to the Crown Point site acquired in a long term lease with the Purdue Research Foundation, Ivy Tech no longer had use for the former Gary campus, which will apparently become the 21st Century Charter School.



*Indiana Association of
Public School Superintendents*

*Serving Indiana Public School
District Leadership Since 1960*

DELIVERING

HIGH QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTING

*THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS
THROUGH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT*

PROVIDING

*THE VOICE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION
IN THE STATE OF INDIANA*

One North Capital Ave. Suite 1215, Indianapolis, In 46204

www.iapss-in.org

Dr. J. T. Coopman, Executive Director

Thank you for being a member of IAPSS!

- The Indianapolis Academy of Excellence, located in the impoverished Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood, is up for renewal by the State Charter School Board. The school finally had a large-enough cohort to receive a letter grade from the state for the first time in the 2017-2018 school year, receiving an F (46/50 growth points and 7/50 performance points). IAE is no longer part of the TeamCFA network that founded the school in 2014. One week prior to the start of the 2018-19 school year, TeamCFA communicated its plan to exit the Indiana market. The school had initially projected a first-year enrollment of 260 students. Actual enrollment in the first year was 56. Enrollment had grown to 146 by Fall 2018. The school has a capacity to serve 350 students.

□ To improve academic performance, IAE is implementing cultural competency development for staff, Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS), trauma-informed practices, restorative discipline, curriculum maps, data analysis to support Response to Intervention, Professional Learning Communities, and formative assessments.

- The Indiana Charter School Board received seven letters of intent for the Spring 2019 cycle:

- HIM by HER Foundation, Inc. (HIM by HER Collegiate School of the Arts)

- Educating Children Matters, Inc. (Indianapolis STEAM Academy)

- The Morning Bishop Theatre Playhouse, Inc. (Bishop Scholars & Arts Charter Boarding School)

- Academy of Mathematics and Science, Inc. (Academy of Math and Science)

- Greater Education Opportunities Foundation, Inc. (GEO's Next Generation Academy)

- Fort Wayne Center for Education (Soaring Heights Academy)

- ReThink Forward (Thomas Carr Howe Community School, Emmerich Manual High School, Emma Donnan Elementary & Middle School)

- Purdue Polytechnic High School will open its second Indianapolis charter school this Summer in Broad Ripple with an inaugural class of up to 150 freshmen for the 2019-2020 school year. The high school will occupy a 12,400 square-foot building at 1405 Broad Ripple Avenue, formerly home to the Central Indiana Community Foundation. The building will be owned and operated by Indianapolis-based Keystone Group, and will serve as a temporary location for Purdue Polytechnic while a permanent facility in Broad Ripple is secured in partnership with Keystone.

□ The first Purdue Polytechnic currently operates out of Circle Centre Mall but plans to co-locate with the Paramount School of Excellence (a K-8) on the eastside of Indianapolis beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

- After surveying families, Rural Community Academy in Sullivan changes its original plan to focus on K-6 education, and retain its 7th and 8th grade classes. The school will seek room to accommodate those students as well as a new pre-school component. RCA may lease the Turman Township Community Center to house the upper-level grades, with the objective of splitting off a middle-school campus and opening pre-school school classes by 2020.

- Andrew Norris joins the board of directors for Indiana Online Learning Options, the governing board for Indiana Connections Academy. He's the assistant general counsel at OneAmerica and a former policy and intergovernmental affairs director under then-Gov. Mitch Daniels (R).

- The former Otis E. Brown School 20 in the Indianapolis Public Schools will become the new home of the Invent Learning Hub, which is set to open in Fall 2019.

- The submission by Charter Schools USA of a letter of intent to the Indiana Charter School Board to convert the three Indianapolis turnaround academies into charter schools takes all the drama out of the School Transition Task Force recommendations, which are scheduled to be presented to the State Board of Education in March. The task force has been meeting with the public to determine what should happen to Howe and Manual high schools, and Emma Donnan Elementary and Middle School once they exit turnaround status in June 2020.

□ "I'm amazed at the public hearings where 2-3-400 people show up to give us input, and that's just unheard of," said State Board of Education member Dr. David Freitas, who sits on the Transition Task Force on behalf of the State Board. "I'm excited to have Charlie (Schlegel) come back next month to share the recommendations of the committee, and I want you to know up front that they are going to be well-researched, community-supported recommendations."

IN Programs & Curriculum . . .

- The South Bend Community School Corporation appeared to be ready to carve out a transformation zone for Navarre Middle School and four feeder elementary schools, but plans may still be up in the air after the item was yanked from the State Board of Education's February agenda on the day of the meeting. Navarre has received a failing grade for six consecutive years and is eligible for state intervention.

- Rollout of a PATHS To Quality 2.0 rating system has been tentatively scheduled for the end of 2020.

- The East Allen County Schools will launch an automation and robotics training program in partnership with Vincennes University this Fall. The *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* reports renovations are underway in EACS to create a new vocational school and that additional programs are under development in advanced manufacturing, computer science, health science, and pharmacy tech.

IN Policy . . .

- The Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation Board of Trustees adopts a policy allowing the search of all people, students, parents, staff, and visitors who enter district property or buildings, board or ride district buses, or attend school activities off-site. Notice of an intent to conduct such searches will be provided at least annually.

- South Bend NAACP education chair Oletha Jones and Lisa Guisbond with the National Center for Fair & Open Testing co-author a guest column published in the *South Bend Tribune* applauding Indiana officials for abandoning the high school exit exam . . . but recommending that the state go even further by granting diplomas retroactively to students who met every other graduation requirement but were unable to pass the graduation qualifying exam.

IN Referenda . . .

- Voters will be asked May 7 to determine the fate of a \$37.6 million school improvement and renovation project for the DeKalb County Central United School District. The property tax rate increase of an estimated \$0.3391 will be offset by the expiration of other debt obligations.

- The Waterloo-based district proposes to enlarge the kitchen and cafeteria and convert the courtyard into usable education space at J.R. Watson Elementary School; refurbish lighting, flooring, and walls at DeKalb Middle School; replace boilers at DeKalb High School; and improve security. In addition, the referendum would pay for construction of a 45,000-square-foot fieldhouse, synthetic turf baseball field, synthetic turf softball field, synthetic turf football field, synthetic turf soccer field, cross country pavilion, press box and concessions at the football stadium, additional track lanes, tennis court pavilion, reconstruction of the middle school football field, improvements to the two soccer practice fields, and soccer building renovations.

- The M.S.D. of Wayne Township will ask voters in May to approve a referendum tax levy raising \$10 million annually for eight years. Property taxes would increase by 35 cents to pay for academic programming, security, transportation, preventive maintenance, and teacher recruitment and retention.

- Voters in the Franklin Community Schools are being asked to approve a referendum tax increase of 23 cents to bring in an estimated \$3.5 million annually for employee raises, mental health counselors, managing class sizes, and growing district reserves. Starting teacher salaries would be increased from \$37,500 to \$40,000, while the 275 support staff would see their pay grow by 10% or more.

- The Duneland School Corporation will go to the polls in May seeking the renewal of a 22-cent referendum property tax levy.

- The Plymouth Community Schools School Board voted unanimously last week to adopt a referendum tax levy resolution to be voted on in the May 7 primary election. WTCA 106-FM in Plymouth explains that “The referendum would raise property taxes by up to 19 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for an eight-year period.”

- Plymouth Schools Superintendent **Andy Hartley** tells the station that “the money raised would be earmarked for enhanced safety and security initiatives, mental health support programs, and attracting and retaining teachers. Hartley said the 19 cent increase is a not-to-exceed and any increase would be based on need. Hartley indicated that the board determined the need for an increase is based on current revenue calculations for the years 2020 through an including 2027.”

- The superintendent observed that “there is a need to provide additional aid in the areas of mental health along with social and emotional supports for students. Currently there are two social workers at the elementary level and each divides time between two schools. Riverside Intermediate and Plymouth High School each have one mental health counselor and Lincoln Junior High does not have any. Hartley said, ‘One particular goal has been to have at least one full-time social worker in every school.’”

- Superintendent Hartley also cited the need to attract and retain teachers given that the starting PCS teacher salary “is lower than the starting pay at Warsaw, Argos, Triton, John Glenn, and LaVille schools.”

IN Construction & Facilities . . .

- The Zionsville Community Schools is recommending the construction of a sixth elementary school, given demographic projections showing enrollment is likely to increase by 200 students each year for the next decade.

- Expansion of Zionsville Community High School is also on the drawing board, reports *Current in Zionsville*. “We do not see the high school being able to make it to 2026 without an expansion that we are predicting to be best implemented for the 2022-2023 timeframe,” said ZCS Superintendent **Scott Robison**. “The discussion about whether or not to do yet another expansion or to consider the one versus two high schools question again could wait until the 2026 time frame. An important consideration for this study and planning we have been doing is to recommend phasing that gives future school boards the opportunity to consider variables (funding, enrollment growth rate, etc.) in play when they are the decision makers without having a variety of options overly foreclosed upon by what we do with the possible 2022-2023 expansions,” adds Dr. Robison.

- The Goshen Community Schools retains Stifel Nicolaus & Company Inc. as bond underwriter for the upcoming \$65 million referendum construction project.

- The Brownsburg Community School Corporation Board of Trustees approves entering into a lease agreement to fund \$12.5 million in construction projects, including re-roofing of Brown, office reconfiguration at West Middle School, paving projects, and assorted refurbishments.

- The school board of the Jay School Corporation adopts a 1028 resolution authorizing the district to repurpose and renovate Jay County High School as a 7-12 building with separate spaces for junior high and senior high students, repurpose existing middle school buildings into elementary schools, and make necessary renovations to accommodate sixth grade at the existing elementary schools.

- The Kankakee Valley School Corporation receives approval from the school board for a lease with Wabash Valley Energy Marketing for construction of a solar facility and a subscription agreement with Jasper County REMC allowing KVSC to lock in a rate for a portion of the district's electrical use.

- The South Knox School Corporation School Board approves a set of 10 projects for work this Summer, according to WZDM 92.1-FM in Vincennes.

- SKSC becomes the latest district deciding to install new tennis courts; this project at South Knox High School is the most expensive in the package, estimated at \$150,000. SKSC also plans replacement of HVAC, air intake, and insulation units at South Knox Elementary School; replacement of an HVAC unit at South Knox High School; and “an upgrade of auditorium lighting; installing a new trophy case; refinishing of the main gym floor, and replacement of teacher desks and the Middle School sound system.” The total cost of the projects fall slightly south of \$500,000.

- The Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools Board of Education convened a public work session on February 11 to present an update to the long-range facilities plan.

- As we were heading to press with this issue, the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was expected to vote on a proposal to begin the advertising process for bids to install artificial turf at Northview High School, with the approximate \$1 million cost likely to be covered with Rainy Day Fund cash.

- The pothole situation nearby Franklin Township Middle School East in Indianapolis got so bad last week that the school principal sent a letter to parents imploring them to call the city and complain about the conditions after the city had failed to respond to the principal's own requests to fill the potholes. Crews finally showed up after the city councilor for the district intervened, with Wednesday night and Thursday morning patching. The principal was still unimpressed with the effort, telling WXIN-TV *Fox 59* in Indianapolis Thursday evening, "Unfortunately, the roads have not been repaired to the level that ensures our students safety." The Department of Public Works promised closure for Friday.

IN Transition . . .

- The State Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the request from Gov. Eric Holcomb (R) to name Dr. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski as executive director of the Board. She will serve in a dual role, continuing her work as senior education advisor to the Governor.

- Andrew Melin, who left his position as superintendent of the Greater Clark County Schools in December, has been hired by the Indiana Department of Education as chief innovation officer. IDOE's new Office of Innovation will oversee workforce, STEM, CTE, teacher effectiveness, teacher licensing, and educator preparation.

- Condolences to the family of North Newton School Corporation Superintendent Destin Haas, who passed away unexpectedly in his home in Fowler on February 3.

- Shane O'Day will leave his position as principal of Shortridge High School on July 1 and plans to take some time off to travel the world with his wife.

- The Community Schools of Frankfort approves a new 2½-year contract with Superintendent Don DeWeese - which will also be his final contract. The contract, which offers a 2.5% pay increase (to a base rate of \$122,375), expires on June 30, 2021, and that will be when Superintendent DeWeese's retirement date. The new deal allows him to purchase one additional year of service in the retirement fund

- Assistant Superintendent Joel McKinney was awarded a contract extension that also expires on June 30, 2021, and he is viewed as CSF's heir apparent to DeWeese.

- The Indianapolis Public Schools Board of Commissioners tentatively plans to publicly announce two to three superintendent finalists in May. The final candidates will be invited to community tours and public interviews.

IN Government . . .

- Rep. Randy Lyness (R) and Sens. Jean Leising (R) and Jeff Raatz (R) received an earful about home-school issues during a Breakfast With Your Legislators session at Franklin County High School, reported the *Rushville Republican*. Laurel Elementary School Principal Lisa Baudendistel told the lawmakers, "The frustration with home schooling is students don't get instruction for years and then a parent decides to put a child in our school as a sixth-grader. This child is on a second-grade level, and this happens a lot." The principal decried the accountability structures that require "public schools to be held accountable when children who have been home-schooled for years show up in middle school and are several grade levels behind where they should be."

- During debate on the House floor, Rep. Bob Behning (R) of Indianapolis highlighted what he referred to as an "appalling" problem and loophole in the system. "The number of students that virtual schools are providing services to that have left out traditional public schools with a significant deficiency in terms of credits, it's amazing to me. I asked the Department of Education to pull a data report on a Code 20. When our kids leave our schools today to go to home school, they have to fill out a form called Code 20. The IDOE now tracks that data and can tell you exactly how many students from each high school leave to go to home school. We have almost 10,000 kids a year leave to go to home school. 5,000 of those are in secondary. The data shows a significant number of those are exiting to home school second semester after the count date. It's appalling when you see the number of credits that some of those students have. I think we need to really vet that before we attack virtuals. What's happening with virtuals is those students leave their schools and show up in a virtual count, which impacts the virtual performance," said the chair of the House Committee on Education.

- The Indiana Senate votes unanimously to approve Senate Bill 434, a measure that would allow the State Board of Education to issue a "null" or "no letter grade" to a school if based on "objective factors" such as "significant demographic changes in the student population" the school shows that the "assessment data does not accurately reflect" the school's performance or academic growth.

- The bill was authored by Sen. Andy Zay (R) of Huntington. House sponsors are Rep. Dave Wolkins (R) of Winona Lake and Rep. Ryan Lauer (R) of Columbus.

- After a full-court press by education associations, Sen. Blake Doriot (R) of Goshen withdrew from consideration his Senate Bill 246, his legislation that would have limited school referenda to only being voted upon in a general election.

- The Senate Committee on Appropriations on Thursday voted unanimously to approve Senate Bill 266, the Senate's primary school safety bill of the session.

- Special education advocates were spreading the word that Senate Bill 507 and House Bill 1629 could complicate parental participation in due process by making parents financially liable for litigation expenses. HB 1629 was heard in the House Committee on Education on Wednesday but did not receive a vote. The disputed section of SB 507 was deleted Wednesday by the Senate Committee on Education and Career Development.

- The House Committee on Education voted 9-4 to approve House Bill 1641, legislation developed by the committee chair, Rep. **Bob Behning** (R) of Indianapolis, in consultation with the Indianapolis Public Schools and others to expedite the timeline for disposing of unused school buildings. **Libby Cierzniak**, a partner with **Faegre Baker Daniels LLP** and long-time counsel for the Indianapolis Public Schools, explained during the committee hearing that reducing the charter school claiming period from two years to 90 days will make a difference because “that’s less time that a school corporation has to pay the expenses to keep and maintain” an empty building. Currently, the charter school claiming period doesn’t start until July 1, but this bill allows the process to begin within 10 days after the school board takes action, added Cierzniak. If a charter school doesn’t claim the building within the 90 day period, HB 1641 gives a private school, postsecondary institution, or non-profit organization a right of first refusal to purchase the property.

- In addition, the bill includes language that essentially allows IPS to sell Broad Ripple High School to a developer on the condition that the developer make space on the property for a particular charter school. Language in the bill to share referendum revenue with charter schools was taken out in committee, although Rep. **Jack Jordan** (R) of Bremen voiced support for revisiting the issue down the line.

- Tempers flared during Second Reading when Rep. **Dan Forestal** (D) of Indianapolis unveiled the amendment he has been working on for more than eight months with the Indiana Department of Education. His proposal would prohibit private schools that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity from receiving school vouchers. The amendment was inspired by **Roncalli High School** guidance counselor **Shelley Fitzgerald**, who is facing termination for being in a same-sex relationship. “What gives you the right to impose your beliefs on private schools?” inquired Rep. **Tim Wesco** (R) of Osceola. “I’m not telling them what they can and can’t do,” retorted **Roncalli** alum **Forestal**. “All I’m saying is public tax dollars should not be spent at schools that discriminate.” Rep. **Wesco** summarized his opposition to the amendment with a question: “Is it discriminatory for Christian congregations to live out their sincerely held moral beliefs - which they have held for thousands of years?” Rep. **Matt Pierce** (D) of Bloomington confessed that he didn’t like having to tell the Catholic Church how to run its schools, but at the same time he said he represents constituents who want more accountability for how their taxpayer dollars are spent.

- The amendment was defeated on a 32-63 vote, with all but one member of the House Republican Caucus (Rep. **Sean Eberhart** (R) of Shelbyville) who participated in the vote voting it down.

- After the vote, Rep. **Forestal** issued a statement asserting that House Republicans sent a strong message of support for discrimination against faculty, staff and students in schools that benefit from public tax dollars. “**Roncalli** has received more than \$6 million in taxpayer funds as part of the state’s voucher program,” **Forestal** said. “It concerns me as someone who graduated from **Roncalli**, a lifelong Hoosier, and a state legislator that Hoosier tax dollars are funding **Roncalli**’s discriminatory practices.”

- Students in the 2023 high school graduating class would have to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in order to receive a high school diploma, under House Bill 1629, which received a hearing but not a vote in the House Committee on Education on Wednesday.

- The Senate voted to approve Senate Bill 508 authored by Sen. **Jeff Raatz** (R) of Centerville, which would lighten the load of mandatory teacher training requirements by putting them on a five-year cycle. “Each of these trainings are equally important,” said Sen. **Raatz**, chair of the Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, “and this bill would organize when and how the trainings must be completed to ensure teachers are effectively trained in each area without overwhelming them with trainings every single year.”

- Senate Bill 549 authored by Sen. **Victoria Spartz** (R) of Noblesville left the Senate Committee on Appropriations without language authorizing a school board representative with full voting powers on local redevelopment commissions.

- The House voted unanimously to approve House Bill 1473, a bill pertaining to the Indiana Bond Bank that would require the State Board of Education - in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Education - to submit an annual report to the State Budget Committee on any charter schools that have defaulted on the repayment of advances from the Common School Fund. The amendment was approved by the House Committee on Ways and Means at the request of Rep. **Greg Porter** (D) of Indianapolis, its ranking Democrat.

- The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development approves Senate Bill 55, constituent-driven legislation authored by Sen. **Aaron Freeman** (R) of Indianapolis on behalf of a transient family. The bill would require the Indiana Department of Education to accept applications from November 1 through January 15 for second semester choice scholarships. An earlier version of the measure reinstated a Spring count date for school funding purposes, but that language has since been removed.

- **Caitlin Bell**, vice president of policy and government relations for the Institute for Quality Education, regaled senators with a recap of how we got to this point. In 2016 then-Sen. **Carlin Yoder** (R) authored SB 334 to establish a second semester voucher window. His language merged into HB 1005, which was signed by the governor and was set to take effect on July 1, 2017. However, the 2017 budget bill eliminated the Spring count date for school funding and thus struck the second voucher application window, noted **Bell**.

- In FY 2018, 1,378 students exited the Choice Scholarship Program during the school year. Under current law, those students forfeit the remainder of their Choice Scholarship and cannot enroll in another choice eligible school as a choice student. In FY 2018, the Indiana Department of Education withheld just under \$500,000 from choice schools due to Choice Scholarship students leaving before the end of the school year.

- The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development advances Senate Bill 507 after approving an amendment that changed from a “shall” to a “may” the adoption by the State Board of Education of: (1) an early warning system for identifying students who are not on track to graduate on time; and (2) a graduation pathways tracking and reporting system.

□ The bill also requires annual performance evaluations for certificated employees to be conducted by a certified evaluator. The State Board of Education is directed to prescribe the process for approving training programs for evaluator certification and the process for evaluators to obtain recertification every five years.

IN Courts & Conduct . . .

- The Brown County School Corporation terminated high school track coach **Richard Gist** for posting a years-old photo of himself on social media dressed in blackface as **Bob Marley** after he turned down an offer to resign, participate in sensitivity training over the Summer, and then return to the district in the Fall.

- A 13-year-old has been charged with intimidation after he allegedly said to Siri, iPhone's voice assistant, that he planned a school shooting, and Siri replied with a list of schools in the Valparaiso area. The teen posted a screenshot of the inquiry and response on social media. Police believe the boy, identified as a Chesterton Middle School student, meant the social media post as a sick joke.

- The Terre Haute Police Department investigated a threat made against Terre Haute South Vigo High School on social media late Wednesday night, and, in a Thursday press conference, informed the community that investigators were able to trace an IP address to a residence with three adults and three juveniles, and a search turned up no firearms. Police said that all six were cooperative and consented to a search of their respective electronic devices.

□ The crudely spelled and constructed threat referred to the year-old Florida school shooting, and despite police believing that there was no substantive concern, additional resource officers were posted at every Vigo County school on Thursday.

- Twin Lakes Senior High School in Monticello saw police presence beefed up Thursday following a possible threat. The district posted to its Facebook page that "The Twin Lakes High School Administration has received several reports about a possible threat on Thursday, February 14, 2019. We immediately began working with our local law enforcement to investigate all leads. A thorough investigation and questioning of students by administration and local law enforcement was completed. Although nothing was found, we are still being proactive and increasing our police presence within the building. Twin Lakes cares about our students' safety and takes these concerns seriously; therefore, we appreciate all the information we have received from our students and parents!"

- *Haynes v. So. Bend Comm'ty School Corp.*, No. 71D06-1708-CT-000379, a civil tort case filed last August in St. Joseph County Superior Court 6 was transferred to U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana last week, captioned as *VW, et al., v. So. Bend Comm'ty School Corp.*, No. 3:2019cv00090. The transfer in this hotly litigated matter was requested by the South Bend Community School Corporation, which was being sued by the parent of a special needs student who was injured in April 17 after a school employee allegedly left the pre-school child unattended in a wheelchair near a ramp, resulting in the child's fall and injury.

- The Indiana Department of Education sends a formal cease and desist letter to a former employee who posted an unauthorized version of a documentary about the education of migrant children to YouTube, Facebook, and Vimeo.

□ The film was authorized and funded (apparently to the tune of some \$60,000) under former state superintendent **Glenda Ritz (D)** but was shelved when the current administration took over. The letter from **Andrew Bernlohr**, director of the IDOE's Office of Legal Affairs, warns that the release of the video is a "violation of post-employment ethics rules in revealing information that is deemed intellectual property of the Indiana Department of Education" and also "violates the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as the version was released without parental consent" since "Any previous parental releases applied specifically and solely to IDOE."

- Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation Superintendent **Jerry Sanders** is admonished by the president of the school board for letters he sent to local Christian churches asking church leaders to pray for the district. School board president **Dana Kerr** said Dr. Sanders should not have used official stationery with the district's letterhead. The issue received substantial Indianapolis media play.

- An 18-year-old student from Tippecanoe Valley High School was arrested on February 5 and charged with two counts of intimidation for allegedly threatening (over Facebook Messenger) to shoot the vice principal and a classmate. The investigation was handled by the Fulton County Sheriff's Department, Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department, and Mentone Police.

- The parents of a six-year-old female student file a civil action against the Elkhart Community Schools and the principal of Mary Daly Elementary School claiming that officials were negligent in responding to the sexual assault and abuse of their daughter by a classmate. The parents request a jury trial and an award of \$700,000 for each occurrence of abuse.

- The email account of the principal of Greenfield Central High School was apparently broken into by a student, who then sent out one email announcing that school had been canceled . . . and another with a potential threat, reported *WTHR-TV 13 Eyewitness News* in Indianapolis.

IN Higher Education

IN General . . .

- Northwest Middle School received a trophy from Indianapolis Mayor **Joe Hogsett (D)** and Indy Achieves for enrolling 100% of its eligible students in the 21st Century Scholars program. Indy Achieves is Mayor Hogsett's comprehensive education initiative to increase postsecondary attainment rates by supporting FAFSA completion, 21st Century Scholars participation, Indy Achieves Promise scholarships, and wraparound support services. School counselors at Northwest Middle School achieved the 100% rate through a multi-faceted strategy of meeting with every student, calling all parents, making home visits, and awarding incentives.

□ Indy Achieves developed for school counselors in Marion County a 21st Century Scholars online enrollment toolkit with information on best practices gleaned from Northwest Middle School and other high-performing schools. Currently, just 51% of eligible students in Marion County take advantage of financial aid offered by 21st Century Scholars.

● The College Board reports that 20.2% (13,403) of Indiana public high school graduates in 2018 scored a 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement exam, a 10.0-point increase since 2008 - the ninth strongest rate of growth in the nation. Approximately 38.9% (25,892) of Hoosier high school graduates in 2018 took at least one AP exam.

□ Indiana set new records for student participation in Advanced Placement for the 21st consecutive year. A record 51,184 Hoosier students took a record 88,225 AP exams in 2018. Approximately 52% of all AP exams taken in Indiana in 2018 were scored a 3 or higher. Physics had the lowest rate of Hoosier test-takers who scored at least a 3.

Top 10 In-State Schools for Hoosiers Sending AP Scores

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Indiana University | 3,880 |
| Purdue University | 3,875 |
| IUPUI | 1,646 |
| Ball State University | 1,567 |
| Univ Southern Indiana | 593 |
| Indiana State University | 552 |
| Butler University | 464 |
| Univ of Indianapolis | 402 |
| Purdue Fort Wayne | 402 |
| Purdue Northwest | 327 |

Top 5 Out-of-State Schools for Hoosiers Sending AP Scores

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| University of Louisville | 132 |
| University of Cincinnati | 131 |
| University of Kentucky | 87 |
| Western Kentucky University | 73 |
| Miami University Oxford | 60 |

IN Enrollments . . .

● Indiana State University is bracing for Fall 2019 enrollments to drop by 375 to 600 students (- 3.0% to - 5.0%), essentially a repeat of Fall 2018 when enrollments were off by 577 students (- 4.4%). The contractions are attributed to a combination of new scholarship programs in Illinois, Indiana's flagship research campuses successfully targeting the middle class, Midwest demographic declines, fewer students from Saudi Arabia and other foreign countries, and declining 21st Century Scholars. Since Fall 2015, online enrollments have actually increased, although not by enough to offset the declines in on-campus enrollment.

□ Planning is well underway on strategic initiatives to impact short- and long-term enrollments, including focusing growth on targeted academic programs, eight-week online course structures, adjusting freshmen admissions standards, increasing support for need-based financial aid, and expanding the use of predictive modeling to identify students most likely to enroll or persist so that limited resources can be better deployed to support their success. ISU hopes to achieve 50% growth in transfer and online students by Fall 2023 and a 25% boost in graduate enrollments.

□ At the same time, the university's strategic enrollment management council believes it would be a win if the number of traditional students enrolling directly from high school holds steady at the Fall 2018 level of 2,400.

● Ball State University President Geoffrey Mearns revealed the good news to the Board of Trustees that applications for Fall 2019 have reached an all-time record, 30% of applicants have applied as test optional, and acceptances and confirmations are well ahead of last year's pace.

IN Rankings . . .

● Vincennes University ranks second nationally in the 2019-2020 Military Friendly School Top 10 for small public universities. The full rankings will be published in May.

IN Programs & Policy . . .

● Vincennes University and GM Powertrain Bedford unveil a new partnership to train United Auto Workers apprentices in advanced manufacturing processes through VU's Business and Industry workforce development training program. The apprentice training agreement covers metallurgy, blueprint reading, and computer numerical control machining.

● Look for Trine University to physically downsize to smaller facilities for its assorted satellite/regional education centers as the private school expands the number of degree programs that adult students can complete entirely online.

● The Indiana Commission for Higher Education was scheduled to vote February 14 to approve the first graduate nursing degree for the Indiana University Bloomington campus.

● Indiana Wesleyan University has integrated "online chaplains" into its online learning platform, which serves an enrollment of more than 12,000 students, reports the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

● Indiana Tech will become the first college in the state of Indiana to add women's wrestling to its athletics department beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Tech will compete in the NAIA, the only intercollegiate athletics association to sponsor women's wrestling, where the sport is in its first season as an invitational sport.

● The Indiana Tech School of Education sees its application for accreditation denied by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), meaning the Indiana Department of Education will not be able to grant a teaching license to the school's graduates. This year's graduates will not be impacted.

● The Columbus-based Community Education Coalition receives a three-year, \$1 million grant from Strada Education Network to support programming across the 10-county EcO Network (Economic Opportunities through Education). Funding will support Ivy Tech Community College information technology education programs at four sites: a software development technical certificate for high school students in Lawrenceburg; an information technology helpdesk technical certificate pathway for high school students in Batesville; an accelerated associate degree from the Cyber Academy at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, offered out of Columbus; and an accelerated associate degree information technology pathway in Madison.

- The University of Saint Francis announces that per-credit tuition has been reduced by up to 40% for many of its graduate degree programs, including family nurse practitioner, mental health counseling, and school counseling. USF is also phasing out its alumni tuition rate, which offered a discounted tuition rate in some graduate programs for those with four-year degrees from the university.

- Papa John's will provide a tuition reimbursement education program for its 20,000 corporate team members through Purdue University Global. The program will cover 100% of tuition costs of associate, bachelor's, and master's online degree programs. An additional education program through the alliance with Purdue Global will also be available for Papa John's 70,000 franchise team members that offers significant tuition and fee reductions for both undergraduate and graduate degree programs, as well as includes waived application fees and covers the cost of course materials, among other benefits.

- The Purdue University Board of Trustees approves a Speech Language Pathology master's program for the Fort Wayne campus and a Master of Science in computational data science for IUPUI.

IN Gifts and Fundraising . . .

- Samuel Allen, chair and CEO of Deere & Co., makes a \$5 million gift to endow the deanship of the Purdue University Krannert School of Management.

IN Construction & Facilities . . .

- Jay Akridge, provost of Purdue University, and Dr. Willie Reed, dean of the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine, tell lawmakers that the accreditation of the College of Veterinary Medicine could be in jeopardy if Purdue does not replace the teaching hospital.

- Vincennes University receives final approval from the city's Historic Review Board for the French Creole-inspired design of a \$15 million student housing development. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin this Summer.

- Ball State University expects to break ground later this year on four construction projects: a new residence hall, the Foundational Sciences Building, a new Multicultural Center, and a parking garage on New York Avenue. Work is also expected to begin this Spring on a new bicycle and pedestrian corridor through the center of campus.

IN Research & Technology . . .

- The University of Notre Dame receives \$33.7 million from Unitaid - the largest research grant awarded to a single proposal in school history - to lead a five-year study to generate evidence to support a recommendation to the World Health Organization on the efficacy of spatial repellent products in fighting mosquito-borne diseases. The UND-led team will be working with industry partner SC Johnson.

IN Government . . .

- We recently conveyed to you concerns from multiple assorted stakeholders about the relevancy of Indiana Career Explorer . . . and now the Indiana Department of Workforce Development releases a Request for Information for a better career planning, navigation, and assessment tool with added features including the capability to track progress toward graduation pathways requirements.

- The Governor's Workforce Cabinet issues a Request for Information for entities to facilitate the transition of the state's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) plan from a Unified plan to a Combined plan by adding partner programs. Responses are due March 15.

- The Jeffersonville Promise and other college scholarship programs paid for with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues would be stifled by House Bill 1596. "This is an attempt to put in place reasonable, common-sense requirements before taxpayer dollars are used this way," said Rep. Ed Clere (R) of New Albany, in an interview with the *Jeffersonville Evening News*. Rep. Clere told the paper that House Bill 1596 is aimed at dismantling Jeffersonville's Promise, in part because "he thinks it discriminates against some children in the city who attend other high schools outside Jeffersonville while benefitting children from other communities who put their children at JHS." But Jeffersonville Mayor Mike Moore (R) "said the program was put together that way on purpose to benefit Jeffersonville's only high school. The more students who attend JHS, the more money the school gets from the state. And, Moore said, it not only benefits families who couldn't otherwise afford to put their students through college, but it benefits existing and future employers by creating a boon of college-educated, workforce-ready employees." Rep. Clere believes the promise program should be targeted to high-wage, high-demand academic programs and that students should have greater choice in where they enroll. "It not just discriminating based on where the student goes to high school. Since it's limited to Ivy Tech, it provides no benefit for students who wish to attend another college or university," Clere said. "So a Jeff grad who wishes to pursue a two-year nursing degree at Ivy Tech gets his or her way paid, while a Jeff grad who wishes to pursue a four-year nursing degree at IUS gets nothing." He also tells the paper that he supports TIF revenue for workforce training when it's used as an incentive to attract or retain employers. "If a Fortune 500 company has a specific unmet workforce need - and creating a partnership betters our local community - and TIF money helps land that company, then I'd be all for it," he continued. "I find it hard to believe that a Fortune 500 company would be coming to Southern Indiana because of a program that allows students to pursue education or training that may have nothing to do with the workforce needs of the company in question." Rep. Clere believes "overuse and abuse of TIF is strangling schools." The Greater Clark County Schools loses millions of dollars to TIF districts "that could be paying teacher salaries and supporting other classroom needs," he said. Jeffersonville's Promise would provide \$150,000 a year of TIF revenue for last-dollar scholarships for Jeffersonville High School graduates beginning with the Class of 2019 to enroll in Ivy Tech Community College.

- The Frankfort Promise program announced last month by Frankfort Mayor Chris McBarnes (R) may also be in jeopardy, but the Hammond College Bound program and Advantage Shelbyville would be fine as they're funded by casino revenue. The bill is scheduled for an April 18 hearing House Committee on Ways and Means hearing after passing the Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform.

- The Senate votes 49-0 to approve the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's Senate Bill 216, which would create consistency in the fee remission eligibility requirements for children and spouses of veterans and public safety officers.

- The Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Military approves Senate Bill 374, which repeals the 2011 law authored by then-Sen. **Luke Kenley (R)** that tiered fee remission benefits for the families of disabled Hoosier veterans based on the parent's disability rating. SB 374 would allow the child of a Hoosier veteran to qualify for full fee remission regardless of their parent's disability rating. The bill, which is being recommitted to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, is backed by the VFW, American Legion, and Military Veterans Coalition. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education did not take a position in the hearing.

- U.S. Sen. **Todd Young (R)** reintroduces the "Advancing International and Foreign Language Education Act" to reauthorize Title VI of the Higher Education Act and ensure continued access to quality international and foreign language education programs. "In order to remain globally competitive in the 21st century economy, it's important that Hoosier students are equipped with the international skills that are in demand," Sen. Young says.

IN Transition . . .

- Earlham College names **Anne Houtman**, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, as the 20th president. She holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford in Zoology and a master's degree in Anthropology from UCLA. She earned her bachelor of arts degree from Pomona College. Houtman is a Quaker, and she will be the first woman to serve as president of Earlham.

- The Marian University Board of Trustees votes to extend the contract of President **Daniel Elsener** through the 2024-25 academic year.

- The White House appoints Governor **Eric Holcomb (R)** as one of the 25 members of the newly established American Workforce Policy Advisory Board, which will work with the National Council for the American Worker to develop a strategy to revamp workforce training systems to better meet the skills needs of the changing economy. Also on the advisory board: former Indiana Department of Workforce Development commissioner **Scott Sanders**, now the executive director of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies.

- Purdue University's Executive Vice President for Research and Partnerships **Suresh Garimella** has been revealed as the sole finalist to be the 27th president of the University of Vermont.

- IUPUI Vice Chancellor for Research **Simon Atkinson** was selected last week to lead the University of Kansas Office of Research as KU's new vice chancellor for research.

- **Heidi Carl** has been named executive director of financial aid for the Purdue West Lafayette campus. She has worked at Wabash College since 2013, when she was hired as the director of financial aid. After being promoted in 2016, she served as the associate dean for enrollment and director of financial aid, where she currently shares responsibility for the Enrollment Management division. Before her time at Wabash College, Carl spent more than 15 years at the University of Indianapolis.

- Indiana State University intends to have the position of executive director of government relations filled by July 1.

- The search committee for a new chancellor at Indiana University South Bend has narrowed the list of candidates to four finalists: **Dwight Watson**, provost and vice president of academic and student affairs at Southwest Minnesota State University; **Terisa Riley**, senior vice president for student affairs and university administration at Texas A&M University-Kingsville; **Susan Elrod**, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater; and **Philip Way**, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.

- **Stephen Weingart** joins the leadership team at Huntington University as vice president of university advancement. He is a former global business strategist for FedEx, helping launch FedEx Express services in Mexico, Japan, Brazil, Puerto Rico, and Korea, and a former college administrator at Malone University in Canton, Ohio.

- Gary native **John Gates** has been named as Purdue University's vice provost for diversity and inclusion. Gates had served as the inaugural associate dean responsible for diversity, inclusion and engagement strategy in the University of Virginia's School of Engineering and Applied Science. He's also a former associate dean for administration and finance at Harvard University.

- **Dan Youngblood** has been appointed associate vice chancellor for finance at IUPUI. He has 40 years of experience in higher education finance and management, including 14 years at IUPUI, where he has served as the bursar for the last eight.

- **Dana Strait** will become the new vice president for strategy and finance at Saint Mary's College on March 4. She is currently principal of corporate strategy and new product development at the Education Advisory Board, where her studies explored tuition pricing and enrollment trends at four-year colleges and universities, with a focus on sustainable strategies for growing tuition revenues. Dr. Strait earned her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Northwestern University.

- Wabash College promotes **Chip Timmons** from associate dean to dean for enrollment and director of admissions. Wabash has set an enrollment goal of 1,000 students.

INDIANA EDUCATION INSIGHT © 2019 by Hannah News Service-Midwest, LLC. All rights reserved. Photocopying, FAXing, or reproducing in any form, in whole or in part, is a violation of federal law, and is strictly prohibited without the publisher's written consent.

Subscriptions available via FAX and e-mail. Published biweekly. Printed on recyclable paper; advertising rates available upon request. Base subscription rate for January-December 2019: \$345. Additional copy rates and past issues available.

For info, please call **317/817-9997**; FAX **317/817-9998**
E-mail: < newsdesk@hannah-in.com >
Internet: <http://www.hannah-in.com>

www.indianainsight.com