



Indiana Department of Education 2019 Legislative Priority

Budget Advocacy Items

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will address the following budget items during the 2019 legislative session: 1) advocate for an increase in tuition support; 2) advocate for closing the gap in pre-K special education funding; 3) allow schools to retain 100% of their Medicaid program funds; and 4) request a funding increase for the following instructional and operational areas: assessment, curriculum, and English Learners.

Tuition support is the main funding source for Indiana's schools and remains a high priority. Indiana's K-12 education appropriation accounts for 51% of Indiana's State General Fund appropriations and funds school operations and teachers' salaries in serving Indiana's 1.2 million students. IDOE is requesting a 3% increase in tuition support for both fiscal year (FY) 2019 and 2020.

Quick Facts

- ❑ The current inflation rate is approximately 2.7%.
- ❑ From FY 2014 to FY 2018, average daily membership for all students (public, charter, choice scholarship, Mitch Daniels scholarship) served by tuition support has increased by 5.98%. During this same timeframe, the average student Basic and Complexity funding increased a total of 3.94% or \$228 per student.
- ❑ If tuition support had kept pace with inflation rates since 2010, school corporations would have seen \$270 million additional dollars in 2018.
- ❑ Pre-K special education funding is currently \$2,750 per student and has remained unchanged since 1991. This is approximately 60% less than a fully-funded student which is \$6,875 per student.
- ❑ Indiana Code requires the State to retain 3% of Federal Medicaid funds claimed by school corporations to be distributed to the State General Fund. Corporations would see an additional \$355,000 to support related services for eligible students.
- ❑ Additional assessment funding will integrate and connect summative assessments and Indiana's recently adopted graduation pathways via lexile and quantile measures into daily instructional practices. This will allow educators to select specific instructional materials to extend student growth.
- ❑ The annual cost for curricular material reimbursement from eligible public and non-public schools is more than \$50 million per year, whereas the current State appropriations for curricular materials is \$39 million. Curricular reimbursement supports free and reduced lunch student expenses for which schools are prohibited from collecting fees. According to 2017 data, Indiana's free and reduced lunch rate is 48%.
- ❑ Indiana is home to over 59,000 English Learners (EL), and 92% of Indiana's public schools reported at least one EL student in 2018. Current appropriations allow for base funding of approximately \$300 per EL student, and IDOE's funding request would increase the base to \$450 per student. Additional funding amounts will be applied to those schools who have a higher EL population as determined by a set formula.