



Indiana
State
Teachers
Association

OUR KIDS. OUR SCHOOLS. OUR FUTURE.

February 6, 2026

To: ALL MEMBERS

Monday's final third-reading votes are officially behind us, marking this the first full week of the session's second half. Now bills will flip chambers, and any bills still moving will have to receive a hearing and pass each respective chamber floor over again. The Indiana General Assembly kicked off a quick start for the remaining half of the legislative session, including committee hearings on a few key ISTA bills.

ISTA has had several major victories so far this session. [HB 1145](#), the retiree 13th check bill and an ISTA legislative priority, is moving along and will go before the Senate. [SB 88](#) is a bill originally banning concepts around discrimination, privilege, victimization, racial and gender identity issues and other "culture war" threats. This bill has since been amended to remove the entirety of this language. The requirement for schools to display the 10 Commandments in each classroom was also stripped from the bill, and a stand-alone bill on the 10 Commandments, [HB 1086](#), is dead for session as well.

Additionally, the wireless device ban in [SB 78](#), an ISTA priority, continues to advance with broad support. The bill would prohibit student access to wireless devices during the school day and establish stricter, more uniform enforcement statewide.

ISTA also continues to make progress around language in [SB 204](#) that would make further micro-managed changes to teacher salaries, increments, stipends and supplements further interfering with the collective bargaining processes at the local level. There are ongoing discussions around removing the language completely or finding language that strikes a proper balance.

Priority Bills Remaining:

While [HB 1004](#) has not yet been scheduled for the Senate Education and Career Development Committee, this is one of ISTA's remaining major priorities issues. The most egregious provision in the bill is Section 95 that deletes from the regular teacher contract the number of hours per day that a teacher is expected to work. This SECTION needs to be removed from [HB 1004](#) so that existing law can continue. ISTA continues to work with lawmakers and stakeholders to resolve this language and a few other provisions in this bill.

[HB 1423](#) also received a late-notice hearing in Senate Education this week after it passed along party lines in the House Monday. This bill alters the governance of the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS), by

forming an entirely and newly created, mayoral-appointed, board called the Indianapolis Public Education Commission (IPEC). What began as an initiative to unify transportation services and facilities sharing between IPS-run schools and charter schools within the boundaries of IPS, has become a widespread set of new administrative powers and oversight over IPS schools being granted to the IPEC rather than the currently elected and publicly accountability school board. The newly appointed board must be provided with authority over school performance metrics, thus further intruding reach into classroom and learning matters far from just transportation and facility issues.

As amended, **HB 1423** does now allow a charter school to opt out of the facilities unification, and an amendment coming from the bill author's public assurances, IPS traditional public schools will also be provided the same opt-out. Several of ISTA's amendments to the bill have been incorporated. **HB 1423** will be held in Senate Education Committee for amend and vote likely next week.

SB 204 contains one provision in Section 4 that further seeks to micro-manage how salary increases and increments are determined. These efforts fundamentally take money from one teacher to give to another. SB 204 seeks to restrict the development of salaries and long-held bargaining processes at the local level, and ISTA continues to work with Sen. Deery on language changes that will retain the factors lawmakers believe are important and honor local decision-making. In Senate Education Committee on Wednesday, the bill author (Deery) again expressed willingness either to remove the section or work with ISTA to balance the language in this provision. The bill has also been held in committee until next week.

SB 76 is a massive immigration bill that ISTA has been monitoring. It has now risen on ISTA's list of concerning bills remaining in this second half of session.

This bill would require government entities in Indiana—including colleges and local governments—to comply with ICE detainer requests and federal immigration enforcement laws.

While the bill does not explicitly reference K–12 public schools, it applies to “every government entity,” a definition that includes school corporations as governmental bodies.

Separately, state officials are challenging school district policies related to ICE cooperation, emphasizing that state law prohibits districts from restricting immigration enforcement.

ISTA is working with state lawmakers and Congressional leaders along with legal analysts to address this matter. ISTA also has amendment language to remove schools from the list of “government bodies” to ensure that K-12 public schools are excluded from these Draconian mandates. There are also 29 additional amendments filed for SB 76 on Monday second reading.

The bill is on second reading for amendments in the full House.

Please stay tuned and continue to speak on behalf of Hoosier educators and students. Reach out to ISTA Government Relations staff if you have additional questions.

Be sure to register for one of our [Days of Action](#) this session. ISTA Days of Action are your opportunity to meet directly with your state legislators and advocate for policies that support our students, educators and public schools.

Our next [virtual legislative briefing](#) will be on Feb. 16. Information on all of our legislative session events and registration links are on our [website](#).

TAKE ACTION: PROTECT TEACHER CONTRACTS AND EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS

OVERVIEW

[HB 1004](#) is a large, nearly 200-page education deregulation bill that makes sweeping changes to Indiana law. The following remain as serious concerns for educators: (1) restoring hours to the regular teacher contract; and (2) retaining specific contractual protections for teachers who teach in joint, interlocal or special education cooperative programs.

Why you should care

Among other concerning items, the bill would remove required work hours from teacher contracts and repeal long-standing and specific legal protections for teachers in certain cooperatives and joint programs. ISTA is calling for lawmakers to retain these laws as they exist today and remove them from HB 1004).

What you can do

Tell your legislators to remove SECTIONS 71-75, 95, 139, and 167 of the bill as reprinted January 28, 2026, so existing laws and protections remain in place.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

TAKE ACTION: DEFEND LOCAL CONTROL, FAIR FUNDING & INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

OVERVIEW

[HB 1423](#) would make unprecedented changes to Indianapolis Public Schools. The bill splits decision-making between a newly created board, appointed by the mayor, and the IPS board. While incrementally improving with amendments as ISTA meets with the author, the bill still diminishes voter strength.

Why you should care

This bill will result in loss of representation for taxpayers and voters in Indianapolis. Communities and educators deserve a fully elected school board with authority over academic programming of our schools.

What you can do

Tell your legislators to oppose HB 1423.

[TAKE ACTION](#)