



Indiana
State
Teachers
Association

OUR KIDS. OUR SCHOOLS. OUR FUTURE.

To: All members

This week completes committee work for the first half of the session. Any bill that did not receive a hearing by today is considered dead in each respective chamber, although some language could return in the form of amendments to other bills through the second half. When lawmakers return next week, the bills will flip chambers and start the process again. Since this is such a short session ending at the end of February, there are fewer bills moving than normal in education. However, a number of these bills are large omnibus bills with multiple separate provisions.

ISTA had a positive week with improving some bills, including several of our 2026 legislative priorities. [HB 1145](#) – the 13th check bill for retirees – continues to move through the House. While SB 63, the Senate version, appears to be dead, the House bill is continuing to move.

Additionally, ISTA worked with Sen. Gary Byrne, the author of [SB 88](#), to remove language that would have prohibited or discouraged the “fostering” of certain concepts, including:

- Racial identity or discrimination;
- Gender identify or discrimination;
- Victimization;
- Class struggle;
- A hierarchy of privileges; or
- Systemic exclusion.

The introduced bill contained this anti-DEI and anti-CRT type language, but ISTA expressed concerns around limiting teaching instruction and open classroom discussion regarding important historical, societal, political and cultural issues. The language has now been completely removed from the bill.

Banning wireless devices during the entire school day is another ISTA priority issue which saw progress this week with [SB 78](#) passing out of the Senate on Tuesday. ISTA members have indicated numerous behavioral and disciplinary concerns over cell phone use during class time. This bill provides exemptions for students with IEPs, ELL students for translation purposes, emergency situations, health condition monitoring and when a teacher is utilizing a device for school purposes. All usage must occur on a school-issued device.

Finally, the other major bill this week was [HB 1423](#) – the bill to overhaul the Indianapolis Public School board operations and corporation structure. The bill was [amended significantly](#) in committee, although several concerns remain. The amended version delays implementation of the plan’s transportation and facility components until 2028-29, establishes a number of deadlines and timelines for decision-making and places some parameters on the newly appointed board’s scope. Under the amended version, the bill still provides

control over transportation and facilities, as well as performance metrics, by the appointed board. The board also will remain totally appointed by the Indianapolis mayor with no elected seats. See our [call to action](#) on this bill below.

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. 2. Information on all of our legislative session events and registration links are on our [website](#).

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

OVERVIEW

[HB 1423](#) would make unprecedented changes to Indianapolis Public Schools. The bill bifurcates decision-making between a newly created, mayor-appointed, board, diminishing voter strength.

Why you should care

This bill will result in taxation without representation for 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](#)