

February 22, 2021

Members of the Indiana General Assembly:

The members of the Southeastern Indiana School Study Council represent twenty-three (23) school corporations and one (1) career center across southeastern Indiana.

We strongly oppose House Bill 1005, Senate Bill 412 and Senate Bill 413. We ask you to vote no on these three bills as they will divert funding away from public schools. In our communities, our public schools provide vital services supporting our children and families. This fact has been reinforced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Again and again, schools have risen to the occasion.

We all benefit from strong public schools - public school parents, private school parents, business owners, and community members. Voucher expansion and Education Savings Accounts divert significant monies away from public schools, and lack oversight and accountability.

When the state revenue forecast showed an opportunity to increase state support of public schools, we were pleasantly surprised. On the heels of the Next Level Teacher Compensation Commission report, now is the time to show your support and commitment to our public schools and increasing teacher compensation. HB1005 is reported to cost \$202M over two years. The report states additional \$600M investment in public education is needed to increase teacher compensation to be competitive in the region. The cost of HB 1005 should be diverted back into the public school funding formula and begin the work on the recommendations of the report.

Several other organizations have called for HB1005, SB412 and SB413 to be rejected; Indiana School Board Association, Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents, and Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education, and the Indiana Parent Teacher Association, to name a few. We join their efforts.

Please reject this newest attack on public education. The parents, students, and public school employees of your districts deserve your support.

Sincerely,

Jim Roberts
Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation

Paul Ketcham
Batesville Community School Corporation

Laura Hammack
Brown County Schools

Tim Taylor
Brownstown Central Community School Corporation

Terry A. Goodin
Crothersville Community Schools

Shawn Price
Flat Rock - Hawcreek Schools

Ryan Middleton
Jac-Cen-Del Community School Corporation

Karl Galey
Lawrenceburg Community School Corporation

Jane Rogers
Milan Community School Corporation

Matt Vance
Rush County Schools

Marc Slaton
Scott County District 2

Eric Lows
South Dearborn Community School Corporation

Derek Marshall
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Andrew Jackson
Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

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Decatur County Community Schools

Tom Hunter
Greensburg Community Schools

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Rising Sun-Ohio County Community Schools

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Scott County District 1

Brandon Harpe
Seymour Community Schools

Rob Moorhead
South Ripley Community School Corporation

Jeff Bates
Southwestern Jefferson County School Corporation

Rod Hite
Switzerland County School Corporation