



ICPE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2023

Public schools need more funding: ICPE supports increasing tuition support to fully fund public schools and account for the loss of purchasing power caused by high inflation rates. We greatly appreciate the funding increase in the last budget session and encourage the legislature to build on that increase to provide public schools with needed resources and funding for staff. You can't raise teacher pay or provide adequate services to students when you siphon funding away to "school choice."

Public funds belong in public schools: ICPE supports a moratorium on further draining public funding and resources into private, unaccountable hands. We oppose any expansion of so-called "school choice" including ESAs (education scholarship accounts), vouchers, charters, etc. We oppose mandatory sharing of referendum dollars with charter or private schools.

Schools that take public funds should play by the same rules. All schools that accept public tax dollars should be required to report finances and be as transparent by law as traditional public schools. They should also accept and be willing to educate all children—no exceptions. ICPE supports legislation on transparency/accountability for all. We also support legislation that would give public school foundations the same tax credits that scholarship granting organizations (SGOs) receive. We support legislation that would pay for textbook and technology fees of public school children or that would give public school parents the same tax deductions for school supplies that private and homeschool families receive, \$1000 per child.

Public schools must provide all children with an education that prepares them for democracy as well as the workforce. We support educating the whole child through the work of social-emotional learning and removing barriers to learning through diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. We support historically accurate and inclusive curriculum as well as local control over educational materials. ICPE supports legislation that prepares all children for a bright future through Pre-K.

All children deserve fully resourced, inclusive public schools with teachers who are educated and experienced in their fields. ICPE supports funding for the education and licensing (certification) of teachers. We oppose watering down requirements for the teaching profession. Teachers not qualified or under emergency license should eventually work toward a license and be supported financially. We support the work and professional expertise of all who help our children: nurses, psychologists, counselors and social workers and we recognize the need for funding in these areas.

Keep the public in public education. ICPE supports legislation that would return local control through the democratic process of electing school board members in Gary and Muncie. ICPE supports local democratic control of education through nonpartisan school board members who ensure schools are accountable to the communities they serve.