

INDIANA COALITION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

2018

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ABOUT THE ICPE REPORT CARD 2018

The ICPE Report Card rated incumbents who filed for reelection in 2018, grading them based on their votes on six bills that either:

- promoted the expansion of private school vouchers
- increased tax credits giving taxpayer money to scholarships for private schools
- cut voter control of public education, or
- supported or harmed public education.

The ICPE Report Card was created by the Indiana Coalition of Public Education (ICPE), a bi-partisan non-profit organization that supports public schools.

In all, ICPE issued grades to 109 legislators. Twenty-nine members of the Indiana General Assembly earned A's, three earned a B, six earned C's, 67 earned D's and none earned F's for their support for Indiana's public schools. Four earned an incomplete grade for voting on too few of the six bills to calculate.

In ICPE's view, when you weaken public schools by diverting funding away from them, you undermine a key institution in our society -- one that stands as the bedrock of democracy and the cornerstone of local communities.

Since ICPE primarily focuses on issues relating to privatizing public schools, the organization based its report card on six bills in the 2017 and 2018 legislative sessions that diverted taxpayers' money away from public schools, damaged public control of education, or either supported or harmed public education.

"Although legislators might claim it's unfair to assign letter grades based on a small portion of what they do," said Smith, "that is exactly what Indiana does to schools across the state when it bases schools' letter grades largely on one standardized test. Many politicians claim to support public education, but the proof is in their votes."

ICPE urges voters who value public education to use the information in this legislative report card as they decide how to vote in November. If you do not know which legislative district you live in, you can find that information at IndianaVoters.com.

Vouchers now divert over \$153 million from public schools to private schools annually. Despite the original premise for Indiana's voucher program to let families change schools, **over half of all vouchers (57%) now go to students who never attended public schools and have always attended private schools.** This fact means a good portion of the \$153 million diverted to private schools is an extra fiscal cost to taxpayers for students who never started at public schools and whose private education previously was not the responsibility of taxpayers.

Indiana Senate incumbents running for reelection in 2018		
District	Senator	Grade 2018
1	Sen. Frank Mrvan, Jr-D	A
4	Sen. Karen Tallian-D	A
6	Sen. Rick Niemeyer-R	D
14	Sen. Dennis Kruse-R	C
15	Sen. Liz Brown-R	D
17	Sen. Andy Zay-R	D
19	Sen. Travis Holdman-R	D
21	Sen. James Buck-R	D
22	Sen. Ronnie Alting-R	B
23	Sen. Phil Boots-R	D
25	Sen. Timothy Lanane-D	A
27	Sen. Jeff Raatz-R	D
29	Sen. Mike Delph-R	D
31	Sen. Jim Merritt-R	D
38	Sen. Jon Ford-R	C
39	Sen. Eric Bassler-R	D
41	Sen. Greg Walker-R	D
43	Sen. Chip Perfect-R	D
46	Sen. Ron Grooms-R	C
47	Sen. Erin Houchin-R	D
48	Sen. Mark Messmer-R	D
49	Sen. Jim Tomes-R	A

Appendix: The ICPE Report Card Methodology, Vote Data List, grades for Indiana Senators whose terms are up for election in 2020 are available on the ICPE website: www.icpe2011.com.

**Indiana House incumbents
running for reelection in 2018**

District	Representative	Grade 2018
2	Rep. Earl Harris-D	A
4	Rep. Ed Soliday-R	D
5	Rep. Dale DeVon-R	D
6	Rep. B. Patrick Bauer-D	A
7	Rep. Joe Taylor-D	A
8	Rep. Ryan Dvorak-D	A
10	Rep. Charles Moseley-D	A
11	Rep. Michael J. Aylesworth-R	D
12	Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon-D	A
13	Rep. Sharon Negele-R	D
14	Rep. Vernon G. Smith-D	A
15	Rep. Hal Slager-R	D
16	Rep. Douglas L. Gutwein-R	D
17	Rep. Jack Jordan-R	D
18	Rep. David A. Wolkins-R	D
19	Rep. Julie Olthoff-R	D
20	Rep. Jim Pressel-R	C
21	Rep. Timothy Wesco-R	D
22	Rep. Curt Nisly-R	B
24	Rep. Donna Schaibley-R	D
25	Rep. Donald J. Lehe-R	D
26	Rep. Sally Siegrist-R	C
27	Rep. Sheila Klinker-D	A
28	Rep. Jeffrey A. Thompson-R	D
30	Rep. Mike Karickhoff-R	D
31	Rep. Kevin A. Mahan-R	D
32	Rep. Anthony J. Cook-R	D
34	Rep. Sue E. Errington-D	A
35	Rep. Melanie Wright-D	A

Indiana House incumbents running for reelection in 2018		
District	Representative	Grade 2018
36	Rep. Terri Jo Austin-D	A
37	Rep. Todd Huston-R	D
38	Rep. Heath VanNatter-R	D
39	Rep. Jerry Torr-R	D
40	Rep. Gregory E. Steuerwald-R	D
41	Rep. Tim Brown-R	D
42	Rep. Alan Morrison-R	D
45	Rep. Bruce Borders-R	D
46	Rep. Bob Heaton-R	D
47	Rep. John Young-R	D
48	Rep. Doug Miller-R	D
50	Rep. Daniel J. Leonard-R	D
51	Rep. Dennis J. Zent-R	D
52	Rep. Ben Smaltz-R	D
53	Rep. Robert W. Cherry-R	D
54	Rep. Thomas E. Saunders-R	B
55	Rep. Cindy Meyer Ziemke-R	D
57	Rep. Sean R. Eberhart-R	D
58	Rep. Woody Burton-R	D
60	Rep. Peggy Mayfield-R	D
61	Rep. Matt Pierce-D	A
62	Rep. Jeff Ellington-R	D
63	Rep. Shane Lindauer-R	I
65	Rep. Chris May-R	D
66	Rep. Terry Goodin-D	A
67	Rep. Randy Frye-R	D
68	Rep. Randy Lyness-R	D
69	Rep. Jim Lucas-R	D

Indiana House incumbents running for reelection in 2018		
District	Representative	Grade 2018
70	Rep. Karen Engleman-R	D
72	Rep. Edward D. Clere-R	D
73	Rep. Steven Davisson-R	I
74	Rep. Steve Bartels-R	I
75	Rep. Ron Bacon-R	D
76	Rep. Wendy McNamara-R	D
77	Rep. Ryan Hatfield-D	A
78	Rep. Holli Sullivan-R	D
79	Rep. Matthew S. Lehman-R	D
80	Rep. Phil GiaQuinta-D	A
81	Rep. Martin Carbaugh-R	D
82	Rep. David Abbott-R	I
83	Rep. Christopher N. Judy-R	C
84	Rep. Bob Morris-R	D
85	Rep. Dave Heine-R	D
86	Rep. Edward O. Delaney-D	A
87	Rep. Carey Hamilton-D	A
88	Rep. Brian C. Bosma-R	D
89	Rep. Cindy Meyer Kirchhofer-R	D
90	Rep. Mike Speedy-R	D
91	Rep. Robert W. Behning-R	D
92	Rep. Karlee D. Macer-D	A
93	Rep. David N. Frizzell-R	D
94	Rep. Cherrish S. Pryor-D	A
95	Rep. John L. Bartlett-D	A
96	Rep. Gregory A. Porter-D	A
97	Rep. Justin Moed-D	A
98	Rep. Robin Shackleford-D	A
99	Rep. Vanessa J. Summers-D	A
100	Rep. Dan Forestal-D	A

THE SIX BILLS USED IN THE GRADE EVALUATION

House Bill 1001 (2017), the budget bill that raised taxpayer support of private school tax credit scholarships by \$7.5 million, up 19% to a two-year total of \$26.5 million, and despite a strong economy, funded K-12 schools at disappointing increases, only 1.6% in 2018 and 1.7% in 2019, less than inflation and far less than the 2.3% increases in the 2015 budget.

One point was given for a “No” vote.

House Bill 1005 (2017) removed a pillar of public education from the public, the power to elect the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a power voters had held since 1851. The controversial law, passed after the Senate ignored its own rules to bring back a bill that had been “decisively defeated”, does not even mandate that the Governor appoint a leader with K-12 experience.

One point was given for a “No” vote.

House Bill 1384 (2017) allowed new private schools to get vouchers the first year of operation without waiting a year to get accreditation, as they were required to do before the new law.

One point was given for a “No” vote.

Senate Bill 30 (2017) provided transparency by reporting the name of the school that each voucher student transferred to.

One point was given for a “Yes” vote. Since this bill had unanimous bipartisan support, six who were absent from the vote were also credited with a point.

House Bill 1001 (2018), provided supplemental funding support to all schools due to an increase in public school enrollment, which was beyond the increase estimated in the 2017 budget.

One point was given for a “Yes” vote. Since this bill had unanimous bipartisan support, eight who were absent from the vote were also credited with a point.

House Bill 1315ss (2018), the most controversial bill in the short session and passed amid controversy in the one-day special session, ended three previously unassailable pillars of public education:

- no longer must public school districts have a school board of district residents (Muncie now allows three school board seats for non-residents; Gary now has no school board);
- no longer must every school district have to follow the education laws of Indiana (Muncie must follow only a list of 29 laws which, among others, deletes the bullying prevention law); and
- no longer must every public school district get school letter grades (Muncie Community Schools can ignore the school letter grade law.)

One point was given for a “No” vote.