



Indiana Professional Educators, Inc.

Professional Viewpoint

Educators By Calling, Professionals By Choice

Celebrating over 30 Years
Serving Indiana's
Independent Teachers.

CAN WISHES BE GRANTED?



Each and every year teachers seem to spend a lot of money, out of their own pockets, to purchase classroom supplies. If it were possible to say a magic word and make the materials and money appear for classroom use, surely every teacher would, but, of course, the real world doesn't work in that way. As districts and teachers are becoming more strapped for cash, it can seem like new projects or state-of-the-art materials for this year may not happen. But, before you resign yourself to that and put away all of your new and inspiring ideas, check in to these resources that can help teachers guide materials and money into their classrooms and schools. Many teachers have had their classroom wishes granted by utilizing these programs, maybe you will be next!

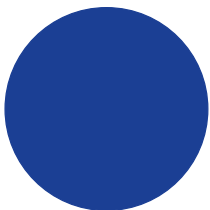
“Adopt-a-Classroom”

Adopt-a-Classroom is a way for teachers to connect with community businesses and individual donors in their area. Teachers can join at www.adoptaclassroom.com, and donors search classrooms by the school or teacher's name,

area or by other search options. Donors then make contributions and the teacher earns online credits. One-hundred percent of the contributions go to the teacher. Then, the teacher uses these credits to shop Adopt-a-Classroom vendors and chooses what materials are needed for the classroom. The donor is sent an impact report on what the teacher has purchased and how it will be used.

“DonorsChoose.org”

Donors Choose is the easiest grant writing program on the internet for public school teachers. Teachers sign up at www.donorschoose.org and write mini-grants for projects, visitors, or field trips. Donors then search the site for a grant or school that interests them and funds the grant proposal totally or partially. When the grant is fully funded, Donors Choose purchases the materials for the teacher, sends them to the school, and then sends a feedback package for the teacher to fill out. The donor receives a thank you and photographs from the classroom.



CREDIT OR DEBIT

Soon, all members will be able to pay their annual membership dues via credit or debit card.

Membership Continues To Grow With The Support Of All Our Members!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
Have you renewed yet?



www.ipeteachers.org

2009 LEGISLATIVE VOTE ANALYSIS

SB13 Teachers on School Committees

Limits the number of teachers that the exclusive representative may appoint to serve on statutory or locally created committees. Chamber Position: Support Reason: Provides for more diverse and fair representation on key committees of a school corporation. Outcome: Died

SB 227 Charter School Issues

Provides equitable access to certain funds for charter schools. Requires unused public school facilities to be offered for sale to charter schools or other educational institutions. Chamber Position: Support. Reason: Public school facilities should not be left unused when charter schools and other community organizations could use and maintain those facilities for continuing education purposes. Outcome: Died

SB 491 Public School Transfers

Clarifies various conditions for public school choice. Chamber Position: Support. Reason: Addresses potential questions with existing public school transfer law without creating any additional limits on parental options. Died

SB 525 School Purchasing

Requires school districts to consider more cooperative purchasing arrangements and allows state purchasing agreements to be extended to local governments, including school districts. Chamber Position: Support. Reason: As noted by the Kernan-Shepard Commission on local government, much opportunity remains to save tax funds by creating more shared purchasing arrangements. Died

SB 528 Scholar Tax Credit

Creates a state tax credit for contributions to private, non-profit scholarship funds that would allow low- and moderate-income students to attend the schools of their choice. Chamber Position: Support. Reason: Creates additional options for parents, at a net cost savings to the state, through an approach that has already been proven effective in states throughout the country. Died

HB 1001 School Funding Issues

Restores a minimum guarantee and other school funding mechanisms eliminated by the Senate budget proposal. Chamber Position: Oppose. Reason: These funding mechanisms are designed to protect funding levels for school districts, regardless of changes in enrollment, instead of focusing on students and allowing school funding to follow students to the schools where they are enrolled. Amendment Failed

HB 1076 Collective Bargaining for Teachers

Requires retroactivity on expired teacher contracts and mandates mediation/arbitration for unresolved contracts. Chamber Position: Oppose. Reason: This proposal assumes incorrectly that more state mandates will make it easier for school districts to resolve unsettled teacher contracts. Died

HB 1343 School Dropout Prevention Fund

Creates a new fund at the Department of Education to address school dropout issues at the state and school levels. Chamber Position: Support. Reason: After years of efforts to get reporting on

graduation rates that is accurate, the state needs to focus on improving outcomes. This new fund could provide a start to that effort. Signed by Governor.

HB 1461 School Employers and Employees

Provides that schools would have to discuss certain issue with non-certified school employees. Chamber Position: Oppose. Reason: Would put additional requirements upon school administrators and is not in the best interest of the vast majority of Indiana taxpayers. Died

HB 1732 School Enrollment Counts

Applies multiple enrollment counts to all school districts (actual bill focuses only on Gary school). Chamber Position: Support. Reason: Moving from one student count to multiple counts would provide an incentive for schools to retain students throughout the year. Amendment failed.

SB 263 School Compensation Schedules

Permits a public school corporation to enter in to a 12-month compensation payment schedule for work performed during a normal nine or 10-month school year. Chamber Position: Support. Reason: Allows schools to continue payment schedules, agreed to by their employees, without continued threat of lawsuits and fines. Signed by Governor

*Information cited from Indiana Chamber 2009 Legislative Vote Analysis

ISTA INSURANCE TRUST NEAR BANKRUPTCY

During the 2009 session of the Indiana General Assembly, the legislature considered a total of 1,311 bills during the session. Approximately 100 bills addressed education policy and governance or were child-related legislation. There were 13 key K-12 education bills that were enacted. There were many other bills that were passed by legislation on a number of public policy topics including K-12 education, higher education and child welfare and advocacy. The following bills were the 13 key K-12 education bills:

SB027 David Ford Educational Technology Fund

SB057 Sign Language Interpreters in Schools

Requires, that before July 1, 2010 the DOE adopts rules setting standards for sign language interpreters working in an educational setting.

SB181 Child Seduction and Repeat Sex Offenders

This law clarifies the child seduction

and repeat sex offenders laws to specifically include persons employed by a charter school, special education cooperative, and any person of trust otherwise affiliated with a school district. This law represents an improvement in Indiana law to protect children.

SB228 End of Route Inspection by Bus Drivers

Requires the operator of a school bus or special purpose bus to visually inspect each seat within the bus at the end of each trip during which passengers are transported to determine that no passengers remain on the bus.

SB263 Public School Compensation Payment Schedules

HB1107 Compact for Education for Military Children

HB1343 School Dropout Prevention

Creates the dropout prevention fund, to be administered by the Indiana Department of Education, to: (1) provide money for school corporation programs that identify students who are at risk of dropping out of school, and (2) provide appropriate interventions to

those students.

HB1389 Twenty-first Century Scholars

Requires each school corporation to provide each student who applies for free or reduced lunches under the national school lunch program.

HB1419 Student Discipline

The thought is that suspension and expulsion are used too frequently and that they should be used as a last resort.

This bill would mandate the creation of a more graduated system of discipline.

HB1455 Autism Training

Requires certain firefighter and law enforcement personnel to be trained in interacting with individuals with autism.

HB1462 Various Education Matters

Requires the attorney general and the state superintendent of public instruction to publicize annually to teachers that the attorney general may defend suits against teachers and that teachers have qualified immunity for reasonable acts of discipline. An expanded criminal history background check must be completed before employing a potential employee in any position within the school corporation.

HB1479 Recruitment of Educators from Underrepresented Populations

Requires the DOE to collaborate with nonprofit entities, the Commission for Higher Education and state educational institutions to develop initiatives focusing on the recruitment and retention of qualified educators from underrepresented populations and teacher shortage areas.

HB1151 Financial Responsibility Curriculum

Requires instruction in personal financial responsibility in grades 6 through 12 under standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

IPE MEMBERSHIP

Many current members have taken advantage of the referral program and continue to spread the word that there is an alternative to the union. Because of your efforts we have obtained 20 new members in September alone (over 40 since July). Thank you so much for all of your efforts in assisting us in spreading the word that every one has the right of affiliation

and there is choice! Many of these new members state that they were glad to hear that they had a choice, specifically because the cost of the health insurance for teachers continually increases and the budgets had to be cut somewhere.

Remember, for each member that you refer and they join, you will receive \$10.00 off of your annual membership.





The Professional Viewpoint is published periodically by the Indiana Professional Educators, Inc. as information for members. Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Indiana Professional Educators, Inc. Members are welcome to submit articles or news items for publication consideration.

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- Marlene Allen - Treasurer
- Kyle Ann Rosebrough - Secretary
- Howard Wallace- Board Member
- Roxy Watson - Board Member
- Sharon Row, Director
- Tom Green, Director

IPE Is Dedicated To:

- Maintaining the right of Indiana's children to an uninterrupted education;
- Ensuring the right of Indiana's educators to choose their professional affiliations;
- Protecting Indiana's citizens' rights to control public schools through duly-elected officials.

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Professionals By Choice.*

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Sharon Row is on our Board of Directors and teaches Business and Technology at Merrillville High School in Lake County. She also volunteered her time as a teacher mentor for the Freshman Mentor Program. In the evening, she serves as an adjunct professor at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Sharon has two incredible daughters, Megan & Cassandra. In addition, this past year, Sharon was blessed with being a host mom and home to Fabian, an extremely gifted and talented high school exchange student (and soccer goalie) from Hitzhusen, Germany.

Sharon hails from a small town North Judson, Indiana, where hard work and ethics was what life was all about. After receiving her B.S. in Music Ed from Indiana State, she entered the real life business world where she climbed the corporate lad-

der and broke through the glass ceiling working for Ford Motor Company, Sony (Digital Audio Disc Corporation) and General Housewares Corporation. After 19 years of notable and international corporate career, she returned to the humble occupation of teaching. Nor being able to sit still she returned to school at IU-N and earned her M.B.A. in Marketing and Administration.

Sharon thrives on tearing up her house and remodeling (replacing floors, doors, landscaping, painting, electrical, etc.). Spare time is spent with her pets, reading, cooking, sewing and with friends. While she is highly qualified for the corporate business world, her love and devotion falls to her students during the school year. She has taught over 8,000 children to date.

*Let
Us
Know!*

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Remember, if there is a teacher that you know who deserve to be “in the spotlight” please send in their (or your own) story so that we may let their light shine in the newsletter.

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