



## INPEA Legislative Tidbits

We are approaching “halftime” of the 20-21 Legislative Session. A bill getting a lot of attention is **HB 1005**, a School Choice Matters bill that attempts to provide more school choice opportunities to more families. The bill passed out of the House by a vote of 61 to 38.

Here’s the skinny on the bill:

- It increases the financial eligibility for families. In year one of the budget, eligibility would increase to 225% of free and reduced lunch (\$107,000/family of four) and in the second year of the state budget eligibility would move to 300% (\$145,000). Please note families would still need to meet an eligibility track/pathway as well.
- Any voucher eligible student would receive a 90% voucher. The bill streamlines away from the current three voucher tiers.
- Fixes sibling and foster child eligibility obstacles.
- Creates a new choice program, an ESA or education savings account. This new program is focused on students with special needs, foster children, and children of active military families. Funds in these accounts can be used for tuition and/or other education resources or services.

HB 1005 passed out of the House and now will be heard in the Senate. This bill takes a big leap by attempting to now enable school choice for middle and upper middle income families.

### **How can you get involved?**

We have a representative government and it is critical that your elected representatives hear from you. You can call, write or email them so that the non-public school voice can be heard. You can visit the Statehouse or even testify at a committee hearing. You can voice your support at any point in the process. HB 1005 will first go to the Senate education committee. If it passes out of that committee, it will move to the Senate Appropriation Committee. Again, if it passes out of Appropriations, it then goes to the Senate floor for second reading amendments and then for a full vote in the Senate. If your own Senator is on one of those key committees, your voice can have an even “louder impact”. Legislators listen to their own constituents first.

Check out our **legislative action center** on the INPEA website. More information is available on the Indiana General assembly website at <http://iga.in.gov>.

**Remember we are stronger together! And together, our voice needs to be heard!**