

Stunned by diploma redefinition? *ESSA inflexibility likely to decimate many "A" rated high schools*

Students who earn a general high school diploma will no longer count as graduates in the A-F school accountability calculation, an abrupt federal policy change imposed upon Indiana by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Under the new federal law, a "regular high school diploma" is defined as the standard high school diploma awarded to the "preponderance of students" and does not include a lesser credential. The term "regular high school diploma" also includes any higher diploma such as an honors diploma.

The requirement that Indiana adopt the federal definition of high school graduation for state accountability determinations runs counter to the perception that ESSA returns education decision-making to the states . . . and has tarnished the law's reputation among many in the Hoosier education community.

Approximately 12% of Hoosier students in the graduating class of 2016 earned a general diploma. Indiana's four-year graduation rate of 89% would tumble to 76.5% if general diploma recipients were not counted.

"Our graduation rate will drop, and the school and district (A-F) grades will also drop," East Noble School Corporation Superintendent Ann Linson told the ENSC Board of Trustees at a Wednesday night Board meeting . . . and Linson's district is far from an outlier.

The number of schools that would receive an "A" on the graduation rate indicator would decrease by 233 schools, according to estimates shared with the State Board of Education by Director of Accountability Maggie Paino (schools receive maximum points for having at least a 90% graduation rate; points awarded for graduation rates below 90% are based on the actual rate e.g. 83% graduation rate = 83 points).

Approximately 329 schools (71.4%) were awarded an "A" on the graduation rate indicator last year. Moving to the new definition would reduce the number of schools earning an "A" to 96 (20.7%).

The number of schools receiving a "D" or "F" on the graduation rate indicator using the "state rate" was 41 last year but would more than double to 108 using the "new rate" that excludes the general diploma. The percentage of schools receiving a "D" or "F" on the high school indicator would nearly triple from 8.9% to 23.0 percent.

Stakeholders are already thinking through legislative solutions.

One option involves subtle changes to the semantics used to describe the diplomas. The general diploma could be designated as the default diploma track, and Core 40 could be changed from a diploma type to a diploma distinction. On the other hand, you may see a legislative push to eliminate the general high school diploma entirely.

House Committee on Education Chair Bob Behning (R) of Indianapolis introduced language in House Bill 1384 in 2017 to amend Indiana's A-F formula to comply with the federal changes, but he abandoned the effort under pressure from advocates for children with special needs.

For more, please see the following page . . .

I came, I saw, ILEARN'd *Procurement afoot for new student exam*

We have culled for you the most intriguing components of the formal solicitation (RFS 18-001) released by the state July 13, seeking a vendor to provide mandatory computer-adaptive assessments to replace the ISTEP test beginning in 2018-2019 - the new test dubbed ILEARN.

- Indiana seeks to license existing test items rather than build a new test from scratch.
- The licensed item bank may be supplemented by a small number of items required to ensure alignment to the Indiana Academic Standards (i.e., writing prompt).
- Indiana-specific questions developed as a supplement to the item bank to ensure alignment to Indiana standards will be written by the vendor but owned by the state.
- Testing in each subject area will be un-timed.
- Vendor must provide tests, parent letters, score reports, and other public-facing materials translated in Spanish, Arabic, Burmese, Mandarin Chinese, and one more IDOE-defined language (either Punjabi, Vietnamese, German, Hakha or Falam).
- Respondent should submit a plan for recruitment and training of Indiana educators for hand scoring.
- Automated scoring of certain item types will be considered.
- Indiana-specific cut scores are required regardless of the composition of the item bank.
- Following each operational administration, vendor will provide all material and documentation necessary for IDOE to fully replicate the algorithms used for delivery of the computer adaptive tests.
- Respondent must provide an "assessment literacy" plan for Indiana school personnel that includes guides, webinars, and video clips.
- Contract(s) will be for three years with the option of two one-year renewals for a total of five years.
- Proposals are due August 24.
- Final award recommendations are targeted for October 2.

Those advocates were concerned about the employability of special ed students if the lesser degree option is taken away.

Around 29% of general diploma recipients were special education students vs. 10.5% of those who earned the regular Core 40 diploma.

The general diploma has been criticized for many years by the business community as a disservice to students because of the weaker preparation it provides for college and careers.

College remediation rates of general diploma recipients hover around 50% compared to 20% for those with the Core 40 diploma (and 3% for honors diploma earners).

Concerns expressed by employers that the general diploma is essentially meaningless suggests that it will be politically very difficult to pass state legislation that elevates the status of the general diploma without also strengthening the requirements for receiving it.

Here are the estimates from the Indiana Department of Education on how the new rate, which excludes general diplomas, will impact the scores that schools receive on the graduation indicator (please note that the data below is for the graduation indicator, which is only one piece of a school's overall final grade).

	<u>Current Rate</u>		<u>New Rate</u>	
A	329	71.4%	96	20.7%
B	77	16.7%	133	28.7%
C	14	3.0%	126	27.2%
D	7	1.5%	50	10.8%
F	34	7.4%	58	12.2%

Fewer math and science credits are needed to earn the less-rigorous general diploma, but students still need to pass the End-of-Course assessments or obtain an ECA waiver.

Indiana's public four-year colleges and universities require the Core 40 diploma or higher for admission. Students with only a general diploma must start at Ivy Tech Community College.

Bluffton High School Principal Steve Baker observed during a public comment session at the July meeting of the State Board of Education that educators feel like the Indiana Department of Education has their back on this issue.

In contrast to how the previous administration often handled bad news, IDOE proactively notified the field via email July 7 about the grad rate calculation changes.

Certificate of Completion

The Indiana Department of Education's Office of Special Education has been working with stakeholder groups since September 2015 on a framework to align the Certificate of Completion with Indiana's academic standards, in an attempt to make it into a more meaningful alternate diploma.

For the Hoosier graduating class of 2016, a total of 1,326 students with disabilities earned a Certificate of Completion, representing about 16% of special education students, according to Director of Special Education Pam Wright.

The Certificate of Completion is undefined in Indiana statute, but has been interpreted to mean that the student has been taken off the high school diploma path and has completed the educational program prescribed in the student's IEP.

IDOE proposes a Certificate of Completion "Course of Study" that would include a minimum of 40 credits (or units), multiple pathways, and a heavy dose of employability skills.

The Avon Community School Corporation and the Michigan City Area Schools are helping work through the practical implementation of the framework in anticipation of a statewide rollout in Fall 2018.

IN Elementary & Secondary Ed

IN General . . .

- Low-income students in Indianapolis achieve on average at higher levels than their peers in Louisville, Cincinnati, Fort Wayne, Evansville, and South Bend, according to the Education Equality Index (EEI), a statistical model created by two non-profit groups Education Cities and GreatSchools.

- Arlington Community High School, John Marshall Community High School, and Northwest Community High School - which the Indianapolis Public Schools proposes to close at the end of the 2017-18 school year - are rated "Below Average" based on how their low-income student proficiency rates compare nationally. Conversely, Broad Ripple Magnet High School for The Arts and Humanities, which is also slated to be shut down, ranks among the top 10 schools in Indianapolis where low-income students are most likely to thrive.

- Growing demand for lap-shoulder belts on school buses drives Westfield manufacturer IMMI to hire 55 additional full-time workers.

- An anonymous online survey completed by 157 public high school principals in Indiana reveals that only 34% reported having received training in the academic management of students with concussions, according to a study by Indiana University researcher Kristyn Tekulve. Post-concussion symptoms can hinder academics if not addressed appropriately, and that's where high school principals can play a key role in helping students recovery, says Tekulve. Among those surveyed, 92% indicated a willingness to make academic accommodations for students recovering from concussion for as long as necessary; 96% said they were likely to allow students to take frequent breaks and avoid busy environments; 98% reported they would likely grant increased testing time for concussed students; and 99% reported they were likely to limit screen time and allow concussed students to test or work in a quiet area. The study also found that 74% of principals surveyed thought that physicians should decide when academic accommodations are no longer needed.

- The Indiana Department of Education enters into a contract with WestEd for an alignment study of the ISTAR assessment to the Indiana academic standards. IDOE also contracts as of July 1 with edCount, LLC, to perform an alignment study and cut score validation for the IREAD-3 assessment.

- The U.S. Department of Education’s annual review of each state’s implementation of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) finds that Indiana did not “meet requirements.” The determination of non-compliance stems from the failure of the previous administration of the Indiana Department of Education to conduct, in the 2015-2016 school year, a fully operational alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Although IDOE administered the Indiana Standards Tool for Alternate Reporting (ISTAR) assessment to 7,487 students, Indiana’s technical advisory committee concluded that the test was invalid due to an insufficient number of test items.

- Congressional (in)activity to formally repeal and replace key provisions of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) imperils the approximately \$17 million in funding that 160 traditional public schools and charter schools in Indiana received last year in Medicaid reimbursements for Individualized Educational Plan-required services and administrative claims. A total of 369,385 Hoosier students received Medicaid-funded services through the K-12 system during the first half of the 2017 state fiscal year.

□ In a letter to elected officials, the Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association, Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents, and superintendents from the Fairfield Community Schools, Spencer-Owen Community Schools, Northwestern School Corporation, Tippecanoe School Corporation, and Triton School Corporation write: “These school-based Medicaid programs serve as a lifeline to children who can’t access critical healthcare and services outside of their school States and local communities will have to compensate for this federal disinvestment in our children’s healthcare. If we cannot adequately make up the difference in federal funding, providers will be forced to cut eligibility, services, and benefits for children Basic medical screenings covered by Medicaid to identify vision, hearing, and mental health problems of students would no longer be possible, making these problems more difficult to address and more expensive to treat. Moving health screenings out of schools also reduces access to early identification and treatment, resulting in more costly treatment down the road. In addition, districts will have to lay off school personnel like nurses, counselors and therapists since they won’t be able to supplement their salaries with Medicaid.”

- Stand for Children Indiana calls for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan to establish an “n-size” of no more than 10 students in order to maximize the number of student subgroups for which schools are held accountable. Setting a higher “n-size” would exempt smaller schools from accountability provisions, but setting it too low may endanger student privacy.

IN Administration . . .

- The Huntington County Community School Corporation anticipates making a decision at the July 24 school board meeting on three options for school closures: (1) Close Lancaster and Northwest elementary schools and re-open Horace Mann; (2) Close Lancaster, Northwest, and Roanoke; re-open Horace Mann; and build a new elementary school in the northern part of the county; (3) Maintain the status quo.

- The longest-serving school board member in Indiana is Phyllis Lewis, who is entering her 50th consecutive year on the M.S.D. of Wayne Township school board.

IN Budgets & Finance . . .

- Seven applicants presented proposals to the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (DUAB) during a public meeting in Gary for turning around the financially distressed Gary Community School Corporation. The presenters, which were selected from an initial group of 13 applicants, were:

- ✓ Bronner Group
- ✓ Comer Capital Group
- ✓ Crowe Horwath LLP
- ✓ Gatekeeper Accounting Services, LLC
- ✓ Martin, Arrington, Desai & Meyers, P.C.
- ✓ MGT Consulting Group
- ✓ Robert Bobb Group

□ Expect DUAB to select an emergency manager by July 30 . . . about two weeks ahead of the opening of GCSC’s new semester on August 17.

IN School Choice . . .

- Charter school copies innovations from traditional public school: The Mind Trust has awarded a Charter School Fellowship to Aleicha Ostler, the principal of School 19, a magnet school in the Indianapolis Public Schools. Ostler seeks to replicate the success of School 19 by opening a new K-8 charter school.

- Options Charter School will expand its Noblesville campus to serve the seventh and eighth grade. “Noblesville Schools successfully serves the vast majority of students in our community, but occasionally a student struggling behaviorally, academically or socially can benefit from an alternative environment. We have partnered with Options to provide this setting for these students so they can fully achieve their potential,” explains Beth Niedermeyer, superintendent of the Noblesville Schools. In addition, Options operates a virtual charter high school catering to students who need a more flexible schedule than what they can find at traditional virtual schools.

- A new Christian private school opens in Boone County this Fall, operating three days per week (Wednesday-Friday).

- Amid protests over the loss of three Indianapolis high schools, the *Indianapolis Recorder* publishes a story on the growing number of Black parents who are choosing to homeschool. The paper reports that some Black parents are looking to develop a homeschooling collective specifically for children of color.

● Former Indianapolis mayor Bart Peterson (D) observes that Lexington and Louisville have become “the third and fourth communities in the nation where the mayor has the ability to authorize charter schools. Sixteen years ago, Indianapolis became the first – and our success with education innovation over the years since proves that it’s an idea worth exploring in other municipalities.”

□ The former two-term mayor boasts in a piece published by *The Hill*: “While federal education debates increasingly fall along partisan lines, Indianapolis’ mayoral leadership on education proves that city leaders can transcend political divides. I am a Democrat who was succeeded by a Republican who was in turn succeeded by a Democrat. We have advanced education innovation in Indianapolis even further with each change of administration.” Both Louisville and Lexington are led by Democratic mayors.

IN Contracts & Compensation . . .

● As some say that the teacher pipeline is drying up, media are checking in with local school corporations about the teacher shortage. WTWO-TV in Terre Haute reports, “Several Wabash Valley school corporations say they are all fully staffed, for now. But that could change within the next few weeks.” WISH-TV *News8* in Indianapolis reports that the Greenwood Community Schools had 20 open teaching positions at the start of the Summer and all but one have been filled, while in the rural Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson United School District, 12 of 13 openings on staff have been filled.

● The Indiana Education Employment Relations Board rules in favor of the Richmond Community Schools on the unfair labor practice complaints filed by the Richmond Education Association alleging that the school district failed to discuss certain matters with the exclusive representative as required by law. In *Richmond Education Ass’n v. Richmond Comm’y Schools*, IEERB Hearing Examiner John Henry grants summary judgment to the school district on the failure to discuss alleged curriculum revisions, but denies the district’s request to order the Association to pay attorneys’ fees and costs.

□ The Richmond Education Association had argued that changing course eligibility by not allowing Read 180 students to take English reading or middle school students to take general music represents a change in curriculum that must be discussed. IEERB disagreed, ruling that the eligibility or accessibility of a class or course to an individual student is not subject to discussion and that furthermore, there were no substantive changes to any aspect of the instructional content, materials, or resources. Whether students receive grade level instruction is immaterial to whether overall curriculum is revised, according to the hearing examiner’s nine-page opinion.

● Substitute teachers will henceforth be known as “guest instructors” in the Fayette County School Corporation . . . and they’ll also be paid more. The pay scale will range from \$65 per day to \$90 per day depending on education and experience. After working 10 days, each substitute teacher will be entitled to a \$100 check to cover the costs of background checks, licensing, testing, etc.

● Fremont Community Schools will hike substitute teacher pay by \$10 to \$80 per day.

IN Programs & Curriculum . . .

● Four school corporations renew and extend an agreement to split the cost of a special education teacher to provide public educational services for students incarcerated in the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center through 2020. Participating districts are the Greater Clark County School Corporation, West Clark Community School Corporation, Clarksville Community School Corporation, and New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation.

● The DeKalb County Central United School District receives a three-year, \$1.28 million grant from the James Foundation to provide early learning scholarships and support the expansion of preschool programming to all four district elementary schools. The pre-K classes will run daily until 1:30 p.m.

● West Central Senior High School in Francesville contends that it will be the first high school in the state to provide its architectural drafting and design students with access to the Vertex BD advanced building information modeling software. The Vertex software is distributed by Argos Systems, Inc.

● Early Learning Indiana awards \$72,500 in Family Engagement Prizes to 14 programs. The Grand Prize worth \$25,000 went to the Walnut Hill Early Childhood Center in Goshen “because family engagement is integrated into their core values and demonstrated by a range of program components, including an emergency fund to support families facing significant challenges and take-home bags with activities and books.”

● All 700 pupils at Hanover Central High School will receive a Dell Chromebook in August (1:1 for elementary and middle school students is the next step). For the 2017-2018 school year the cost to parents will be a \$60 rental fee for the device.

● The Manchester Community Schools explores the possibility of adding a disc golf course on district property.

● The Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation receives school board approval to launch a dual-language immersion program, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students at Clifty Creek Elementary School.

IN Policy . . .

● The Freedom from Religion Foundation secures a promise from the Elkhart Community Schools that prayer at graduation ceremonies will not occur again. The Foundation based in Madison, Wisconsin, threatened legal action against ECS after a parent complained that the 2017 graduation convocation at Roosevelt STEAM Academy included a prayer in Jesus’ name.

● The Pioneer Regional School Corporation nixes its policy of collecting transfer tuition from non-resident students who transfer in after the Fall count date.

- The Madison Consolidated Schools Board of Trustees will add a second public comment portion to the agenda for each board meeting moving forward to allow patrons to air comments of a general nature. The public comment period at the top of the agenda will remain limited to agenda items only.

- The Eastern Howard School Corporation adopts a policy of providing students with an alternate lunch once they have accrued a negative lunch account balance of \$20. Automated phone messages will begin after a student's account dips to a negative balance of \$10.

- The four school districts in Floyd and Clark counties are giving thought to returning in unison to a traditional school calendar, the *Louisville Courier-Journal* reports, as the first day of school approaches in late July.

- West Clark Community Schools Superintendent Chad Schenck tells the paper that the balanced calendar "hasn't led to any changes in attendance or grades in his nearly 5,000-student district, and it's created some challenges having enough time for building projects and repairs during such a short summer." Some school districts in southern Indiana initially offered "intersession" support to students during the first week of the two-week Fall and Spring breaks, but funding for teacher pay for the added hours of instruction proved challenging to sustain, and now "no district in Clark and Floyd counties provides intersession instruction."

IN Referenda . . .

- The Westview School Corporation, which includes Shippshewana, approves a referendum for the November 7 ballot seeking a tax levy in the amount of \$0.294, which would raise \$3 million annually for eight years to maintain existing programs and class sizes.

- The *Goshen News* reports that the legislative changes to the complexity index in the school funding formula have hurt the district, which serves the heart of northern Indiana's Amish population.

- "In our community out here, most of our people are Amish or more conservative Mennonite people, and they will not sign up for federal food stamps, and that's what direct certification requires. You have to be willing to sign up for food stamps, and our people simply won't do it, which disproportionately now creates a funding shortfall for us," says Superintendent Randy Zimmerly. "So that formula is just completely hammering us as a district, and the same thing has happened I think a little bit to Goshen and certainly West Noble." The district has structured the referendum to avoid increasing the overall tax rate by timing it to the expiration of a debt service levy from 2009 that funded the construction of Meadowview Elementary School and significant renovations and expansion at the high school.

- The Department of Local Government Finance approves the November referenda ballot language on the first try for the School City of Hammond and School City of Hobart. Each of the Lake County school districts are seeking both construction and operating referenda.

IN Construction & Facilities . . .

- The Madison Consolidated Schools Board of Trustees anticipates closing on August 8 on a \$2 million General Obligation bond issue to finance renovations to the high school, including the expansion of both gymnasiums. Construction is slated to commence in October.

- The Wawasee Community Schools accepts a bid of \$536,942 from R. Yoder Construction to convert the former Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) facility located in Syracuse into a career and technical education space with 12 welding booths and eventually classes in CNC machining and lathe.

- The Crawfordsville Community School Corporation receives a \$1.37 million advance from the Common School Fund for improvements to Hoover Elementary School, including roof replacement, HVAC maintenance, lighting, ceiling tiles, re-painting, and re-carpeting.

- The Huntington County Community School Corporation eyeballs \$25 million worth of repair and replacement needs at the high school, including \$13 million alone to modernize the entire HVAC system.

- The growing Tippecanoe School Corporation proposes a 50,000 square-foot, two-story addition to Harrison High School with 14 new classrooms dedicated to science. The school board is also contemplating a new tennis complex, artificial turf at the football field, pool renovations, and air conditioning for the gymnasium. TSC is also preparing to lift the curtain on a proposal for upgrades to McCutcheon High School.

- The East Allen County Schools Board of Trustees awards a \$29.2 million contract to Hagerman Construction for the expansion and renovation of New Haven High School.

- The Concord Community Schools expects to begin design work in September on a proposed \$10 million addition to Concord High School, which currently serves some 500 students more than it was designed to hold. A new wing would be added to the west side of the building with classrooms and lab space for engineering and technology programs. The bond issue to finance the project won't increase the current tax rate due to careful stewardship in paying off existing debt. Groundbreaking could take place as early as April.

- Renovations needed at Lakeland High School would not be subject to the remonstrance process if the Lakeland School Corporation school board holds off until next year when the threshold increases to \$5 million.

- The Eastern Howard School Corporation intends to finalize plans next month for a solar energy project that would see a solar panel installation built at the soccer fields by the end of September.

- The Clinton Central School Corporation Board of Trustees rejects the only qualified bid it received for a solar energy project after the bid came in well above what Clinton Central was willing to spend.

- The Madison-Grant United School Corporation hasn't quite yet pulled the plug on its alternative energy plan, but the district's efforts to build an array of solar panels along S.R. 9 across from Madison-Grant Junior-Senior High School hit a roadblock after Teachers Credit Union opted against making an expected \$2.9 million loan to the district to fund the project. TCU had raised questions about risks. The M-G school board last week started the process of seeking to identify other financing options for the solar installation and upgrade of district lighting to LED lights.

IN Transition . . .

- Jason Toler is the new principal at Corydon Central Junior High School . . . Mark Black takes over as principal at South Central High School . . . Tim Phares will lead Creekside Middle School in Carmel . . . Deanna Pitman is the new principal at Carmel Middle School . . . Adam Robinson has been installed as principal of Crothersville High School . . . Hauser Jr./Sr. High School in the Flat Rock-Hawcreek School Corporation will see former South Ripley High School principal David Wintin of New Palestine, a 35-year educator, become the school's new leader, succeeding J.P. Mayer, who left for personal reasons. Wintin was selected from a field of 16 applicants . . . Troy Albert has been hired as the new principal of Salem High School. The former member of the State Board of Education was the longtime principal at Henryville High School.

- Brian Smith, executive director of the Indiana School Boards Association, plans to retire soon. His last day will be September 1.

- The Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association is seeking an executive director to replace Scott Turney, who intends to retire.

- Wes Bruce will continue to provide advice and feedback on state assessment programs and the transition to the ILEARN as a consultant to the Indiana Department of Education through December 2017.

- The new director of school improvement for the Indiana Department of Education is Terry Thompson, who recently retired as superintendent of the Anderson Community School Corporation after health issues arose.

- Patrick Mapes, who has been serving as acting superintendent of the Perry Township Schools since October 2016, has been named superintendent on a permanent basis.

- In addition to previously serving as a high school principal and superintendent of the Delaware Community Schools, Mapes is a former assistant superintendent of public instruction in the Indiana Department of Education and chair of the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board.

- Chris Sampson leaves the Clinton Prairie School Corporation where he presided as superintendent to join the Perry Township School as associate superintendent.

- Amanda Whitlock, principal of Clinton Prairie Junior Senior High School, becomes CPSC interim superintendent.

- The Sheridan Community Schools welcomes Doug Miller as the new superintendent. He previously served as assistant superintendent for Tippecanoe School Corporation and taught at Lawrence North High School. His wife, Melinda Miller, is an assistant principal at Noblesville High School.

- The East Allen County Schools promotes Marilyn Hissong from assistant superintendent of elementary education to district superintendent. The school board had named Doug Hicks, principal of East Allen University, as the new superintendent, but Hicks ultimately withdrew his name from consideration, opting to remain in his current role.

- The Paoli Community Schools Board of Trustees accepts the resignation of Superintendent Casey Brewster who has been suspended since June.

- Gerald Jackson, retired superintendent of the West Washington School Corporation, is chosen to serve as interim superintendent.

- The next superintendent of the Knox Community School Corporation will be William Reichhart, who spent the past seven years as chief of the Manchester Community Schools.

- At the North Harrison Community School Corporation the Board of Trustees names Dr. Lance Richards as the new superintendent, succeeding Dr. John Thomas, who resigned mid-May after more than five years leading the district. Dr. Richards, NHCSC's assistant superintendent and transportation director, had been serving as the interim superintendent . . . moving into the assistant superintendent/transportation director post is Dr. Steve Hatton, who had been the North Harrison High School principal for five years . . . promoted from assistant principal to principal at NHHS is Matt Kellems . . . hired to replace Kellems as assistant principal is Daniel Waynescott, an NHHS alum and long-time district teacher who recently earned his administration license from Indiana Wesleyan University.

- The Noblesville Schools hire Alaina Shonkwiler, assistant director of economic development for the city of Noblesville, for the newly created position of workforce development coordinator.

- Ann Rice, former principal of Angola Middle School, moves into the assistant superintendent role for the M.S.D. of Steuben County.

- Fred McWhorter leaves the New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation where he has toiled as chief business officer for 17 years to join the Franklin Township Community School Corporation as chief operations officer.

- The Mind Trust hires City of Fishers Controller Oscar Guitierrez as senior director of facility strategy and financing.

- The School City of Mishawaka appoints Dean Huppert, a 28-year television veteran and former sportscaster for WSJV-TV Fox28 in South Bend and Elkhart, as the district's new athletic director.

□ The Mishawaka Schools also tabs Meg Sauer for the new role of chief communications officer. Sauer spent 14 years as news director at WSBT-TV in South Bend and five years in public relations and marketing for the Salvation Army.

- Claire McNerny departs as an education reporter for StateImpact Indiana to join KUT, the National Public Radio station in Austin, Texas, to report on education in the Lone Star State.

- The Concord Community School Corporation names Mickey Wagner as director of elementary education. She has been serving as principal of Concord Intermediate School.

- The Vigo County School Corporation approves Bruce Perry as chief financial officer. He has been CFO for Muncie Community Schools and director of finance for Baugo Community Schools.

IN Government . . .

- U.S. Sen. Todd Young (R) joins with U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) on legislation to hold the U.S. Department of Education accountable for implementing U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations. The U.S. Department of Education would be required to provide a timeline for implementation of all outstanding GAO recommendations, or provide justification for not implementing them. USDOE would also be required to submit a status report to the congressional committees of jurisdiction on all outstanding recommendations. "This new set of oversight measures would hold the Department accountable for inaction on streamlining and improving key areas of its operations," said Sen. Young. The scope of outstanding recommendations is limited to the past 10 years.

- Superintendent of Public Instruction Jennifer McCormick (R) tweets her reaction to the House Republican federal budget proposal zeroing out the \$2 billion appropriation for teacher training: "If accurate, this is not good for Indiana. Beyond the fiscal impact, it sends a negative msg. Disappointing!"

- The State Board of Education grants accreditation for the Tawheed Islamic School (Islamic Academy of Indianapolis), which was established in 2015 mainly to serve the second generation of Muslim immigrants on the westside of the city. SBOE also granted a waiver to the school releasing it from requirements to instruct students in the areas of safety, health, and alcohol and tobacco usage.

- The U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, chaired by U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita (R), held a July 13 hearing on "Opportunities for State Leadership of Early Childhood Programs." The 44 federal programs that support early childhood services are beset by "overlap, duplication, and fragmentation," Rep. Rokita noted in his opening remarks. "Finding an early childcare or education program is an important decision for many working parents and families," he added. "The federal government should not be making the job of navigating the system more difficult through a confusing maze of federal programs."

- With the ILEARN exam poised to be a computer adaptive testing model, the Indiana Department of Education proposes requiring school corporations to test at least two-thirds of their student populations online, beginning with part one of the 2017-2018 testing window. About 91% of schools participated in online testing during the multiple choice portion of the exam. Indiana spends approximately \$4 million annually on printing and shipping for paper and pencil versions of the ISTEP exam. "We don't want to be at a place in 18-19 where there's a disconnect between implementation and the expectations for the assessment," says Charity Flores, director of assessment for IDOE. The two-thirds requirement may prove to be a high hurdle for rural school corporations.

- As the State Board of Education at its July meeting heard a presentation about the Certificate of Completion framework from Director of Special Education Pam Wright, Project Lead the Way CEO Vince Bertram recommended the book *Why Good People Can't Get Jobs*, noting that it contained provocative points regarding the signaling value of credentials.

- The re-election campaign of U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly (D) sends out Thursday fundraising email highlighting certain Trump Administration officials and policies, and claiming, in part, that "Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is trying to turn our public education system into a private enterprise."

IN Courts & Conduct . . .

- The Kokomo School Corporation terminates the contract of James Michael Puett, a part-time paraprofessional arrested on charges of child solicitation and sexual misconduct with a 15-year-old girl who lives with her parents in Miami County. A pre-trial conference is scheduled for September 7.

- The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana files a pair of federal lawsuits against the Northeast School Corporation, and two of its building administrators, on behalf of two male North Central High School students who were prohibited from participating in school-sponsored activities as punishment for an incident that took place in Illinois involving a traffic stop and marijuana possession. *Sparks v. Northeast School Corp., et al.*, No. 2:2017-cv-00331, and *Cunningham v. Northeast School Corp., et al.*, No. 2:2017-cv-00330, are pending in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

- Rochester Community Schools is bracing for a threatened lawsuit by a former Rochester High School coach that may seek damages from certain identified individuals for alleged defamation.

IN Higher Education

IN General . . .

- Indiana ranks third in the nation in the net migration of freshmen, attracting 7,969 more students than it sent to out-of-state schools, according to the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.

- Assets in Indiana's CollegeChoice 529 Savings Plans topped the \$4 billion mark last week, with record contribution activity by participants and recent investment returns enabling the plans to grow quickly from \$3.5 billion in combined assets in December 2016 to their current level. Since State Treasurer Kelly Mitchell (R) assumed office in November 2014, total CollegeChoice 529 assets have increased by more than \$1.1 billion, and more than 106,000 new accounts have been established.

- The University of Evansville will no longer care if students post lousy standardized test scores. The private university announced that ACT and SAT scores will not be required for admission consideration beginning with the beginning with the application process for Fall 2018, which will open August 1. Substantial research has repeatedly demonstrated that performance on standardized tests is a weak indicator of potential success at the college level, according to UE. The test optional change applies to all undergraduate programs except the Baccalaureate to MD program, engineering majors (aside from computer science), and all direct entry health programs including nursing, physical therapy, and the physician assistant program.

- Although the Higher Learning Commission gave Indiana until 2022 to comply with new requirements on dual credit teacher qualifications, Ivy Tech Community College has notified its dual credit teachers that they must sign a plan or intent by October 15, 2017, to upgrade their credentials, or else their dual credit teaching agreement will be cancelled effective with the 2018-2019 school year. Ivy Tech is the largest dual credit provider in the state.

□ K-12 officials are fearful that the Ivy Tech deadline will disrupt access to dual credit sooner than anyone anticipated . . . and the stakes are high given that dual credit completion plays a factor in high school A-F accountability grades.

- *Clearing the Jobs Pathway*, a new report released by the Indiana Institute for Working Families (IIWF), quantifies the non-academic barriers that prevent adult students from returning to college and completing a credential and provides a series of recommendations to reduce non-academic barriers to adult student completion.

IN Rankings . . .

- The "Best Colleges for your money" analysis published by *MONEY* magazine ranks seven Hoosier schools in the top 200: Purdue University (37), University of Notre Dame (40), Indiana University-Bloomington (117), Wabash College (148), DePauw University (156), University of Evansville (198), and Taylor University (199).

□ The *MONEY* 2017-2018 rankings are based on 27 criteria, including net price of a degree, average student debt load, graduation rate, affordability for low-income students, graduate earnings, and earnings adjusted by major.

- Indiana University ranks fourth on the list of "Top 100 Online Colleges" published by Online College Plan. Other Hoosier schools on the list include Huntington University (69) and Indiana Wesleyan University (73).

- Ball State University places 20th, Indiana University comes in at 42nd, and the University of St. Francis-Fort Wayne appears at 47th in the new College Choice rankings of the 50 Best Online RN to BSN Degrees for 2017.

- Earlham College is the third-best Christian College in the country, according to the College Choice rankings of the 50 Best Christian Colleges for 2017. Goshen College ranks seventh.

- Huntington University ranks eighth in the latest TheologyDegrees.org list of the "The Top 50 Christian Colleges and Universities" for 2017-2018.

IN Administration . . .

- Strada Education Network, formerly known as USA Funds, will relocate its headquarters from Fishers to the 11th and 12th floors of the newly renovated Market Tower in downtown Indianapolis in early 2018. The Market Tower space will accommodate 70 employees. Strada Education company Student Connections also employs 70 people at its office in Castleton.

IN Programs & Policy . . .

- Goshen College partners with Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for an online Doctor of Nursing Practice program beginning in January 2018. Faculty from both schools will teach the courses, and students will choose which school they want to confer their degree.

- Trine University launches men's volleyball as a varsity sport in 2018 and claims it will be just the fourth school in Indiana to offer men's volleyball at the varsity level.

□ As we've previously reported for you, the 2017-2018 academic year will also see Trine launch men's and women's hockey, women's triathlon, men's and women's club bowling, and sports.

- Vincennes University and the WestGate@Crane Technology Park are enrolling students for a new Electronics Fundamentals Certificate program at the Battery Innovation Center.

- Indiana Tech's College of Professional Studies partners with Lafayette-based Wabash National Corporation, North America's leading producer of semi-trailers and liquid transportation systems, to provide financial assistance to Wabash national employees who seek to further their education. The partnership will allow full-time Wabash National workers to avoid upfront, out-of-pocket expenses for books, fees and tuition.

- The Iron Yard immersive coding bootcamp will shut down all 15 of its locations around the country, including its campus in Indianapolis, at the end of the Summer, the for-profit school announced Thursday. The Indianapolis location opened in 2015. Another for-profit coding academy, Dev Bootcamp, which has six locations across the U.S. (none in Indiana) also announced this month that it plans to close in December.

IN Gifts & Fundraising . . .

● A record 85,465 Purdue University alumni, faculty, staff, retirees, students, parents and friends donated to the university during the fiscal year that ended June 30, spurring 2016-17 to an all-time-high \$351.9 million raised for the year. The previous record of \$343.4 million was set in 2015. This is the first time in Purdue history that donors contributed more than \$300 million annually for three years in a row.

● The University of Notre Dame attracted \$138.1 million in research funding during Fiscal Year 2017, breaking the previous UND record of \$133.7 million, set two years ago.

● Sallie Mae, which bills itself as “the nation’s saving, planning, and paying for college company,” hosted the “Sallie Mae 5K” run on July 23 at Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. The race supported scholarships for deserving high school students as part of the company’s 2017 Bridging the Dream Scholarship program.

IN Research & Technology . . .

● The Indiana University School of Medicine receives a \$25 million grant from the Lilly Endowment for the Indiana Collaborative Initiative for Talent Enrichment (INCITE), a corporate partnership with Roche, Dow, Cook and others for the recruitment of talented biomedical researchers. The grant also supports creation of a biomedical research center with cryo-electron microscopy technology to study the structure of molecules at the atomic level, and also funds a Ph.D. program in bioinformatics.

● Mimir Corporation, a developer of an education technology platform for computer science classrooms (whose flagship product, Mimir Classroom, was developed while its founders were students at Purdue University), plans to expand its downtown Indianapolis operations, adding six jobs by year’s end, and more than 100 new jobs by 2021. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offers Mimir up to \$1 million in performance-based tax credits, and up to \$200,000 in training grants.

□ The company’s flagship Mimir Classroom product, used at more than 80 universities worldwide, automates computer science grading and checks for plagiarism. Mimir Classroom also gives students the option to have their computer coding strengths matched to companies looking to recruit future employees with similar skills. By the end of 2017, Mimir plans to launch an additional software platform that companies can use during the interview process to evaluate prospective employees’ computer science skills.

IN Transition . . .

● Ivy Tech Community College Chief Financial Officer, Chief Information Officer, and Legal Counsel Chris Ruhl leaves Ivy Tech at the end of July after five years to begin service as senior vice president for strategic initiatives in the Office of the Treasurer at Purdue University in mid-August. Look for him to focus on the new Purdue-Kaplan operation. Ruhl served in the Daniels gubernatorial administration as director of the Office of Management and Budget and before that as director of the State Budget Agency.

□ Anne Brinson will come out of retirement to reprise her role as Ivy Tech’s chief information officer.

● Indiana University Kokomo welcomes Leah Nellis as the new dean of the School of Education. She was associate professor of school psychology and director of Ph.D. training at Indiana State University. Nellis began her career as preschool special education coordinator/psychologist for the Grant County Special Education Cooperative.

● Indiana University appoints Carolyn Gentle-Genitty as assistant vice president for university academic policy and director of the University Transfer Office. Gentle-Genitty is an associate professor of social work at IUPUI. She succeeds T.J. Rivard, who was appointed associate vice chancellor for academic affairs at IU East.

● Hitesh Kathuria takes over as assistant vice president for university academic affairs and director of the Office of Collaborative Academic Programs at Indiana University beginning August 1. He is currently an associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry at IU East. His appointment follows the retirement of IU Kokomo faculty member Sharon Calhoon, who led the development and implementation of IU’s first collaborative fully online degrees.

● Indiana Wesleyan University appoints Matt Lucas as the next chancellor of the IWU-National and Global Campus, the entity that comprises all non-residential operations. Lucas comes to IWU from Corban University, in Salem, Oregon, where he serves as provost and will begin his duties as chancellor-elect on August 28.

● W. Harold Galloway has been elected chair of the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees.

● Indiana University Kokomo selects Audra Dowling as dean of students. She had been IU Southeast’s assistant director of residence life and housing since July 2012.

● DePauw University hires Deedie Dowdle as vice president of marketing and communications. Currently associate vice president for university communications and marketing at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, Dowdle previously worked at Auburn University and Kennesaw State University.

● Bethel College snares Rich Cummins as its next vice president for institutional advancement overseeing fundraising, communications, and alumni services. He most recently served as executive vice president at The Rescue Mission in Fort Wayne. He’s the former president of QC Printing Co., Inc., CEO at Providence Communications (which publishes the *Fort Wayne Business Journal*) and executive vice president of Fort Wayne’s STAR 88.3.

● Gilberto Perez Jr. is the new dean of students at Goshen College. He earned a bachelor’s degree in social work from Eastern Mennonite University and a master’s degree in social work from the Universidad Interamericana in Puerto Rico.

● Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Sam DeWeese, will serve as chair of the Ball State University Alumni Council for the upcoming year.

- The State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota announces Roseanne Fairchild as the new dean of nursing and health profession. She was previously director of the doctor of nursing practice program at Indiana State University.

IN Government . . .

- U.S. Rep. Jim Banks (R), a member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, sees a proposal he introduced in March tucked into the bipartisan “Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017” that seeks to expand GI benefits. The Banks language would make permanent the VetSuccess on Campus pilot program, which places counselors on college campuses to assist veterans in navigating their GI benefits and charting their higher education path. “This bill will invest in a new generation of veterans as they transition back to civilian life and give them the opportunity to succeed,” Rep. Banks asserts.

□ The Colmery GI Bill package also includes the proposal from U.S. Rep. Luke Messer (R) to restore GI benefits for veterans who attended schools that abruptly closed. The collapse of Carmel-based ITT Technical Institute displaced more than 7,000 veteran-students. “If a student attended ITT Tech through a Pell Grant, they had that Pell Grant restored. And if they took out a federal loan, the loan was forgiven,” says Rep. Messer. “But nothing has been done for the student veterans who used their GI Bill benefits to attend ITT Tech. Frankly, our veterans got a raw deal.”

□ The GI Bill package also includes language advocated by U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks (R) in the “Veterans To Enhance Studies Through (TEST) Accessibility Act,” legislation she introduced earlier this year.

- U.S. Rep. André Carson (D) was the only Hoosier House Democrat who signed a July 19 letter to the leadership of the House Committee on Appropriations decrying the \$3.3 billion cut to the Pell Grant Program in the Fiscal Year 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education funding bill. This would come on top of the \$1.3 billion cut in May for a total \$4.6 billion total cut to federal financial aid for low-income students over the last two fiscal years.

- Indiana and Kentucky renew their tuition reciprocity agreement without substantive changes for an additional four years through June 30, 2021. Kentucky stakeholders had requested the addition of one Kentucky county and one Indiana county, while Indiana officials initially communicated an interest in minor changes but ultimately requested that the status quo be maintained.

□ Indiana and Ohio agree to extend their bilateral tuition reciprocity agreement through 2019 providing in-state tuition rates for residents of specified counties who attend select campuses in the other state.

- The Navient Corporation PAC makes a pair of June contributions totaling \$3,500 to the 2018 primary campaign of U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita (R), the chair of the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, who has indicated his intent to run for U.S. Senate.

- Barnes & Thornburg LLP of Indianapolis files a termination of its earlier federal lobby registration on behalf of Chicago State University.

IN Courts & Conduct . . .

- The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana authorizes Bankruptcy Trustee Deborah Caruso to enter into a settlement agreement on behalf of ITT Educational Services with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in which the SEC waives all claims against the former for-profit school. The SEC will continue to pursue securities charges against former ITT chief executive officer Kevin Modany and chief financial officer Daniel Fitzpatrick alleging that they defrauded investors by concealing “the extraordinary failure” of two in-house student loan programs. The SEC seeks to require the former CEO and CFO to disgorge their allegedly ill-gotten gains, pay civil penalties, and reimburse the bankruptcy estate for all bonuses, equity, and profits from the sale of stock.

- U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee Deborah Caruso is seeking to hold the former directors of ITT Educational Services, Inc., personally responsible for more than \$50 million in damages suffered by ITT “as a direct result of wrongful acts You committed, attempted, or allegedly committed,” she writes in a blistering series of letters to the directors. Caruso contends that the directors “knowingly participated in the acts or omissions giving rise to heightened regulatory and private investigations and lawsuits” and “continued to reap large personal financial rewards as ITT and its students continued to suffer.” Caruso notifies the directors that “there is no evidence that You implemented any meaningful oversight or instituted any program to investigate or address student and regulatory agencies’ complaints and concerns or to save ITT and its stakeholders from their ultimate fate of total or near-total loss.” Furthermore, Caruso contends that “by maintaining blind trust in leadership that had driven ITT into deep distress (and is alleged to have violated federal securities laws, among many other bad acts), You breached Your fiduciary and other duties to ITT, to the detriment of the bankrupt estate and all stakeholders.”

□ The seven non-employee directors whom Caruso seeks to hold personally liable include Indianapolis resident Sam Odle, who served as presiding director of the ITT board.

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