

Public Statement Opposing Education Savings Accounts and Voucher Expansion

The Indiana General Assembly during its 2021 legislative session is considering House Bill 1005, Senate Bill 412, Senate Bill 413, and other bills that establish Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and expand vouchers.

The North Gibson School Corporation believes the Indiana General Assembly should not enact Education Savings Accounts, or expand vouchers, and should continue to promote and fully invest in Indiana's public schools, as well as:

- *To further the public good, public funds should be invested in improving the schools designed to serve all children and to aid in improving Indiana public school teachers' salaries as recommended by the Governor's Teacher Compensation Commission in its report of December 14, 2020.*
- *Indiana already has school choice in the form of open enrollment, charter schools, enrollment in virtual online schools, and the Choice Scholarship program.*
- *Public schools are required to operate in an open, transparent way with all expenditures and decision-making. Nonpublic schools are not held to that same public standard.*
- *Legislators should reduce the over-regulation of state and federal bureaucracy that hinders the ability of local schools to innovate and be responsive to parent and community needs.*

The costs of Education Savings Accounts and school vouchers are covered exclusively by our state's school tuition support fund, further providing fewer public dollars to fund our public schools and increase teacher salaries.

The School Corporation believes that public schools provide a strong educational environment for Indiana's children and Education Savings Accounts, if enacted, and expanded school vouchers would put this environment at risk by directing resources away from those schools to nonpublic schools and/or home schools that are not subject to the same rigorous scrutiny for their use of taxpayer resources

Therefore, the North Gibson School Corporation opposes the passage and signing of HB 1005, SB 412, SB 413 or any other bill expanding vouchers and/or creating Education Savings Accounts.