



# 2019 Legislative Agenda

## 119<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Regular Session

### **THE INDIANA SMALL AND RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION BELIEVES:**

- In the leadership of Local School Boards made up of engaged citizens closest to the school represent the most invested groups properly suited to guide the operation of the local school district while making important decisions involving budgets, leadership, curriculum, shared services, cooperative agreements, district organization, and district improvement.
- The Indiana General Assembly should fully fund new laws and administrative code mandates that required the addition of staff for a specific state-mandated program, supplementary staff training time, or specific school security procedures and equipment and document the impact on school districts' local financial resources.
- All Redevelopment Commissions formed in Indiana should include an appointed non-compensated school board member or school board member designee as a voting member representing any school district located wholly or partly within the unit.
- The General Assembly should NOT adopt any entitlement bill to support Educational Saving Accounts (or similar program) for general education or special education services that incentivizes the withdrawal of students from public schools to access a paid benefit.
- Appropriate annual funding for all moderate or high-value funding for all CTE courses that fit within the four-year plan for high needs occupations and those that support economic development in each school's community.

### **THE INDIANA SMALL AND RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation and public policy that requires all Indiana schools receiving public funds be required to meet and report the same operational, accountability requirements, academic, and rigorous legal standards while being held to the same equal access requirements public schools are required to follow.
- Legislation providing full funding or matching funds for Indiana Schools to specifically add School Counselors who can provided needed responsive services for students who have high social and emotional needs as well as to support the implementation of the new graduation pathways.
- An increase to the state tuition support appropriation that equates to more than a three percent cost of living increase.