



Dear (Legislator Name),

A steadily growing movement is sweeping across Indiana. Parents, educators, and local business leaders are forming public education foundations to support K-12 public education by enriching the experiences of students in our schools.

While education foundations are not a new concept – the first one in Indiana (maybe even nationally) was formed in 1955 - the need for this **additional support is becoming critical for many Indiana public schools**. These private dollars enable school districts to provide enrichment and after-school programs, tutoring and mentoring services, classroom grants, and scholarships.

Approximately 80 K-12 public education foundations currently exist in Indiana. The growth and sustainability of these nonprofit organizations are supported by a trade association called the Indiana Association of Public Education Foundations (INAPEF). INAPEF was formed in 2000 to grow the number of education foundations and to strengthen them as philanthropic leaders.

INAPEF has partnered with some of the state’s most prestigious philanthropic-oriented groups such as the Lilly Endowment Inc. and Indiana University’s Lilly Family School of Philanthropy to provide training and fundraising opportunities for its members. This training is provided to the state’s education foundation leaders as part of INAPEF’s efforts to build sustainable education foundations that create innovative opportunities for the **94% of Indiana’s children attending public schools**.

School foundations **collectively raise \$13 million each year**, investing in necessary programs that support the needs of public education in the community that they serve. Below are examples of some of the program funding provided by these organizations.

Select Area of Focus	Examples of Foundation Funded Programs
Early Childhood Education	Funding readiness and dual immersion programs for preschool and kindergarten
	Grants for Paths to Quality levels and accreditation
Social Services	Providing supplemental funding for school supply programs
	Assisting district families with student needs including food, coats, shoes, emergency medical needs, gas, showers, etc.
	Generating the funds to pay for student lunches for those who do not qualify for free/reduced lunches but have a need for support
STEM	Partnering with STEM business foundations like Fiat Chrysler, Duke Energy, and SIA to expand STEM resources in schools
	Funding robotics, Maker Spaces, and many types of STEM resources to engage and make STEM learning FUN at all ages
	Helping establish hands-on outdoor learning programs that include shelters, raised garden beds, solar panels, and more
Workforce Development	Funding the building of a single-family home by students as part of the Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center
	Paying certification fees for workforce development track students
	Partnering with Junior Achievement to present JobSpark

Foundations cultivate partnerships to help ensure our public schools are effectively equipped to support Hoosier children and strengthen our local communities. As these relationships develop, the community gains a greater sense of pride as seen through the support of local schools with donations, internship opportunities, supply drives, volunteer support, and more.

Today, INAPEF is working with the Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA) and the Indiana Urban Schools Association (IUSA) to propose legislation in the 2019 General Assembly allowing an **Indiana tax credit** for certain donations made to public K-12 education foundations. We thank Senators Mishler, Alting, Ford, and Melton, as well as Representative Hamilton for their work on similar legislation last year. We were pleased the Senate Appropriations Committee had extensive discussion on the legislation despite it not being a budget session. We believe this legislation will greatly impact K-12 education by connecting private donations to educational needs and encourage you to find out more about the public K-12 education foundations in your district. You will see first-hand the difference these organizations are making in your constituents' lives.

Sincerely,



Teresa Ransdell, MPA, CAE  
Executive Director  
Indiana Association of  
Public Education Foundations



Terry Spradlin  
Executive Director  
Indiana School Boards  
Association



Dr. David Marcotte  
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