



# Indianapolis Local Education Alliance

June 25, 2025

# **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

# Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of the ILEA
  - Responsibilities and Timeline
- Historical Context
- Support and Data Collection
- Public Comment (30 minutes)
- Closing and Next Steps

# Alliance Members

- **Mayor Joe Hogsett**, Chair
- **Dr. Aleesia Johnson**, Superintendent, Indianapolis Public Schools
- **Tina Ahlgren**, Teacher, H.L. Harshman Middle School (IPS district-managed school parent appointee)
- **Barato Britt**, President/CEO, Edna Martin Christian Center (IPS board president appointee)
- **Maggie A. Lewis**, Majority Leader, City-County Council; CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs (mayoral appointee)
- **Tobin McClamroch**, Managing Partner, Dentons Bingham Greenebaum (mayoral appointee)
- **Andrew Neal**, CEO, Outreach Indiana (IPS innovation school parent appointee)
- **Bart Peterson**, Former Mayor of Indianapolis (mayoral appointee)
- **Angela Smith-Jones**, Associate VP for State Relations, Indiana University (mayoral appointee)

# ILEA Responsibilities and Timeline

Established by the Indiana General Assembly in House Enrolled Act 1515 in 2025, the ILEA shall:

- Conduct facilities assessments of IPS and charter school buildings
- Create an asset management plan that includes debt management
- Provide recommendations for facility utilization and excess capacity
- Identify a capital levy approval process and templates for revenue-sharing and asset-use agreements
- Establish a facilities and transportation implementation plan to promote collaboration and efficiency that also serves homeless/foster youth, student extracurricular needs, etc.
- Ensure cross-sector collaboration across schools, city agencies, and nonprofits.
- Create a procurement strategy for vendor systems and maintenance

# ILEA Responsibilities and Timeline

In the implementation plan, the ILEA may consider:

- Governance structure
- Referendum planning
- High-quality program expansion
- Special education coordination
- Central office efficiency
- School consolidation
- Unified accountability

Additionally, the law states that only the mayor's office may authorize new charter schools within the IPS district boundary from July through December 2025.

Final report and implementation plan must be submitted by December 31, 2025, to:

- Indiana General Assembly
- Indiana Secretary of Education
- IPS Board of Commissioners
- Mayor's Office

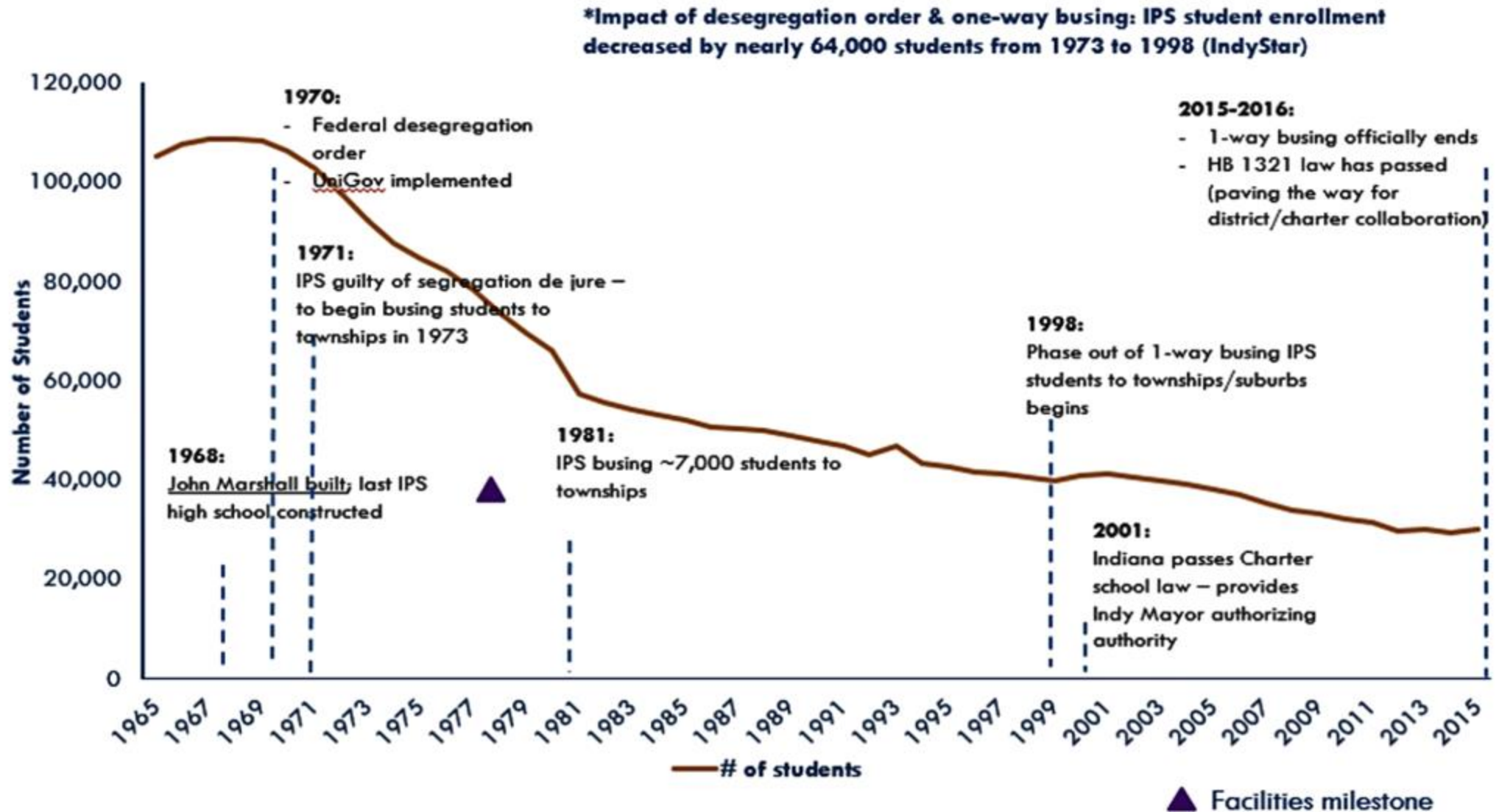
# **Education Policy Context and Current Landscape**

# Policy Shaping Indianapolis

- **1970:** “Unigov” unified of city-county government but intentionally left school districts separate.
- **1973:** Federal court order to desegregate IPS. The busing primarily involved black students being transported to neighboring township districts within Marion County.
- **2001:** Charter school law passes; Mayor of Indianapolis is given authorizing power.
- **2011:** SBOE takes over operations of Arlington HS, Manual HS, Howe HS & Emma Donnan MS and assigns a “lead partner” to George Washington HS and Broad Ripple HS.
- **2015:** Indiana General Assembly enacts House Bill 1009, allowing the creation of Innovation Network Schools. This legislation enables school corporations statewide to establish such schools. This serves as a response to state takeover and by 2020 essentially ends the practice in Indianapolis.
- **2016:** Last year of mandatory one-way bussing. IPS expands pathways to become Innovation Network Schools including restart, charter partnerships, and conversion of existing district schools.
- **2022:** 25 Innovation Network Schools exist within IPS. Nearly a third of students attend an innovation school.
- **2025:** IPS fully implements the Rebuilding Stronger initiative. The Indiana General Assembly passes substantial property tax reform and creates the Indianapolis Local Education Alliance.



# Policy Shaping Indianapolis - Timeline



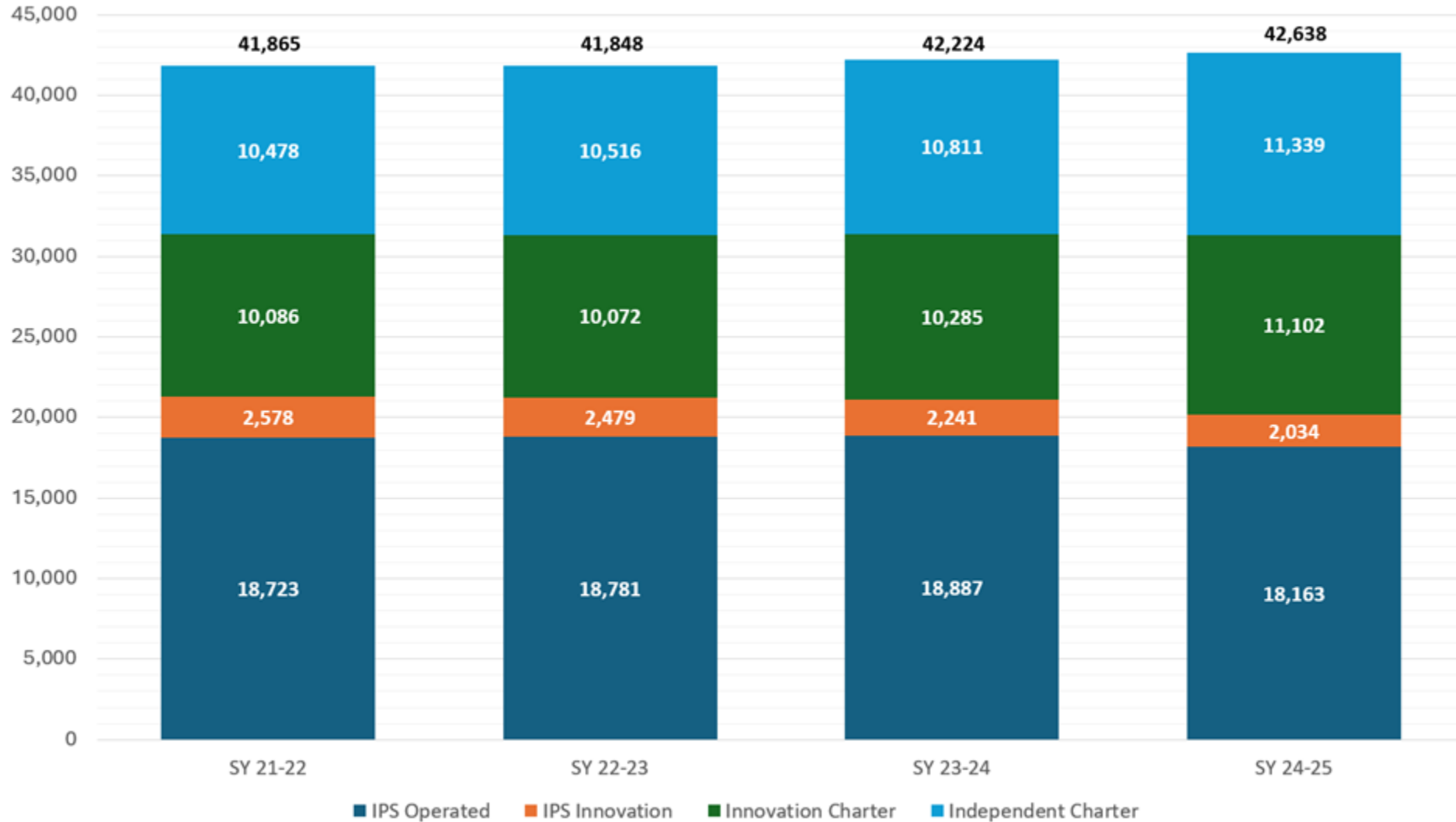
# Overview of Public Schools within IPS Boundary

- **42,000 public school students**
- **Transportation:** Schools provide thousands of bus miles/day, along with car, walking, and public transit models.
- **School types:** Traditional, IPS Innovation, Innovation Charter, Independent Charter
- **Specialized Programs:** IB, Montessori, STEM, Dual Language, Early College, preschool, Life skills, Performing Arts, CTE, Recovery High School etc.
- **Demographics:** 85% students of color, 30% English Learners
- **Buildings:** 67 facilities operated by IPS, including Innovation Network; 29 facilities owned or leased by independent charter schools.

# School Types and Governance Structures

- **IPS Operated:** Directly operated by IPS and governed by the elected IPS Board. Part of IPS LEA. Also called traditional public schools.
- **IPS Innovation:** Semi-autonomous schools (e.g., Edison) that remain in the IPS LEA. Governed by independent nonprofit boards and operated by external partners.
- **Innovation Charter:** Fully autonomous public charter schools (e.g., KIPP, Herron, Adelante) with external authorizers (OEI, ICSB, Education One). Governed by independent boards, outside IPS LEA. May contract with IPS for services, but have an innovation agreement with IPS.
- **Independent Charter:** Fully autonomous public charter schools (e.g., PSOE, ILH, IMSA) with external authorizers (OEI, ICSB, Education One). Governed by independent boards, no affiliation with IPS.

# Total Public School Enrollment Across the IPS Boundary Over Time

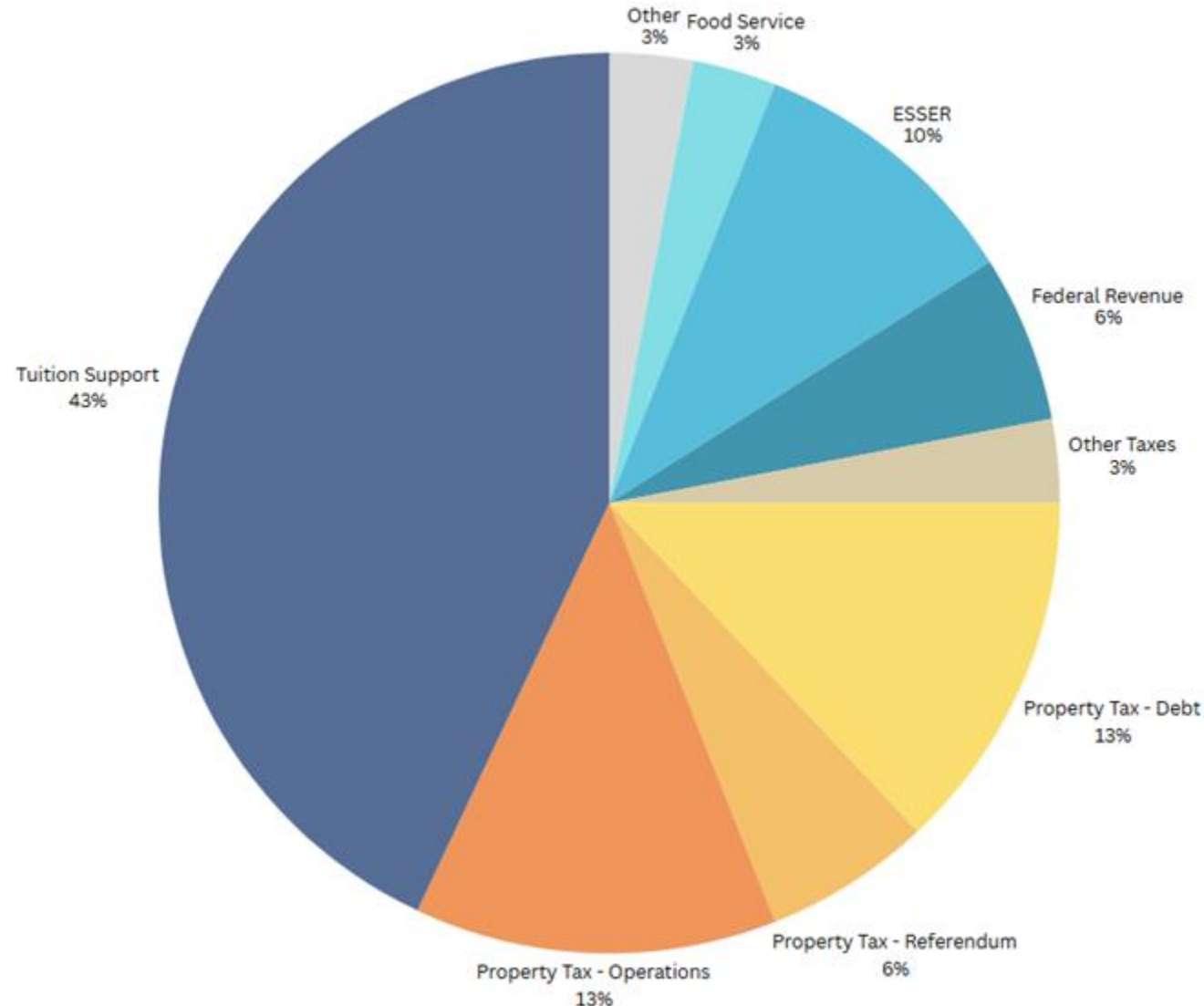


# How Indiana Funds Public Schools

While state funding makes up the vast majority of Indiana's public school funding, federal and local funding streams also support education:

- **Federal funding:** Allocated from the U.S. Department of Education primarily through Title Grants that focus on staff quality and support certain student populations, such as those experiencing poverty, English learners, and students with disabilities.
- **State dollars:** Income and sales taxes, cover basic classroom costs based on student enrollment and includes a Complexity Index adjustment for students facing higher needs, such as those experiencing poverty.
- **Local property taxes:** Supports transportation, building maintenance, safety, and capital needs. Affected by rate caps and increased deductions that can limit revenue growth.

# IPS – Funding Breakdown



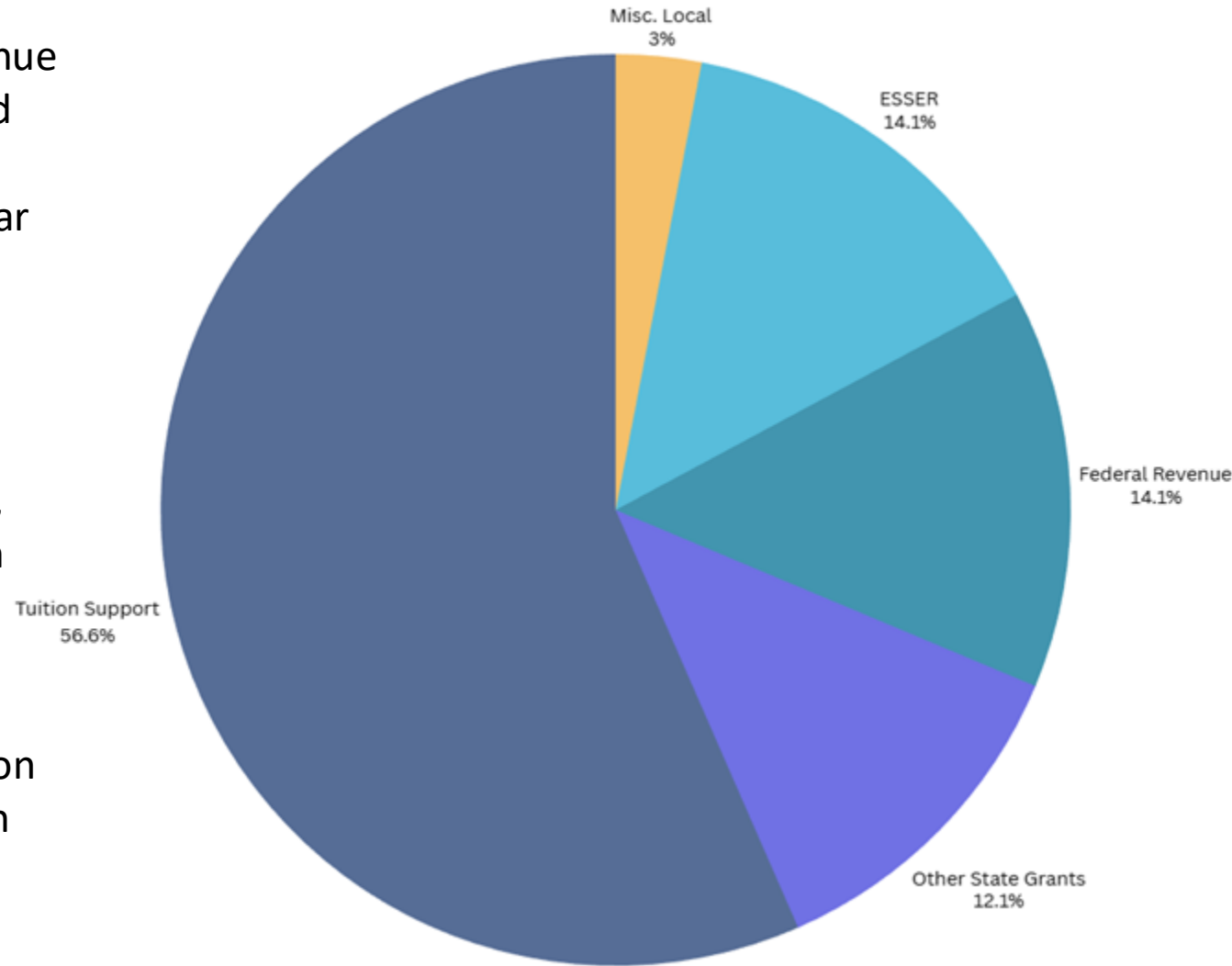
- State Tuition Support totaled 43% of IPS revenue in SY 2024
- Property Taxes and other local taxes totaled 35% of IPS revenue in SY 2024
- Federal Funding and other revenue sources totaled 22% of IPS revenue in SY 2024
- ESSER Funding is a one-time grant revenue source and cannot support ongoing operations

Property taxes and local taxes total 33% of SY2024 Revenue

# Charter School – Funding Breakdown

This chart shows revenue for a mayor-sponsored charter school that is demographically similar to the district.

Beginning in June 2025, some charter schools in Marion County began receiving a portion of local property tax revenue from the Marion County school district in which the students they serve reside.



- State Tuition Support totaled 56% of school revenue in SY 2024
- Other State Grants, including the \$1,400 per pupil Charter School Grant totaled 12% of revenue in SY 2024
- Federal Funding totaled 28% of the school's revenue in SY 2024
- ESSER Funding is a one-time grant revenue source that has now expired; cannot support ongoing operations

# **Support and Data Collection**



# Internal Support: IPS and OEI Staff

- **Shaina Cavazos**, Director of the Mayor's Office of Education Innovation
- **Rachel Santos**, Director of External Affairs, IPS
- **William Murphy**, Chief Operations Officer, IPS
- **Dan Parker**, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
- **Andrew Strobe**, Deputy Superintendent, IPS
- **Weston Young**, Chief Financial Officer, IPS

Staff assists in areas including meeting preparation, communications, contract drafting, vendor selection, community engagement, and data collection.

# Data Collection

Unless data is already available, requests were sent to all public charter schools in the IPS boundary. Data on IPS-operated schools is being compiled.

Focus areas include:

- Facility condition and specifications
- Building utilization and enrollment
- Transportation systems, routes and spending
- Details on instructional personnel and salaries

# External Support

Staff may seek technical assistance from external consultants to add capacity and aid in high-quality analysis. Role includes:

- Aggregating facility assessment data
- Analyzing transportation data and supporting recommendations for transportation system modeling
- Engaging stakeholders and solicit feedback
- Synthesizing data and information for preparing draft and final recommendations

Next steps would include issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and exploring existing contracts as opportunities for efficiency and expediency.

# Public Comment

# Public Comment Procedure

For everyone to have a fair chance to speak and be heard, please observe the following rules:

**First**, each speaker will be limited to 1.5 minutes. When the timer sounds, please conclude your statement.

**Second**, please ensure comments reasonably relate to the work of the ILEA and address the alliance as a whole.

**Finally**, please avoid repeating what a prior speaker has said so that we may hear from as many people as possible.

# Closing and Next Steps

# Tentative ILEA Roadmap

- **July/August:** Review current landscape, identify priority data
- **September/October:** Issues deep dive to identify potential challenges and recommendations
- **November/December:** Continued analysis and refinement of recommendations
- **December:** ILEA adopts final recommendations. Plan submitted to state and local leaders by 12/31.

# Closing

Next steps include:

- Review and finalize incoming data from schools
- Begin engaging external support

Next Meeting:

- 6 p.m., July 23, 2025.
- Details and upcoming meeting schedule available at <https://www.indy.gov/activity/indianapolis-local-education-alliance>
- Contact [ILEA@Indy.gov](mailto:ILEA@Indy.gov) or [IPSEExternalAffairs@myips.org](mailto:IPSEExternalAffairs@myips.org) with questions or comments.