

ILEA Aug 20, 2025 - Online Public Comment

Lawanda Hardnett-Rados	<p>Why is there a problem with how the bus system is running now. If it's not broke why go in and creat inconvenience for families.</p>
Allison Vanneman	<p>Thank you to the ILEA for the important work you are doing to serve our city's students. Public transparency is key in this work, and I'm sharing some comments on how that can be improved:</p> <p>Presentations so far have focused largely on IPS. Given the large number of charter and innovation schools in Indianapolis, I'd like to hear more about these schools from the mayor's charter school office.</p> <p>I also hope that the ILEA can focus on enrollment trends in Indianapolis. In January, Chalkbeat wrote that IPS is facing a fiscal cliff due to declining enrollment. The article also says that: "IPS steadily lost students annually at rates of around 3% to 4% from 2016 to 2020." Any recommendations by the ILEA need to fully acknowledge that charter and innovation schools are growing and the district is shrinking.</p> <p>Finances were a big focus in July. It seems like we are paying more taxes into a district that is getting smaller and a system that lacks coordination. I would support recommendations that help streamline the ways our city manages school buildings and things like transportation.</p> <p>Today's topic is facilities. I know the ILEA will do a survey of all school facilities to help them make recommendations. I agree with school leaders who have asked for this data to be shared publicly.</p> <p>Thank you again for your efforts, and for considering these comments.</p> <p>Allison Vanneman, Indianapolis resident and former elementary school teacher</p>
Danielle Cruz	<p>My name is Danielle Cruz. I am a proud parent to two children that attend 91. I am also an alumni.</p> <p>I'm reaching out today to ask that there be a moratorium on any new charters while we are rolling out this new program. We can not be expected to make changes and then have no idea how many charters we will have to support.</p> <p>We can barely support our present amount of schools and transportation-how can we be expected to support more?? It is so important to protect IPS first and foremost. Our slice of pie is getting smaller and smaller/ we can't afford to lose much more</p>
Maura Malloy	<p>We rely on bus transportation for our IPS child. So much fund has already been taken from our schools. Charters have their own funds. Don't share our buses with them now too! They've taken so much from us already.</p>

<p>Anh Nguyen</p>	<p>Dear the ILEA members,</p> <p>This is Anh Nguyen, and I am a mother of two kids attending Merle Sidener Academy, a school of IPS. As I have attended various meetings and submitted many written comments, I always stretch on the importance of being transparent and fair. I again want to emphasize this here. I ask that the ILEA will immediately share all the data it has collected about enrollment, school performance, facility used, and so on. In fact, the data was presented to the ILEA members at the last meeting. Thus, the public needs to have access to that data and that report immediately. This demand is consistent with the petition from the IPS Parent Council (https://www.change.org/p/parent-priorities-for-a-fair-and-transparent-ilea) that was introduced by IPS parents at the last meeting. On this same note, I ask that the ILEA will immediately share the results from the transportation survey that many parents took in May and June. Both of my kids use the bus services, and I filled out the survey as well. Therefore, I, and many parents who have kids currently using buses and/or hoping to use the buses, will really appreciate to know the results from the survey and how these results can guide the ILEA recommendations to state and local leaders in December. This ask is to ensure that the ILEA is hold to the same level of accountability and transparency as the IPS school board. In fact, every time the IPS district staff presents any data related to finance, budget, enrollment, and so on, the detailed reports in addition to the presentations are always made available online. As parent, I expect this same level of professionalism and transparency from the ILEA.</p> <p>The second point I want to touch on is facility since it is the focus of this meeting. As the ILEA members discuss facility uses and sharing, I urge that you revisit unfair laws that have been imposed on IPS by the State Legislation. One of such is the “\$1 law”. The IPS Parent Council demands that this law must be repealed moving forward (https://www.change.org/p/parent-priorities-for-a-fair-and-transparent-ilea), and I want to champion this idea. IPS should be able to sale or rent its facility at a fair market price. As charter and innovation leaders asked IPS to transfer building ownership at the last meeting, this process needs to be fair as well as transparent, and the implication of “\$1 law” needs to be discussed. I also want to emphasize that I do not agree with that letter from charter and innovation leaders calling for another independent facility authority to oversee public buildings/facilities within IPS boundary. This is blatantly transferring decision-making power/authority from an elected group (IPS school board) to an unelected group (a “so-called” independent authority). This is undemocratic!</p> <p>Let me be clear, the conversation about building ownership should be discussed primarily at the IPS school board with inputs from many community members. In fact, we should bring this up at the next IPS school board meeting on August 28. Moreover, the work of this ILEA should end by the end of this year, and there should be no extension under any circumstances. We will not tolerate another attempt to transfer power from the elected school board to an unelected</p>
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	<p>"independent" authority. Thank you</p>
Alan Schoff	<p>We need the real accountability and solutions that actually work for Indianapolis.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put IPS in charge of authorizing all Charters. The district already manages a portfolio of schools and knows the needs of our neighborhoods. 2. Shut down OEI. It's a necessary layer of government wasting money dictating dollars on politics instead of classrooms. 3. Let IPS manage school buildings. They have experience and infrastructure and are transparent about number of seats in schools - why reinvent the wheel for private investment companies that do not serve community first. 4. Require charter school companies to contract with IPS for transportation if they get public money. No more leaving families stranded while spending millions on marketing campaigns to make false claims about "being better". <p>We teach kids to make good decisions. It's time that adults make good decisions too.</p>