

ILEA Oct 22, 2025 - Online Public Comment

<p>Maggie Girard</p>	<p>I'm a parent at 91, with 2 children attending. I'm an alumni of school 70. I want to urge the ILEA to keep the IPS school board fully elected, with NO new boards/committees created.</p> <p>I urge the ILEA to allow no more new charter schools within the IPS district, as we have thousands of available seats currently for students. We need to make better use of the services that are currently available rather than start new school communities which will weaken what already exists and could work with more support.</p> <p>I request the ILEA to repeal the \$1 law for purchasing schools, as this harms both IPS and the school community that would be built in an aging building with many needs to update the facility to be fully usable. I long to see our communities pour resources into what already exists so we can strengthen it-- there is a lot of good already happening in existing schools and we need to build upon what we have.</p>
<p>Susan Collins</p>	<p>Greetings ILEA committee members. I am a near lifelong resident of Indianapolis, a former IPS teacher, instructional coach, and elected school board member. During my time on the board we had multiple monthly meetings open to the public. Our procedures, policies, and expenditures were open for anyone to see and comment on in public forums. Our financials were published in local media every fiscal year, and our school board meetings were recorded for anyone to review. Traditional public schools are agents of the State and accountable to all laws as well as all citizens of their district. In contrast, charter schools have unelected school board members who meet at inconsistent and/or inconvenient hours. Their minutes are basic, if published at all. Their financials are buried and in several cases we have seen in Indianapolis, corrupted to the point of financial ruin and school closure and indictment of principals. Charters are accountable to their authorizer, often an agency outside of a community where the school is located, period. Until charters have elected school boards and open books, they are not really public. This brings me to the issue of transportation. Transportation costs massively for any school system. Charters who have joined IPS Portfolio schools can benefit from having transportation if requested. I believe this is a generous concession on the part of</p>
<p>Susan Collins</p>	<p>I apologize for an incomplete response sent prematurely, but here is the point I'd like to make. Where is the money coming from to provide transportation to every public and charter schools have in the city? Transportation is a massive expenditure. As a parent/grandparent of IPS students, I would not want them riding with mixed grades such as high school and kindergarten students in same bus; I would not want them to be dropped off at a central transit point where they connect with their individual school buses. Charters from their inception expected parents or guardians to provide transportation. If they want public funds they should be fully public—elected board</p>

	<p>members, Union association, publisher disclosure of expenditures, public board meetings with public comment.</p>
Gary Davis	<p>DAVIS General Contracting Construction Management</p> <p>October 21, 2025</p> <p>To Members of the Indianapolis Educational Alliance,</p> <p>As a lifelong resident of Indianapolis and President of Davis & Associates, Inc. construction, I write today to express my strong support for Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS). IPS is not only a cornerstone of our city’s educational landscape, it is a vital part of our shared history. For generations, IPS has served as a beacon of opportunity, welcoming and educating all students regardless of background. Its legacy is woven into the fabric of our community, and its continued strength is essential to the future of Indianapolis.</p> <p>The impact of IPS alumni can be seen across every sector of our city, from civic leadership and business to the arts and public service. These graduates are proof of the district’s enduring value and its role in shaping the character and success of Indianapolis. IPS has long stood as a district that opens its doors to every child, offering not just education but a foundation for lifelong contribution and achievement.</p> <p>While thoughtful improvements are always worth considering, now is not the time for sweeping changes that could disrupt the essential services IPS provides. Stability and support are critical as the district continues to serve families across our city. I urge decision-makers to honor the legacy of IPS, recognize its vital role in our community, and ensure that any changes strengthen rather than undermine its mission.</p> <p>Sincerely, Gary Davis President</p> <p>“An Equal Opportunity Employer” 2852 N. Webster Avenue Indianapolis, IN 46219 317.263.9947</p>

<p>Sujata Ghate</p>	<p>Good evening. I am speaking today as a concerned parent of two elementary-age IPS students, as well as a homeowner and a local business owner. I strongly believe there is a direct connection between a robust public school district and a strong, sustainable local economy.</p> <p>Indianapolis is already at risk of compromising its long-term financial health due to the inequitable funding system that currently exists among schools. While IPS has been required to share portions of its funding with charter schools, the same requirement has not been applied in reverse—despite the fact that many charter schools benefit from abundant private resources and financial backing.</p> <p>My children are fortunate to attend a high-quality IPS elementary school and to utilize IPS transportation services. These resources not only ensure their safety and access to education but also allow our family to save on before- and after-school care costs. This, in turn, enables us to maintain both our home and our small business, continuing to invest in and support our local economy.</p> <p>The expansion of charter schools introduces significant risks to our community. Many of these programs lack stability and quality, and their frequent closures can drain public resources and disrupt families. In contrast, IPS has demonstrated proven capacity in managing large-scale transportation, ensuring student safety, and maintaining competitive educational standards.</p> <p>I urge the IPS School Board to continue providing strong leadership and cohesive guidance for all public schools within the district. A unified, well-supported public school system will help retain families and homeowners, strengthen our neighborhoods, and cultivate the next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders—educated right here in Indianapolis Public Schools.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Ted Collins</p>	<p>If the Alliance recommends that the IPS Board of Commissioners be disbanded, then what happens to my right to vote? Where is my Voice then? Is my Citizenship enhanced or diminished?</p>