



# Indianapolis Local Education Alliance

Final Presentation

December 17, 2025

# Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Public Comment
- ILEA Final Recommendation Vote
- Closing

# **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

# 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** minute. When the timer sounds, please conclude your statement.

**Second**, please ensure comments are reasonably related 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.

# **Public Comment**

# Charge to the Indianapolis Local Education Alliance by the Indiana General Assembly

## Facilities and Transportation

- “Develop a facilities and transportation implementation plan...”
  - Best practices in facilities management and operation
  - “A system to track qualitative and quantitative data to gauge the success of the plan”
  - “Ensures the provision of uninterrupted transportation services for homeless students or students in foster care as provided by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.)
  - Sec. 4: “The alliance may...include the following recommendations in the implementation plan...special education policies”

# Charge to the Indianapolis Local Education Alliance by the Indiana General Assembly

## Governance

- Sec.4: “The alliance may...include the following recommendations in the implementation plan:
  - “the governance structure for a collaborative school system”
  - “uniform school performance frameworks for all schools within the collaborative school system”
  - “an approach in which schools located within the geographic boundaries of the school city will participate or opt into participation in the implementation plan and at what service level the schools may participate or opt in”

# **Charge to the Indianapolis Local Education Alliance by the Indiana General Assembly**

## **Statutory Submission Requirements**

“Not later than December 31, 2025, the alliance shall submit the school facilities and transportation plan to the following:

- (1) The secretary of education.
- (2) The board.
- (3) The mayor described in section 2(b)(2) of this chapter.
- (4) The legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.”



# Where we've been

- 10 meetings and listening sessions
- 15 different presentations
- Over 14 hours of public comment
- Hundreds of citizens have engaged during the multiple meetings of the Indianapolis Local Education Alliance

# Framing the Issue

Within the IPS boundary, there has been a **lack of decision-making coherence** across different school types which has led to uneven experiences and opportunities for students and families. With the change in how local funding is distributed, we must **build a more coherent system** that maximizes efficient use of tax payer dollars, respects the decision-making rights of individual schools and systems, and, most importantly, creates the best conditions for **student learning and success**.



## The Mayor

Chief Executive of the City of Indianapolis.



## Executive Director Indianapolis Public Education Corporation



### IPS Board of School Commissioners

- Elected body (7 members).
- Sets district policy and strategic direction.
- Approve annual budget and contracts.
- Hires and evaluates the Superintendent.



### Charter School Boards

- Sets policy and strategic direction of the school,
- Hires and evaluates school leader.
- Approves annual budget and contracts



### Indianapolis Public Education Corporation

- Appointed body (Nine members-three IPS board members, three charter school leaders, three at-large members). All must reside within the IPS boundary.
- Has ability to impose property tax levies;
- Sets and implements policy for transportation services and facilities management for all public schools within the boundary.
- Employs staff to support operations
- Manage unified enrollment system.
- Establish a framework for school accountability
- Creates an advisory board to facilitate collaboration among all entities



### Innovation Network School Board

- Sets policy and strategic direction of the school,
- Hires and evaluates school leader.
- Approves annual budget and contracts



### Schools

- Innovation Network Schools
- Direct-Managed Schools
- Independent Charter Schools



### Authorizers Within the IPS Boundary

- Mayor's Office of Education Innovation
- Indiana Charter School Board
- \*Indianapolis Public Schools

**An Advisory Board will also be created by the IPEC to facilitate collaboration.**

# Review of Recommendations to Move Forward

- **Indianapolis Public Education Corporation.** Create an independent public municipal corporation known as the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation (the Corporation). The functions and responsibility of the Corporation will be as follows:
- Control the management and operations of buildings serving as public schools within the boundaries of the Indianapolis Public Schools District.
- Lead and oversee the provision of transportation of students to and from public schools within the IPS District boundaries.
- Levy property taxes within the IPS District boundaries. The collection and distribution of property taxes in Indiana is extremely complex and requires consultation with fiscal experts at the Indiana General Assembly. The ILEA wants to assure that a fair, equitable and efficient system is appropriately funded.
- Enforce accountability standards that are applicable to all public charter schools and traditional public schools within the IPS District boundaries. Create an Advisory Board to promote collaboration between authorizers, IPS, and the Corporation in the development and implementation of the unified performance and accountability standards.
- Manage a unified enrollment system applicable to all public-school students within the jurisdiction of the Corporation.

# Review of Recommendations to Move Forward

**Governance.** The Indianapolis Public Education Corporation will be led by a Board of Directors.

- There will be nine members of the Board. All nine members will be appointed by the Mayor of Indianapolis. Three members must be current public charter school leaders. Three members must be currently serving members of the Indianapolis Board of School Commissioners. The final three members should have expertise in areas such as facilities, management, capital planning, and transportation and logistics; or experience working with vulnerable student populations and communities. The mayor will designate the chair of the board. All members must reside in the IPS District.
- The terms of the members of the Board will be staggered with each member serving fixed terms.

# Review of Recommendations to Move Forward

**Accountability.** The Indianapolis Local Education Alliance recommends a single school performance framework across all public schools in the IPS District.

The framework should set clear expectations for school performance, be based on multiple measures (including state assessment outcomes, student discipline practices, and other key measures that are relevant to student success), and guide decisions for replication of instructional models that are achieving the best results for students - especially those who have been historically underserved throughout the system.

Implementation of the single school performance framework should focus on:

- Developing measures based on both the Mayor's Office of Education Innovation performance framework and the State's final A-F accountability rules.
- A commitment across all sectors to use data from the performance framework to make decisions around closing chronically low-performing schools (after a transparent public process with adequate time provided for struggling schools to make improvements).
- Developing metrics for the opening and closing of school facilities (i.e., physical condition of facility, number of enrolled students, deferred maintenance, regional and community analysis of need).

# **Review of Recommendations to Move Forward**

## **Unified System.**

All public schools within the IPS District boundaries will be required to provide transportation to students living within the IPS District boundaries through participation in the unified system.

For purposes of public-school building reuse, the Corporation will ensure that facilities will be provided to all public charter schools, innovation network charter schools and IPS schools on an equitable basis.

# Review of Recommendations to Move Forward

**Schools as Local Education Agencies (LEAs).** IPS will continue to exist as an LEA as will all public charter schools. With the exception of the responsibilities assumed by the Corporation for facilities, transportation, and uniform accountability standards, the Board of School Commissioners for Indianapolis Public Schools will continue to provide direction for the operation of all direct-run schools, as is currently the case, and the not-for-profit boards of all public charter schools will also remain in place with the same authority as is currently the case. The IPS Board of School Commissioners will continue in its current form with the current model of election of Board members.



# Review of Recommendations to Move Forward

## **Additional Key Recommendations.**

- Exempt the Indianapolis Public Schools District and all public charter schools contained within from the Indiana Dollar Law (Indiana Code 20-26-7.1-4).
- The only authorizers of new public charter schools to be located inside the IPS District boundaries will be the Mayor of Indianapolis through OEI and the Indiana State Charter School Board. Existing charter agreements authorized through other entities may operate until the end of their current contract terms. The IPS Board of School Commissioners may also choose to authorize schools through application to the Indiana State Board of Education.
- The Indianapolis Local Education Alliance asks the Indiana General Assembly for full funding of Special Education within the IPS district boundaries and suggests the need for additional work to determine the best model for equitable access and service for the Special Education needs across all public school types within the district boundaries. IPS currently provides full special education funding at a \$24 million annual deficit.
- A document will be attached to our final recommendations that details the multiple legal issues that will need consideration and review at the Indiana General Assembly.

# **Further Legal Analysis Will Be Required**

During our discussions around facilities and transportation, we have discovered several areas that need further legal analysis, legislative decision-making, and deeper fiscal review. We will highlight those concerns in a separate chapter of the final report.

# Discussion