

Carmel Clay Schools 2017 Legislative Priorities

Aligned with the ISBA 2017 Legislative Priorities

Our Mission: Carmel Clay Schools will provide opportunities for all students to realize their potential in an ever-changing world.

1) Funding

- a. Because “students are at the center of every decision,” funding is a critical issue for Carmel Clay Schools. The state should provide funding for professional development and in-service program days conducted beyond the 180-day school year.
- b. Raise the \$2,000,000 and \$10,000,000 thresholds for school construction projects before triggering a petition/remonstrance or a referendum. Project cost limits were established to protect tax payers. These limits need to be updated/adjusted to \$5,000,000 and \$15,000,000 respectively. (IC 6-1.1-20-1.1; IC 6-1.1-20-3.1)
- c. Make permanent the ability to pay General Fund utilities and property/casualty insurance from the Capital Projects Fund. Loss of this authority will have a negative financial impact on almost every school district. (IC 20-40-8-19)
- d. Tax credits should be allowed for donations made to public schools and public school foundations.

2) Referendum

- a. Allow accurate ballot language that clearly explains the purpose of both operational and capital referendums. (IC 20-46-1-10; IC 6-1.1-20-3.6)
- b. Change the length of the General Fund Referendum from 7 years to 12 years. (IC 20-46-1-11; IC 20-46-1-14)
- c. Allow the use of school facilities to advertise and answer questions about a referendum. (IC 20-46-1-20)

- 3) Student Testing - Greater focus on benchmark testing during the school year (formative) and shorter end-of-year testing (summative) benefits students and teachers. In addition, the state should no longer require the use of summative test results in teacher evaluation. (IC 20-28-11.5 (IC 20-28-11.5-4(c)(2))

Adopted September 26, 2016