

# 2018 Public Education Report Card for Monroe County State Representatives

Does your state legislator support public education?

The state-level Indiana Coalition for Public Education graded Indiana House representatives based on their votes on bills that hurt and benefited public education. The legislator with a pro-public education voting record received an "A" rating. Legislators who undermined public education received low grades. A description of the bills considered in grading is provided on the reverse side.

## The Grades

Rep. Bob Heaton (R), District 46.....	D
Rep. Peggy Mayfield (R), District 60.....	D
Rep. Matt Pierce (D), District 61.....	A
Rep. Jeff Ellington (R), District 62.....	D
Rep. Chris May (R), District 65.....	D

## How They Voted in the Bills Chosen

	HB1001 2017	HB1005 2017	HB1384 2017	SB30 2017	HB1001 2018	HB1315 2018ss
Heaton	0	0	0	1	1	0
Mayfield	0	0	0	1	1	0
Pierce	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ellington	0	0	0	1	1	0
May	0	0	0	1	1	0

1 = pro-public education vote  
0 = anti-public education vote

## The 2018 Challengers

These pro-public education candidates are running against the incumbents above. You can read about their positions on education in the 2018 Legislative Candidates Survey Results on our website, [www.keepeducationpublic.org](http://www.keepeducationpublic.org).

- E. Thomasina Marsili (D), District 46
- Penny Githens (D), District 60
- Amy Swain (D), District 62
- Jared Stancombe (D), District 65

## Are you a PRO-public education voter?

- √ Do you think our community benefits from excellent public schools?
- √ Do you think that public education should be fully funded and that public tax dollars should go to public schools?
- √ Do you think all children should have access to a full, vibrant curriculum with music, art and science, rather than a narrow focus on preparation for state-administered standardized tests?
- √ Do you believe that teachers are professionals who deserve our support?

If you answered yes to these questions, then you are a pro-public education voter.

Be an Educated Voter

Vote for Public Education

**KEEP EDUCATION PUBLIC**  
ICPE - Indiana Coalition for Public Education - Monroe County

Election day is Nov. 6

 **ICPE**  
Monroe County

# Bills Used in Scoring Our Legislators

## Some good news for public education...

### SB 30 (2017) - But Where Did They Go?

This bill provided transparency by requiring the Indiana Department of Education to report to public school corporations the names of the schools that have enrolled voucher students who live in the school district.

*"Yes" vote = 1 point.*

### HB 1001 (2018) - More Students, More Money

This bill provided supplemental funding support to all schools due to an increase in public school enrollment, which was beyond the increase estimated in the 2017 budget.

*"Yes" vote = 1 point.*

## But also a LOT of bad news.

### HB 1001 (2017) - Isn't the Great Recession Over?

This budget bill funded K-12 schools with austerity-level increases of only 1.6% in 2018 and 1.7% in 2019—less than inflation and less than the 2.3% increases in the 2015 budget. Meanwhile, the bill gave a 47% increase in funding for School Scholarship Tax Credits, which fund tuition scholarships for private schools and will now cost taxpayers \$26.5 million over two years. Vouchers for private schools also received a 14.6% increase for 2018-19. They can total \$156.6 million the first year and \$167.4 million the second year.

*"No" vote = 1 point.*

### HB 1005 (2017) - Don't Trust the Voters!

This bill abolished the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, elected by Indiana voters since 1851. Instead, the Governor will appoint a Secretary of Education starting January 10, 2025. Worse, the controversial law does not even require the occupant of the new Secretary of Education position to have K-12 experience.

*"No" vote = 1 point.*

### HB 1384 (2017) - Let's Pretend You Are Accredited Already

This bill allowed new private schools to receive vouchers in the first year of operation without waiting a year to get accreditation, as they were required to do before the new law.

*"No" vote = 1 point.*

### HB 1315 (2018) Warning: Entering The Twilight Zone

The most controversial bill in the short session was passed hastily in a one-day special session and toppled three previously steadfast pillars of public education:

**BEFORE:** Local voters in Indiana elected a school district's governing board from candidates who were residents of the district.

**NOW:** Muncie Community Schools' locally-elected school board has been dissolved and relegated to an "advisory board." Ball State University now appoints all members of a new governing board. Three of these seven new school board seats don't even need to be reserved for residents of Muncie. Gary Community Schools' governing school board has also been converted into an appointed "advisory board"—that cannot hold a public meeting more than once every three months.

**BEFORE:** Every school district was required to follow all of Indiana's state education laws.

**NOW:** Muncie is subject to a special list of only 29 state laws. This list does NOT include laws regarding bullying prevention, child abuse prevention, or collective bargaining.

**BEFORE:** The state issues a letter grade to every school in every public school district.

**NOW:** Muncie Community Schools win a free pass to ignore the school letter grade law.

*"No" vote = 1 point.*