



Possible Impact of Proposed Legislation

Thoughts from West Lafayette Community School Corporation incoming superintendent Dr. Shawn Greiner

It is important that we all speak out to our legislators and in our communities to help all understand the detrimental effects of current proposed legislation on our students, teachers and schools.

Proposed Indiana education legislation Senate Bill 167 has entered national headlines recently due to some of the disturbing effects this legislation will have on public schools if it passes. I am compelled to share my deep concerns on how this proposed legislation would impact our West Lafayette community and schools as well as communities and schools across the state.

In its current proposed form, this legislation would:

1. Prohibit teaching accurate historical facts, both at the K-12 and collegiate levels
2. Prohibit teaching general sociology concepts, both at the K-12 and collegiate levels
3. Threaten to criminalize teachers which potentially demoralizes educators driving them out of an already undervalued profession and adding further to our statewide teacher shortage
4. Redirect time and money (taxpayer resources intended for our students) away from classrooms and student learning to meet increased government bureaucratic requirements

Beyond the tremendous disservice this would do to our students, it also may damper the renowned academic reputations of our Indiana K-12 schools, colleges and universities. With the quality of education in the Hoosier state compromised, our state's ability to attract residents and economic development could be damaged.

Education legislation written without wide input from actual educators and with little understanding for how it will actually play out after put in place often has the potential to create unnecessary and distracting problems for educators who need to remain focused on the goal of educating all children. I urge you to speak with the teachers and school administrators you know to understand how this proposed legislation may impact their work.

The proposed legislation promotes curriculum transparency for parents and taxpayers, and I want to state clearly that I fully support transparency and partnership with our community. However, it is important to understand that current policy and district processes already in place provide our families and the public avenues to express concerns, ask for clarification, and provide input on curricular matters. Schools and educators in our community and across the state already partner with families and the community.

School legislation impacts our children and the success of Indiana in the future. I urge the members of our community to find your legislators and make your voices heard in support of our students, teachers and strong Hoosier schools.

You can find more information on SB 167, similar bills in the House HB 1134 and HB 1040, and other proposed education legislation at the Indiana General Assembly.

Dr. Shawn Greiner
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