

**School Finance**

Amended February 21, 2012

Public school funding should guarantee equal access to high quality education for all Indiana children.

The State should provide school corporations with the funds for high quality elementary and secondary education of all Indiana children, regardless of their place of residence.

The funding program should be appropriate for each child's individual potential and circumstances. It should reflect the added per-pupil cost of equalizing educational opportunity for children who are economically disadvantaged, physically handicapped, or have other special needs.

Mandates by the State should be fully funded by the State.

Funding methods should be stable and predictable so as to allow for efficient planning. The methods should provide incentives for creative efforts by school corporations.

If additional revenues are needed, the League favors the use of the State income tax.

The League supports limited additional local funding which allows for local interests. The League does not oppose the use of tax referenda to increase such school funding.

The League opposes the diversion of public funds to nonpublic schools through vehicles such as vouchers, tuition tax credits, tax deductions, or choice scholarships

Transportation, capital projects, and debt service should be funded by a mix of State and local taxes. Unused local monies from these sources should go to a local school corporation rainy day fund.

Under the state program, teachers' salaries should be competitive within the field.