

The Indiana Coalition for Public Education

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INDIANA COALITION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION UPDATES 2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

INDIANAPOLIS, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 -- The Indiana Coalition for Public Education (ICPE) has revised its 2018 Legislative Report Card, giving six legislators running as incumbents in November higher letter grades. Each of the adjusted grades is higher by one letter. The new grades are:

Senators

District 22, Sen. Ron Alting	B
District 48, Sen. Mark Messmer	D

Representatives

District 57, Rep. Sean Eberhart	D
District 42, Rep. Alan Morrison	D
District 54, Rep. Thomas Saunders	B
District 38, Rep. Heath VanNatter	D

After releasing the 2018 Legislative Report Card in late August, ICPE was asked to reconsider the grades. The adjustment resulted from a review of two positive public education bills, Senate Bill 30 (2017) and House Bill 1001 (2018) that were part of the 2018 Legislative Report Card ranking. These two bills had no opposing votes and complete bipartisan support, a condition that ICPE hopes would happen more often. The review determined that for these popular bills supported by all, not voting had no impact on the outcome, so scores were adjusted upward for legislators who were absent from the votes on either of these two bills.

“This adjustment resulted in higher grades of B for two legislators who have long been strong supporters of public education,” said Vic Smith, ICPE board member. “Senator Alting and Representative Saunders have consistently supported public schools and were among Republicans who had the courage to oppose their party leadership and vote against the history-changing voucher bill in 2011, which deeply damaged public education by diverting \$153 million of taxpayer dollars annually to support private schools.”

The revised 2018 ICPE Legislator Report Card listing all incumbent candidates running for reelection is available at the ICPE website: www.icpe2011.com. An appendix is also posted that includes how all legislators voted on each of the six selected bills. ICPE is a bi-partisan non-profit organization that supports public schools.

In all, ICPE issued grades to 109 legislators. With the revised totals, 29 members of the Indiana General Assembly earned A’s, three earned a B, six earned C’s, 67 earned D’s and none earned F’s for their support for Indiana’s public schools. Four legislators earned an incomplete grade for voting on too few of the six bills to calculate.

(30)

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