

Fast Facts

Models of State K-12 Educational Governance: Where Does Indiana Stand?

What —

The CEEP Education Policy Brief, *Models of State K-12 Educational Governance: Where Does Indiana Stand?* by Kylie Stanley, Terry Spradlin, and Shaun Johnson, examines educational leadership roles at the state level. The policy brief begins by discussing the ways in which state educational leadership, comprised of members of state boards of education and the chief state school officer (CSSO), is structured and selected in the state of Indiana and in all other states. Furthermore, the position of the CSSO is reviewed, and qualifications and compensation for the position are considered. Finally, the brief offers recommendations for improving the quality of educational leadership in the state of Indiana.

Why —

Introduced by state representatives in 2006, HB 1355 intended to restructure educational governance in Indiana. More specifically, the bill provided for the CSSO position in Indiana to move from an elected position to an appointed one. Additionally, amendments to the bill discussed appropriate compensation and qualification provisions. The bill died on its third reading, as it was not called by the deadline for a vote. It is possible, however, that a similar bill may resurface in future legislative sessions.

How —

The significance of K-12 education as a state responsibility is reflected in Indiana's state budget, where money allocated for education spending in Fiscal Years (FY) 2007-09 represented roughly 50 percent of the budget, more than any other expense of state government, when examining the state General Fund and the Property Tax Replacement Credit. During the 2007-09 biennium, Indiana's state budget will appropriate \$15.1 billion to education. Because Indiana places a premium on providing quality public education to its students, as reflected by the state budget, assuring quality candidates are appointed or elected for state educational leadership positions must also be a priority.

Recommendations —

- Although the salary of Indiana's CSSO will increase annually beginning in 2008 based on the average annual salary increase of executive branch employees, there should also be a raise in the base salary of the CSSO to a level at or above the national average (\$143,997 in 2007).
- If the office of the CSSO is moved to an appointed position, employment criteria should be established to ensure that someone with an advanced degree in education and relevant experience is selected.
- The state of Indiana would benefit by financially supporting statewide initiatives which encourage and sustain persons in educational leadership positions, such as the Hallmarks of Excellence program, which is administered by the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents.

To read this Education Policy Brief, go to:
<http://ceep.indiana.edu/>