# **LWVIN Education Advocates**

**Advocacy area:** High quality, equitable, well-funded public schools for all Indiana children. Public schools are the bedrock of our democracy, preparing children to be citizens and serving students of all backgrounds, all income levels, and all abilities.

#### **Goals:**

- Promote equal access to quality education recognizing that "equality" and "quality" are inseparable.
- Advocate for state funding levels that enable public schools to provide for all students an education that meets both Indiana standards and legislated directives and opposes the implementation of unfunded mandates.
- Advocate for adequate and consistent school funding necessary to attract and retain high qualified professional teachers who meet or exceed certification standards and are leaders in their field of study.
- Support financial transparency; academic and operational accountability; and an adherence to legal standards from all that receive public funding.
- Educational legislation, policies, and directives must be based on facts, research, academic study and the interests of children, not political objectives.

### Potential legislation to watch:

- Require school board candidates to declare a party affiliation. Currently school boards are nonpartisan. It is not known whether this bill will be sent to the Education or Elections committees.
- Ban schools from teaching children an ideology aligned with CRT which says individuals should be treated differently based on race. (Language taken from Republican survey.)
- Require teacher to make available online for parents to inspect any and all instructional materials used in the classroom as well as daily lesson plans.
- Remove from local school boards and superintendents the power to issue mask mandates or require children to quarantine if exposed to COVID.
- Require that participation in women's school sports be contingent on a student's biological sex.
- Require parent approval before K-12 students are administered a survey.
- Ban or place limits on curriculum/teaching practices addressing the social, emotional learning of students.
- Require every public school to form "curriculum control committees" composed of parents, community members, and educators responsible for the review of curriculum, classroom materials, or library books, overseeing and recommending changes to school leader.
- Mandate a discipline procedure that must be applied to any teacher who is found promoting certain theories in the classroom.
- Ban the display of political ideologies, i.e., Black Lives Matter signs or LGBT pride flags or the promotion of one theory over another like authoritarian, totalitarian, Marxism, etc.
- Establishes a process to disannex a township from an existing school corporation and annex the township to an adjacent school corporation.

\*The LWVIN is a member of the nonpartisan Indiana Coalition of Public Education (ICPE) following the LWVUS which is a member of the national organization. Check out the ICPE website for information on education throughout the legislative session.

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