



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

2019 Indiana School Accountability Panel

Dr. Byron Ernest – Co-chair

House Appointee to the Indiana State Board of Education

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Dr. Byron Ernest serves as director of educator development and partnerships for Noble Education Initiative (NEI). In this role he also serves as senior leadership advisor mentoring associate principals in their first year of service. Dr. Ernest has developed a leadership development program called 3D Leadership that is now being run in six states (Indiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida). Byron has extensive teaching and school leadership experience and was the 2010 Indiana Teacher of the Year and 2011 Christopher Columbus Foundation National Outstanding Agriscience Teacher.

Previously, Dr. Ernest served as superintendent and head of schools for Hoosier Academies. While at Hoosier Academies, Byron developed a successful teacher leader program, the Focused Leader Academy, for developing an intent-based and distributed leadership school community model. Byron also served as principal at Emmerich Manual High School in Indianapolis after it was taken over by the state for receiving seven consecutive failing annual performance grades. As principal, Byron worked with a new staff to develop a culture of excellence focusing on high student achievement and performance. The state removed Manual off the “F” list under Byron’s leadership. Emmerich Manual High School received a “C” this past year and continues to improve.

Prior to going to Emmerich Manual High School, Byron worked as the department head for agriculture science and FFA at Lebanon Community School Corporation, where he started the program from scratch. The program is now one of the largest in the state and is well respected nationally for its focus on teaching science in the context of agriculture. Byron holds Bachelor of Science degrees in animal science and agricultural education and a master’s degree in education from Purdue University. He received his doctorate from Walden University in administrator leadership for teaching and learning. In 2017 Dr. Ernest completed the Certificate for Advanced Educational Leadership program at Harvard University where he is continuing his post-doctoral studies.

Dr. Ernest serves on the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE), appointed by House Speaker Brian Bosma. During his tenure on the board, Dr. Ernest has served as secretary and chaired the State’s Graduation Pathways Panel that transformed Indiana’s graduation requirements. Legislation passed in 2019 named Dr. Ernest chair of both the Indiana School Accountability Panel that will reimagine accountability by considering student success outcomes and the Education Dispute Resolution Panel that will develop a state approved procedure for special education disputes. He also currently serves as secretary/treasurer on the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Board of Directors.

Pat Mapes – Co-chair

Senate Appointee to the Indiana State Board of Education

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With 32 years of experience in public education, Pat Mapes has provided leadership and advocacy at the local and state level. He has served as superintendent of the nationally recognized Perry Township Schools district since October 2016.

Prior to joining Perry Township Schools, Superintendent Mapes provided leadership to the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board (IEERB) as chair. Before that, he served as state director of teacher licensing and assistant superintendent of operations for the Indiana Department of Education, where he developed the REPA educator standards and the LVIS educator licensing and verification system, as well as state guidelines for school efficiency. Because of his vast knowledge in all areas of leading a school corporation, including operations, curriculum, and

finance, Mr. Mapes was selected to join the United States Department of Education as the regional advisory chair on education issues.

Superintendent Mapes earned a Master of Arts in education and a Specialist in Education degree from Ball State University before he began his career as a teacher and basketball coach. Mr. Mapes also served as a high school principal and superintendent of schools at Delaware Community Schools in Muncie.

Representative Bob Behning

Chair – House Committee on Education

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Representative Bob Behning has served in the Indiana State Legislature since 1992 and represents House District 91, including Marion and Hendricks counties. He was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana and has been a proud Hoosier his entire life. In 1976, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University. He was a small business owner for 34 years and is an active member of his church and community.

Throughout his tenure as a representative, he has advocated for education reform in Indiana. As chair of the House Committee on Education, he led efforts to pass the most comprehensive education reform package in the United States. Behning believes all parents deserve the right to choose the school that best meets their child's needs. In 2001, Behning was the co-author of House Bill 2102, a bill that would have created Indiana's first charter schools.

In 2011, Behning authored House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1003, creating the School Choice Scholarship program that provides families who do not have the financial means with a scholarship (or voucher) to pay the cost of tuition at a private school. This law leveled the educational playing field in Indiana by giving students of lower incomes and underprivileged backgrounds the same access to great educational options. The law also established a tax deduction for individual taxpayers who donate money to scholarship granting organizations.

During the 2013 legislative session, Behning focused on bringing greater accountability to the classroom and giving more Hoosier students access to an educational environment that best fits their needs. His top three priority bills were HEA 1003, HEA 1338, and Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 465. HEA 1003 made changes to Indiana's School Choice program, giving more students the opportunity to access a variety of opportunities. HEA 1003 also improved the current school grading system, creating one letter ranking focused primarily on how students improve. Additionally, the attendance of a full kindergarten year now qualifies as the two semesters in a public school needed before a student can access the School Choice program. HEA 1003 gave the siblings of Choice Scholarship recipients and children with disabilities access to the School Choice program. HEA 1338 increased accountability and standards in charter schools, enhancing transparency in students' performances. That legislation addressed various issues regarding charter school administration, including making charter schools eligible to receive School Safety Grants. SEA 465 created the Indiana Works Council, which provided recommendations to the legislature on how to create innovative improvements to Indiana's job skill training. The governor designated distinct geographic regions throughout the state and established a Works Council for each region.

In 2016, Behning worked with leadership in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to pass two bills (HEA 1003 and SEA 200) to ensure teachers and schools would not be punished for the drop in 2015 Indiana Statewide Test for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) scores. Both bills were signed into law within the first month of session and immediately went into effect. In addition to decoupling 2015 ISTEP scores from teacher and school evaluations, Behning authored HEA 1395, which eliminates ISTEP on July 1, 2017 and created a 23-member panel to find the next generation of assessments for Indiana. Keeping children safe while they are at school is a top priority for Behning. He worked on an amendment that later became part of HEA 1005 to strengthen teacher background checks.

Outside of his legislative role, Behning is also very involved in a number of community activities. He was on the board of directors at Westview Hospital. This position helped him become a key advocate for Marian University's Osteopathic School of Medicine, Indiana's second medical school, which opened in the fall of 2013.

Behning was the school board chair of Calvary Lutheran High School of Indianapolis from 1988-1992. He was the board president at the Lutheran High School in Indianapolis from 2000-2004. He was the executive director at Calvary Lutheran Church, LCMS, in Southport from 2008-2014.

Behning was an active member of the Guilford Township Civic Association. Additionally, he is a member of the Decatur Township Civic Council. Behning is a National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Early Learning Fellow and a member of its international study committee. He was recently named the co-chair of the NCSL Committee on Education. Through years of experience, knowledge and passion, Behning fundamentally strengthened Indiana's K-12 education system and put tools in place that will equip Indiana students with a high quality education to prepare them for success.

Senator Jeff Raatz

Chair – Senate Committee on Education & Career Development

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Indiana State Sen. Jeff Raatz has represented the Hoosiers of Senate District 27 at the Statehouse since he was elected in 2014. Senate District 27 includes Randolph, Wayne and Union counties and portions of Dearborn, Franklin and Fayette counties.

Raatz serves as chair of the Senate Committee on Education and Career Development as well as a member of the Senate Committee on Environmental Affairs and Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy. He is also a member of the School Funding Subcommittee.

Professionally, he owns Raatz LLC, a business-coaching organization that offers consulting in the areas of general business practice, IT implementation, cash flow, and OSHA standards. He is also licensed as an Indiana insurance agent. Previously, he served as the principal of Richmond Academy. He holds a bachelor's degree in business from Baker College of Muskegon and a master's degree in management from Indiana University (IU). Raatz also served in the U.S. Army.

Raatz's civic involvement goes beyond his service in the General Assembly. He sits on the advisory board of IU East and IU East Business Graduate Program. He is also a board member for Cross Power Ministries.

Raatz and his wife, Lisa, reside in Richmond with their two daughters.

Jason Bearce

Business Representative

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Bearce joined the Indiana Chamber of Commerce as vice president for education & workforce development in 2018. His duties include lobbying on state education and workforce policy, coordinating the Chamber's Institute for Workforce Excellence and overseeing Indiana INTERNnet, the statewide resource for internship opportunities.

Bearce previously held senior leadership positions at the Indiana Department of Education and Indiana Commission for Higher Education, contributing to significant education policy advances that included establishing high school graduation pathways aligned with the state's workforce needs, reforming Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program to increase college completion and career readiness, and launching Governor Holcomb's Next Level Jobs initiative. Bearce earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and his MBA from WGU Indiana. His community involvement has included serving as the board president for an Indianapolis charter school and as a student mentor through Starfish Initiative.

Malika Butler
Industry Representative
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Malika Butler serves as the assistant vice president of government affairs at the Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA). In her role, Malika assists Indiana's manufacturing industry in policy and regulatory compliance. Her areas of expertise include workforce training and education, K-12 and post-secondary vocational education, and environmental regulations.

Prior to joining IMA, Malika served as the manager of political affairs for the Indy Chamber, where she led its Business Advocacy Committee PAC's fundraising efforts and lobbied on business issues which impacted Central Indiana's business community before the Indiana General Assembly and the Indianapolis City-County Council.

Additionally, Malika represented a variety of education clients in legislative lobbying and procurement. She also served as a legislative assistant for the Indiana House of Representatives, where she provided policy assistance to three state representatives.

Malika's community involvement includes Young Professionals of Central Indiana Board of Directors, Lawrence Republican Party Board of Directors, and Indiana Leadership Forum (Class of 2018).

Teresa Lubbers
Commission for Higher Education
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Teresa Lubbers was appointed in 2009 to serve as commissioner for Indiana's Commission for Higher Education, the coordinating agency charged with ensuring the state's postsecondary education system is aligned to meet the needs of students and the state. Prior to joining the Commission, Lubbers served in the Indiana State Senate for 17 years, leading on education and economic development issues as chair of the Senate Education and Career Development Committee.

As commissioner, Lubbers works to increase college completion, ensure academic quality and student learning and align postsecondary credentials with meaningful careers. She partners with policymakers and higher education leaders to develop and implement the state's higher education strategic plans, including the Commission's recently adopted third plan, "Reaching Higher, Delivering Value."

Lubbers is a past chair and a current member of both the State Higher Education Executive Officers and the Midwestern Higher Education Compact. She serves as vice chair for the National Council for State Authorization, commissioner for both the Education Commission of the States and the Postsecondary Value Commission, a member of the advisory council for both the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning and the Level Up Advisory Council, and is the interim chair of Indiana's Governor's Workforce Cabinet.

Additionally, she serves on the Higher Learning Advocates Board of Directors and is a fellow for Complete College America.

Lubbers is past chair and current member of the YMCA of Great Indianapolis and chair of the YMCA Foundation. She is the co-founder of the Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series. Lubbers holds an undergraduate degree from Indiana University and a Master in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Chris Lowery

Ivy Tech Community College

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Chris Lowery is senior vice president, workforce alignment, of Ivy Tech Community College. Lowery provides overall leadership of Ivy Tech workforce alignment and development initiatives and organization. He develops deep collaborative partnerships with and engages state and federal workforce and economic development organizations, private sector organizations, business associations, and other groups pursuing workforce and economic development and training solutions for Indiana. Lowery makes certain Ivy Tech is playing a leading and collaborative role in the transformation of Indiana's economy where employers have the skilled workforce necessary to compete successfully in the global economy and employees have the skills necessary to increase their productivity and income. Prior to serving as senior vice president, he served as chancellor for the Columbus/Southeast region of Ivy Tech Community College for two years.

Before coming to Ivy Tech, Lowery led public policy and engagement for Hillenbrand, Inc. In this capacity, he had responsibility for corporate communications, public affairs, and government relations. Managing all external and internal communications for Hillenbrand, his focus was to ensure the corporate strategy of acquisitive and organic growth was effectively aligned in message across the enterprise. He also served as chair of the executive committee of Hillenbrand's Charitable Contributions Committee. With Hillenbrand for 20 years, he served previously in a variety of management and leadership capacities at Hillenbrand's Batesville Casket Company.

Prior to joining Hillenbrand, Lowery was executive director of the Association of Indiana Counties, an aide to former Indiana Governor Robert D. Orr, and an aide to then-Senator Dan Quayle. While on the staff of Governor Orr, he was actively involved in supporting the A+ Program for Educational Excellence and received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award. He holds the degree of Bachelor of Science in public affairs from Indiana University and a Master of Science degree in management from Indiana Wesleyan University.

Lowery is chair of the board of trustees of the Sagamore Institute think tank. In addition, he was chair of the Career Coaching and Navigation Action Team for Governor Eric Holcomb's Workforce Cabinet, is a member of the board of directors of Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, and on the national board of directors for the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council in Washington, DC. He also serves on the boards of directors of AgriNovus Indiana, the Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation, the Indiana Precision Metalforming Association, and the Indiana Council for Continuing Education. An active supporter of

Indiana University (IU), Lowery is a member of the executive council of the IU Alumni Association and the Distinguished Alumni Council of the IU Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

Lowery and his wife Jerilyn, a high school English teacher and columnist, reside in Batesville and Indianapolis. Their children are Jarrod, a graduate of IU, who is a strategy consultant and business design manager for DoTankDo in Chicago, and Jordan Lowery Bergquist, a graduate of IU and a first grade teacher in Bloomington.

Dr. Drew Findlay
Vincennes University
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Dr. Drew Findlay is the dean of career and technical education early college for Vincennes University, where he works with schools to develop dual-credit pathways that lead to certification or associate degrees. Prior to his administrative work with Vincennes University, Dr. Findlay taught business and economics courses at high schools in Fort Wayne and Indianapolis and was an entrepreneur for many years. Dr. Findlay holds a doctorate in education leadership from Oakland City University, a master's degree in business administration, and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Indiana Institute of Technology.

Dr. Matthew Prusiecki
Superintendent
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Dr. Matthew J. Prusiecki is the superintendent of MSD of Decatur Township, starting his 27th year in public education.

He began his career as a teacher and coach at Harrison High School in West Lafayette from 1993-1996. He moved to the Indianapolis area to teach social studies while serving as assistant varsity football coach and head girls track coach at Warren Central High School from 1996-2000. During that tenure he married his wife, Kristen, in 1997.

He worked as assistant principal at Decatur Middle School from 2000 to 2002. He then became assistant principal at Avon Intermediate School in 2002, working with grades 5 and 6. In 2004, Dr. Prusiecki was hired back to MSD of Decatur Township as principal, responsible for developing and opening the new Decatur Intermediate Learning Center (DILC) in 2005.

He served as intermediate principal of the DILC Blue Academy until district realignment called for Dr. Prusiecki to become principal for the Blue Academy Elementary School, consisting of 700 students, grades 1-6, during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Hired by the Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson United School Corporation to be their superintendent in 2011, Dr. Prusiecki led the Indian Creek School Corporation, just south of Indianapolis, for two years until MSD of Decatur Township decided to bring him back as under the same role.

Dr. Prusiecki received his undergraduate and first master's degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, attending from 1988-1993. He earned his second master's degree from Butler University in school administration in 2000. Furthering his education, Dr. Prusiecki completed his Ph.D. in educational leadership and foundations in 2009 from Indiana State University.

Serving on the Communities in Schools Indiana board as well as other not for profit organizations like Second Helpings of Indianapolis has allowed Dr. Prusiecki to help support the school community well beyond the classroom.

Dr. Prusiecki and his wife, Kristen, have two children, Luke (16) and Mia (13).

Brian Knight

Principal

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Brian Knight currently serves as the principal at Southport High School in Indianapolis, Indiana. Brian is beginning his fourth year as principal at Southport High School but served as the principal at Southport Middle School for the previous five years.

Prior to his principalship, Brian served as an assistant principal and chemistry teacher at Perry Meridian High School. This will be Brian's seventeenth year in education, all of which he has served in the Perry Township Schools community.

Brian has been recognized as Principal of the Year for his school district twice and represented District 7 as the Indiana Association of School Principals Middle Principal of the Year in 2015. Brian also serves as an emeritus member of the INeLearn Leadership Cadre. Brian lives on the south side of Indianapolis with his wife and four children.

Mark Hobbs

CTE Director

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Mark Hobbs serves the students of Miami and Wabash counties as the area Career and Technical (CTE) director. Mark is beginning his 20th year at Heartland Career Center, where he held the positions of supervisor of student services and principal prior to becoming the director in 2014. In 2009, Mark's leadership abilities earned him the Administrator of the Year award from the Association of Area Vocational Districts. A firm supporter of student success through achievement and performance, Mark believes that CTE is a key component in every student's education. As director, Mark works with local post-secondary educators, community leaders, and industry/business leaders to ensure that Heartland programs offer quality CTE programs that meet the demands of an ever-changing workforce.

Prior to entering the CTE sector, Mark taught junior and senior high school special education classes. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in special education from Ball State University and a master's degree in education/administrative licenses from Indiana Wesleyan University. Mark serves on the executive committee of the Indiana Association of Career and Technical Education Districts (IACTED) as the northern representative.

Kristen Boehnlein

Teacher

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Kristen Boehnlein has 20 years of teaching experience and has spent the last 10 years serving students and families as a teacher at Highland Hills Middle School in the New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation. Prior to teaching at Highland Hills Middle School, Kristen spent 10 years teaching at Hazelwood Middle School.

Kristen graduated from Indiana University-Southeast with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education and teaching – social studies. She holds a Master of Science degree in secondary education and teaching. She completed the School Leadership, Principal Licensure Program at Indiana Wesleyan University. In addition to being a teacher, Kristen holds a principal/administrator license.

B.J. Watts

Governor's Appointee to the Panel

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B.J. Watts, who currently serves as the Indiana State Board of Education's (SBOE) chair, has 17 years of experience as a teacher and coach with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC). He currently serves as executive director of Opportunities through Partnerships that Transform and Inspire (OptIN), which is part of EVSC. Watts has taught 6th grade social studies and science, as well as physical education for grades K-6 at Vogel Elementary in Evansville.

Originally from Scottsburg, Watts is a graduate of the University of Southern Indiana, where he was a member of the basketball team, and he received his M.Ed. from Indiana Wesleyan University. Watts is a member of the Evansville Teachers Association (ETA), Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA), and a member of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Governmental Affairs Committee. He currently serves as the varsity girls track coach at Evansville F. J. Reitz High School. He is a former member of the

Evansville Mayor's Education Round Table (2004-2010) and the Evansville City Council from 2001-2012, including serving for five and a half years as council president. Watts is an Evansville business owner and a Licensed Insurance Broker with Freeman, Will & Niemeier, Inc. He was appointed to the SBOE by Governor Mike Pence in 2015 and reappointed by Governor Eric Holcomb to serve through 2022.

Jody French

Governor's Appointee to the Panel

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Jody French has served in public education for the past 20 years as an agriculture-science and business teacher, guidance counselor, assistant principal and currently principal of Perry Central Junior/Senior High School. Jody earned her bachelor's degree from Purdue University and master's degree in school counseling from Western Kentucky University. She is currently working on her education specialist degree. Perry Central Junior/Senior High School is known for their innovative approach to college and career readiness, working closely with the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning, the Department of Workforce Development and their local economic development board. They are also known for integrating academic rigor and hands-on opportunities through internships and embedded work place learning programs

within the school day.

Jody is a member of the Indiana Association of School Principals Association, Indiana Principal Leadership Institute, and Perry County Economic Development Committee. Formerly, she served as vice president of the Perry County Council and Perry County Comprehensive Planning Committee.