



Overview of House Bill 1136

House Bill 1136, authored by Rep. Jake Teshka (R-North Liberty), proposes converting 50 schools in the Indianapolis Public Schools district into charter schools due to enrollment shifts.

Four other school districts would also be disbanded under the legislation: Gary Community Schools, Tri-Township Consolidated Schools in LaPorte County, Union Schools southeast of Muncie, and Cannelton City Schools near the Kentucky border in Perry County.

The bill states that if more than 50% of students residing within a school district's boundaries were enrolled in schools not operated by the district as of Oct. 1 of the previous year, the district must be dissolved. School districts' average daily enrollment is determined on that date annually.

The bill, if approved, would require 68 public schools across the five districts to convert to charter schools by July 1, 2028, according to the bill's [fiscal impact report](#). Schools with the lowest scores on state assessments, such as ILEARN and IREAD-3, would transition first.

Superintendent's Statement on House Bill 1136

"It has only been 6 months since the Gary Community School Corporation was released from a 7-year state takeover. During this 7-year time period, there was an exodus of thousands of students from the district. Since local control was reinstated, we have been laser-focused on increasing enrollment and maintaining financial solvency, while enhancing curriculum and improving the overall educational experience for children.

The enrollment count, upon which Bill 1136 proposes to dissolve our district, only reflects 2 months of attendance recorded at the start of the 2024-25 school year. This count does reflect an increase of more than 200 students, which is an upward trend that we are working to continue.

Our leadership team will work with staff, parents, families, scholars and stakeholders to educate the school community about this proposed legislation and then take necessary actions on what's best for children." - Dr. Yvonne Stokes, Superintendent

Facts about the Gary Community School Corporation:

- GCSC endured 7 Years of state takeover (2017 - 2024)
- There was an exodus of thousands of students during this 7-year period
- Since local control has been reinstated, the formulation of a governing school board and the appointment of Superintendent has taken place
- The Superintendent has developed an experienced Chief Leadership Team
- Robust efforts continue to recruit students / steady attendance (There was an increase of 214 students in the Oct. 2024 ADM and an additional 153 students enrolled as of January 8, 2025.)
- Continued focus on Financial Stability, Academics, Professional Development (qualified, licensed instructors) and Facilities Improvement
- GCSC boasts an impressive offering of athletics, fine arts and career-focused opportunities for students
- Increased parental / community engagement through varied communications vehicles
- GCSC deserves the opportunity to continue on its path of success that is now trending since coming out of State control

Have questions about House Bill 1136? Contact State Representative Vernon G. Smith at 317-232-9731.

Want to voice your concerns about House Bill 1136? Contact bill author Jake Teshka at 1-800-382-9841.