Northeast Indiana Friends of Public Education PRESENTS Saving Public Education: Get the Facts
Who are we?

- Parents
- Concerned Citizens
- Teachers
- Grandparents
- Administrators
What are the issues in Education?

- High Stakes Testing and Common Core Standards
- Effects on Children
- Privatization of Schools
What are the issues in Education?

- **High Stakes Testing**
  - Cost: $46,229,751 in Indiana currently.
  - Projected cost nationally for Common Core implementation is approximately $15.8 billion
- Local School Costs?
- Time: 6 weeks out of 36
What are the issues in Education?

- Effects on Children
  - Test anxiety
  - Little time to develop critical thinking skills
  - Little time to develop creativity
What are the issues in Education?

❖ Privatization of Schools
  ➢ Charter Schools
    • What are they and why do we need to be concerned?
  ➢ Vouchers
    • Should the money follow the child?
What is a charter school?

From the Indiana Department of Education:

- A public school that operates under a contract or charter
- Considered own local education agency (LEA) separate from a school district
- Must meet state and federal accountability requirements
- Must meet requirements in charter and agreed to by their sponsor
Major Concerns About Charter Schools

- Higher concentrations of charter schools in urban, minority, and high-poverty neighborhoods
- Quality of charter schools
  - Only 17% of charters nationally are performing better
  - Teachers and administrators tend to be mostly inexperienced (new graduates or Teach for America with 5 weeks of training)
  - Low passing rates on standardized tests AND offer fewer or no arts programs, P.E., libraries, sports, extra-curriculars, science, civics, AP courses…
  - Oversight?
- Maintains educational inequalities: cherry picking?
- Rapid expansion of charters especially virtual or blended learning
- Business mentality and investors looking for profits
What are the issues in Education?

- Privatization of Schools
  - Vouchers
    - Should the money follow the child?
    - $4500 per student
    - No cap on number issued beginning 2013
    - Redistribution of funds harms urban school districts

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Questions that need to be answered

- **Charters**
  - Who holds them accountable?
  - Are they held to the same standards as a traditional public school?
  - Should profit be made at the expense of children?

- **Vouchers**
  - Since public schools belong to all of us, should taxpayer dollars go to private institutions?
  - Because vouchers don’t cover the whole cost of tuition, is the unspoken reality that we are re-segregating our schools?
CCSS: Common Core State Standards
What’s the Fuss?

Purpose
• consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn.
• robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers.

Key Points ELA
• increasing complexity in reading classical and contemporary literature and informational texts.
• writing arguments supported by clear reasoning and good evidence
• Gather, evaluate, and present complex information and ideas through listening and speaking as well as through media. academic discussion in one-on-one, small-group, and whole-class settings.
• Note: Literacy standards are defined for Soc. Studies, Science, Technical subjects

Key Points Math
• K-5 - solid foundation in whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals—
• procedural skill and also conceptual understanding
• 6-8 - hands on learning in geometry, algebra and probability and statistics and prepare for high school.
• high school - practice applying mathematical ways of thinking to real world issues and challenges
• emphasize mathematical modeling, the use of mathematics and statistics to analyze empirical situations

Well publicized concerns
( may not accurately reflect what standards say)
• Create a national curriculum controlled by federal government
• Less rigorous than Indiana State Standards
• Cannot be changed
• Adopted without review

Our Concerns
• Cost of implementation and testing ($350 million estimated for Indiana
• Increased tests – projected to be 4 times a year
• Technology needed for testing
• Use of test scores to evaluate students, teachers and districts
• Implementation Timeline 2011-12 K; 2012-13 K-1; 2013-14 K-2; 2014-2015 K-12
Reframing the Debate
What words can we use to put a positive spin on these terms?

- Poverty
- Achievement Gap
- Assessments
- Choice
- Virtual learning
- Rigor
- Competition
- Accountability
- Evaluation
- Disaggregated Data
- Adequate Yearly Progress

Reframing the Debate
Solutions:

- Smaller class size
- Experienced teachers
- Testing to identify a child's needs, not to evaluate teachers and schools
- Equitable funding for all schools
- Expanded Pre-K programs
YOU CAN make a difference!

- Form letter writing groups
- Write your legislators, newspapers, and State Board of Education
- Attend PTA/PTO meetings
- Attend School Board meetings
Writing letters to legislators

• Individually written letters, rather than mass generated form letters, make a greater impression on your legislator.

• Be specific. State your purpose in the first paragraph. Include bill number and state your position.

• If you agree with your legislator’s vote, take the time to send him/her a thank you.
Writing letters to legislators

- Find email addresses here: http://neifpe.blogspot.com/
- Click on the email address of your legislator or copy and paste it in the “to” line of your email
Navigate your way at in.gov/legislative

- Click “Bills & Resolutions”
- Click “Overview”
- Find a bill by writing the number of the bill here or choose an option below.
Looking at a Bill

Looking at the latest Fiscal Impact Statement often explains bill in more clear terms.
Email: neifpe@gmail.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/NEIFPE

Blog: http://neifpe.blogspot.com

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Bring Back the Joy of Learning!

SPEAK UP! SPEAK OUT! SPEAK TRUTH!

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