

**From:** Daniel, Mark

**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 5:26 PM

**To:** [h12@iga.in.gov](mailto:h12@iga.in.gov); [h26@iga.in.gov](mailto:h26@iga.in.gov); [h72@iga.in.gov](mailto:h72@iga.in.gov); [h54@iga.in.gov](mailto:h54@iga.in.gov); [h86@iga.in.gov](mailto:h86@iga.in.gov); [h47@iga.in.gov](mailto:h47@iga.in.gov); [h2@iga.in.gov](mailto:h2@iga.in.gov); [h46@iga.in.gov](mailto:h46@iga.in.gov); [h85@iga.in.gov](mailto:h85@iga.in.gov); [h17@iga.in.gov](mailto:h17@iga.in.gov); [h83@iga.in.gov](mailto:h83@iga.in.gov); [h27@iga.in.gov](mailto:h27@iga.in.gov); [h39@iga.in.gov](mailto:h39@iga.in.gov); [h60@iga.in.gov](mailto:h60@iga.in.gov); [h78@iga.in.gov](mailto:h78@iga.in.gov); [h43@iga.in.gov](mailto:h43@iga.in.gov); [h96@iga.in.gov](mailto:h96@iga.in.gov); [h35@iga.in.gov](mailto:h35@iga.in.gov); [h15@iga.in.gov](mailto:h15@iga.in.gov); [h52@iga.in.gov](mailto:h52@iga.in.gov); [h22@iga.in.gov](mailto:h22@iga.in.gov); [h28@iga.in.gov](mailto:h28@iga.in.gov); [senator.busch@iga.in.gov](mailto:senator.busch@iga.in.gov); [senator.holdman@iga.in.gov](mailto:senator.holdman@iga.in.gov); [h80@iga.in.gov](mailto:h80@iga.in.gov); [h82@iga.in.gov](mailto:h82@iga.in.gov)

**Cc:** Shipman, Rosemary <[Rosemary.Shipman@fwcs.k12.in.us](mailto:Rosemary.Shipman@fwcs.k12.in.us)>; Filler, Angela <[Angela.Filler@fwcs.k12.in.us](mailto:Angela.Filler@fwcs.k12.in.us)>

**Subject:** Press Conference Monday-March 3 at 11:00 AM

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong concerns regarding SB 1 and SB 518, both of which are currently assigned to the House Committee on Ways and Means. While these bills may have well-intended goals, they ultimately create a counterproductive situation that further strains essential community services while placing additional burden on property taxpayers.

SB 1 aims to provide property tax relief, yet it does so at the expense of vital funding for public services, including schools. If enacted, SB 1 would result in an ongoing loss of \$1.8M (2026), \$4M (2027), \$6.6M (2028) = \$12.5M for funding that is essential for meeting the needs and expectations of our families. This proposal comes at a time when operational costs for schools have surged. The attached report, commissioned by education stakeholders, highlights that high circuit breaker districts like Fort Wayne Community Schools already allocate 114% of their operations fund to just three non-discretionary costs: property and casualty insurance, transportation, and utilities. Since 2020, FWCS has seen property and casualty insurance costs rise by 23%, transportation costs by 25%, and utility costs by 21%. Reducing local revenue through property tax cuts only exacerbates these financial pressures, making it increasingly difficult to maintain quality education and essential services. To make matters even more uncertain for our students and families, FWCS sees only a 1.07% increase in tuition support from the state over the next two years under the House proposed budget.

At the same time, **SB 518 directly contradicts the intent of SB 1 by shifting additional financial burdens onto property taxpayers.** Under current law, charter schools receive funding through a dedicated line item in the state budget. However, SB 518 proposes transferring that cost to local property taxpayers—at a time when lawmakers are prioritizing property tax relief. If charter schools require additional funding, the state should continue to be the responsible funding source, rather than increasing the financial strain on local taxpayers.

I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1 and SB 518 in their current forms. A more balanced approach is needed—one that ensures tax relief efforts do not come at the expense of critical public services, and that school funding remains a shared state responsibility rather than an increased local burden.

Lastly, I would like to invite you to a press conference in Grile Administration Board Room on Monday, March 3 at 11:00 AM. I have several business community leaders, PTA parents, FWCS Board members and other stakeholders attending to support FWCS' position regarding SB1 and SB518.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Daniel



**DR. MARK DANIEL**

Superintendent

Fort Wayne Community Schools

Phone: 260.467.2025

[www.fortwayneschools.org](http://www.fortwayneschools.org)