



ADVOCACY ALERT

Subject: Important Update on Federal Waiver and Impact on Health & PE Funding

Dear INSHAPE Members,

Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting health and physical education across Indiana. Your advocacy this year—particularly around graduation pathways and PE credit concerns—has shown the strength of our unified voice.

We are writing to inform you of a new issue that requires our attention. The Indiana Department of Education has submitted a federal waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education seeking increased flexibility in how ESEA funds are used. The waiver, submitted in October, is currently under federal review with a 120-day decision window.

This proposal could significantly affect health and PE programs. Many districts rely on Title II funds for professional development and on Title IV, Part A funds for curriculum materials, equipment, and program support. Without specific safeguards, these funding sources could be reduced or eliminated.

SHAPE America and INSHAPE leadership have already begun coordinating a response and have outlined recommended action steps for members. We have attempted to contact Indiana's Title IV Coordinator, but the email now appears inactive. We will continue to follow up. In the meantime, we encourage members to begin preparing letters to our federal lawmakers regarding the waiver request. We are providing sample language and information on how, when, and to whom these letters should be sent in the attached document.

This decision may influence national advocacy efforts and could shape our future work, including Speak Out Day in February. We will continue to update you as more information becomes available.

Additionally, and thankfully, the Indiana Senate rejected the Redistricting Bill last Thursday. Indiana's failure to pass the redistricting bill is important because it preserves existing voting maps rather than adopting a highly partisan redraw. Not passing the redistricting bill is a positive for educators because it keeps Indiana's political representation more balanced and accountable to urban, suburban, and rural communities that rely on strong public schools.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and advocacy for health and physical education in Indiana.

Warm regards,

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