



HEA 1515: Overview of the Centralized School Facilities and Student Transportation Pilot Programs

The Indiana Department of Education invites applications for participation in two groundbreaking pilot programs established under House Enrolled Act 1515: the **Centralized School Facilities Pilot Program** and the **Student Transportation Pilot Program**. These initiatives aim to foster innovation, efficiency, and collaboration across Indiana's educational landscape by reimagining how schools manage and deliver two critical support systems—**facilities and transportation**.

Purpose of the Pilot Programs

These three-year pilot programs (2026–2029) were created to support participating schools and school corporations in:

- **Reimagining school facilities** as flexible, community-focused assets that support enhanced student learning, health, and safety;
- **Improving transportation systems** to ensure that all students—regardless of school type—have access to safe, efficient, and flexible transportation options throughout the school day and for extracurricular and/or work-based learning activities;
- **Encouraging collaboration** among public, charter, and nonpublic schools, as well as with local governments and nonprofit organizations;
- **Empowering local boards** to lead planning and implementation based on community needs and innovative strategies.

Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include **school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools**. Applicants must apply **in partnership with at least one other school or corporation** and may apply for one or both pilot programs. Up to three applications will be selected for each program.

Applicants approved for both pilot programs may form a single Local Centralized School Facilities and Transportation Board, combining responsibilities and increasing alignment.

Expectations of Participants

Selected participants will be required to:

- Form an independent local board to oversee implementation;
- Submit a comprehensive pilot program plan outlining key strategies and partnerships;
- Collect and report data aligned with metrics provided by the Department of Education;
- Implement innovative practices that could serve as statewide models;
- Participate in ongoing meetings with other pilot participants throughout the three year program;
- Provide input and recommendations on long-term sustainability to the Department of Education.

The Department of Education may waive certain state regulations to allow for creative implementation approaches. At the conclusion of the pilot, the Department will prepare a legislative report with recommendations for scaling successful practices.

We encourage school leaders to approach this opportunity with bold thinking and a collaborative spirit. Your participation will not only impact your local schools and students—it will help shape the future of education support systems in Indiana. To access the application, click [here](#).