



Indianapolis
Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY TO SEEK LOCAL OVERSIGHT OF IPS SCHOOLS TAKEN OVER BY THE STATE

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today announced the City of Indianapolis will petition the State Board of Education to incorporate any IPS schools taken over by the State into a system similar to its successful Mayor-sponsored charter school program. As many as seven IPS schools face the prospect of state takeover after six years of failing to meet minimum standards. Mayor Ballard detailed his plans during remarks to community leaders at the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee board meeting.

“This approach strikes the right balance between maintaining the status quo, which is not acceptable, and a complete state takeover of these local schools,” said Mayor Ballard.

The State of Indiana by law can intervene in and take over management of schools that fail to meet the State’s minimum education standards for six consecutive years. At Mayor Ballard’s urging, the Indiana General Assembly changed the law this year so the mayor can petition the State Board of Education to return to local oversight schools taken over by the state.

Mayor Ballard also responded to calls from some groups urging mayoral takeover of the entire Indianapolis Public Schools district, the largest school district in the state.

“I understand there are some thoughtful and concerned leaders out there who believe the Mayor should take over all of IPS. I appreciate their passion. I share their concern that we must improve the education system in our city in order to remain competitive and grow as a community. However, I think these calls are premature right now,” said Mayor Ballard.

Mayor Ballard said the focus of the city should be on the successful turnaround of the schools subject to state takeover, then once successful, the community should have a dialogue about IPS as a whole. He also encouraged parents and school administrators to take full advantage of the landmark reforms passed by Governor Mitch Daniels and the Indiana General Assembly.

EDS: Full transcript of Mayor Ballard’s remarks at the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee board meeting and copy of the state law concerning turnaround academies are attached.

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