The School Counselor as the School’s “Counselor”

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Another great year has started in Indiana’s schools, and I know you are focused on using Indiana’s new College and Career Ready standards and preparing for our new ISTEP+ this spring. While the Department of Education is obviously providing support for schools, we are also focused on ensuring that they are fairly funded. That is why, last week I proposed a 3% funding increase for schools, as well as paying for textbooks and instructional materials at the state level. Additionally, we have requested increases in funding for technology and English Language Learners.

As a state, our chief priority is to ensure our future shared prosperity. No one factor is more important to that prosperity than ensuring that our educational system is equitable and of the highest quality. This investment will strengthen schools throughout Indiana, both rural and urban.

As Superintendent, I am requesting a sensible and modest increase in funding over current levels for each of the next two years. This increase will give our schools much needed flexibility in their budgets while they deal with increases in their fixed costs, such as transportation, utilities and technology. I look forward to working with members of the Legislature on this vital investment.

In addition, I am very concerned with the costs that parents pay associated with the education of their children. Our constitution provides for a general and uniform school system that is equally open to all. That is why we have requested funding for textbooks and instructional materials for all students. By funding these at the state level, we can guarantee that all districts have equitable resources for texts while also giving parents a much needed financial break.