

Proposed Magnet Redesign - Filtered

At its November 11, 2014 Briefing Session the Board of School Commissioners discussed a proposed redesign of the Indianapolis Public Schools Magnet Program. After little stakeholder input along with other non-objective factors (eg. program enrollment, IB student achievement data, and "operational efficiency") district administrators presented a draft plan to the board.

Recommendations from financial experts, including the Indy Chamber, who gleefully accepted the "budget deficit" rationale for last year's misadventures, support the proposed redesign. The plan addresses four magnet programs; delete one, consolidate two, and enhance one (IB). The plan expands a partnership with a private institution with an unproven record with successful outcomes among 46205 students.

Key points to consider:

- 1) a) What is the 46205 need for IB educators? b) Why disrupt students in place, we taxpayers need concrete proof to get behind this proposal.
- 2) What is the value of increasing the per-pupil expense for 164 students, and decreasing the relative expenditure for 800 students; what is so special about those 164 students?
- 3) The proposal has timelines for disrupting our students, but does not contain the following- a) Number of early college participants. What is the demonstrated impact of the "early" program to 46205 students? b) What are the costs and benefits? The costs are higher (1.4mil/164) > (4.5mil/706); if these numbers are wrong, what are the right numbers? Let's move/disrupt 2,717 students to benefit 164 students to co-locate them with the other Butler partnership school. Really.
- 4) In the absence of demonstrated quality gains for 46205 students we taxpayers must have a better reason to believe the administrators who drafted this proposal.

