



INDIANA EDUCATORS IMPROVE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND TEACHER INDUCTION POLICIES

INDIANA

OUR IMPACT

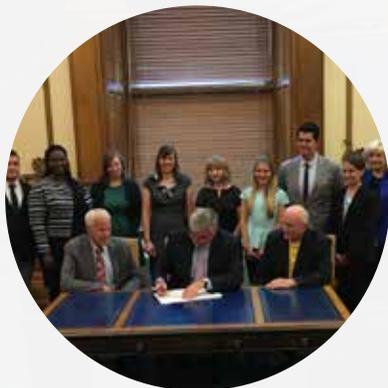
In the spring of 2017, **Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb signed into law two bills that incorporated extensive feedback from Teach Plus teachers in the state.**

The **Student Assessment Bill**, which provides for the creation of a new state test, and the **Teacher Induction Pilot Program Bill**, which establishes an educator mentorship pilot program and supports career pathways for teachers, are based on Teach Plus teachers' recommendations and include a series of teacher-proposed amendments.

The new laws benefit students, teachers, and parents in Indiana, a direct result of teachers having a key seat at the table crafting smart policy.

When we ask advice from great teachers, they're usually very willing to help. Seeking counsel helps build lasting, professional and personal relationships that go well beyond the first years of teaching.

— Mishawaka Teacher **John Gensic** in an op-ed in the *South Bend Tribune*.



HOW WE GOT THERE

THE STUDENT ASSESSMENT BILL

Teach Plus teachers served on the panel tasked with crafting recommendations for the state legislature around a new assessment. Teachers then outlined their thinking about a test that would best serve their students in a memo to key legislators, including that there should be one summative test at the very end of the school year and that a continuous improvement system must be put in place for the state testing process. **HB1003, a bill introduced by Rep. Robert Behning, included four of the Teach Plus Fellows' recommendations.**

THE TEACHER INDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM BILL

HB1449, introduced by Rep. Dale DeVon, called for a teacher induction pilot program and a pilot teacher residency program. Teachers stressed to Rep. DeVon the importance of including in the legislation strong career pathways for excellent teachers. **The final version of HB1449 incorporated four of the five recommendations as amendments, including a yearly application process for teachers for mentorship roles and micro-credentials for mentors.**

On both bills, the teachers testified before the Indiana House Committee on Education and the Indiana Senate Committee on Education and Career Development. They wrote op-eds and went on air with the Indiana House Republican Podcast, all in favor of the legislation. And they invited Rep. Behning and Rep. DeVon to visit their schools to talk with teachers, administrators, students, and families about the proposed changes. When Rep. Behning introduced HB1003 on the floor of the House, he referenced his conversations with Teach Plus teachers **setting the stage for further inclusion of teacher voice in policy.**

Shortridge teacher **Allison Larty** testified before the Indiana Senate Committee on Education and Career Development. Allison advocated for both teacher mentorship and teacher career pathways in HB1449:

“HB1449 would provide multiple career pathways for teachers that include additional responsibilities, leadership opportunities and compensation, and for many of us, it’s a life raft that will keep us in education.”



2

policymaker visits to Teach Plus teachers’ schools to discuss changes to education in Indiana.

8

meetings with legislators.

17

times teachers testified before the House and Senate education committees.

8

Teach Plus teachers’ recommendations included in both bills.

“As a Latino educator in an urban school, I know how important a quality assessment is to ensuring we serve all students equitably.”

– **Eddie Rangel**, Principal of Tindley Renaissance Academy and Policy Fellowship alum who hosted Rep. Behning at Tindley. Rep. Behning visited classrooms and sat down with teachers, students, and parents to discuss changes to assessment in Indiana.

