Lessons from the Heartland:
How Indiana School Districts are
Raising the Game
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Enrollment 2012-13

1,041,311 students

Enrollment 2012-13 by Ethnicity

Source: Indiana Department of Education Web site
Test scores and graduation rates are gradually increasing

Source: Indiana Department of Education Web site
### 2011 – Legislature Passes Indiana Education Reform Package

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Teacher Evaluations and Licensing Act</td>
<td>• Merit-based pay</td>
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<td>Charter School Act</td>
<td>• Expands the funding available to charter schools</td>
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<td>• Lease empty public school buildings for $1</td>
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<td>School Scholarships Act</td>
<td>• School of choice vouchers for students in schools deemed to be failing</td>
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<td>Early Graduation Scholarship Act</td>
<td>• Students finishing high school in 3 years receive $3,500 to apply to college costs</td>
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**Controlled Project* Approval Process in Indiana**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Events and Changes</th>
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| Pre-1995 | • Local School Board approval required  
|         | • Citizens could remonstrate against the form of the lease financing |
| 1995   | • Petition-Remonstrance process introduced for controlled projects |
| 2005   | • Public Law 74 passed allowing Design-Build in Indiana (once again) |
| 2007   | • Property assessment process converted to real property values |
| 2008   | • Public Law 146 created referendum requirements for projects in excess of $10 M and introduced property tax caps  
|         | • 1% Residential Properties  
|         | • 2% Farmland and rental properties  
|         | • 3% Business and manufacturing |
| 2010   | • Property tax caps became part of State constitution |
| 2013   | • Approval thresholds changed  
|         | • $0-2M Local School Board approval  
|         | • $2M-10M Petition remonstrance process  
|         | • $10M+ Referendum |

*A capital project of $2 million or greater*
Indiana School District Referenda History

- **2008**: $600 M (Passed), $100 M (Failed)
- **2009**: $500 M (Passed), $400 M (Passed)
- **2010**: $200 M (Passed), $300 M (Passed)
- **2011**: $100 M (Passed), $200 M (Failed)
- **2012**: $300 M (Passed), $100 M (Failed)
Construction $ Placed on Ballot, per year

Year: 2008 - 2012

Costs:
- 2008: $700 M
- 2009: $700 M
- 2010: $600 M
- 2011: $400 M
- 2012: $300 M
Zionsville Community Schools

- Affluent suburban community on northwest side of Indianapolis
- 5,664 students
- 8 schools

Challenges

- Reduced state funding
- High school site restrictions
  - Growing student enrollment
  - Restricted site access – 49 acres
- High debt to assessed value ratio
- Supporting the changing needs of high academic achievers
2005 expansion of Zionsville High School

Performing Arts Addition - 2005

Freshman Center Addition - 2005

Pool Addition - 2005
2009 renovations for project-based learning

Multi-Disciplinary Instructional Center - 2009
Adaptive reuse of existing warehouse space
Project-based curriculum with teacher as “guide at the side”
Campus Master Plan
Collaborative Learning Commons- to be completed in 2015
• MSD of Pike Township
  • Urban community located on west side of Indianapolis
  • Large industrial base
  • 11,074 students
  • 13 schools

Challenges
• Address needs of a diverse population
• Provide for wide variety of learning styles
• Find ways to update aging facilities economically
• Minimize disruptions of programs during renovation
“We want to create alternative education environments where students have a ‘college-going mindset’.”

-Nathanial Jones, Superintendent
Speculative office building is converted to an alternative education center
Flexible learning environment
Current projects

College Park Elementary School Renovation and Expansion
Current projects

Eagle Creek Elementary School Renovation and Expansion
Current projects

Natatorium Expansion
SCHOOL CITY OF HAMMOND – POST-INDUSTRIAL CITY
School City of Hammond

- Urban community located in Chicagoland area
- Former center of manufacturing
- 14,332 students
- 21 schools

Challenges

- Demonstrate what 21st century learning space looks like
- Build support for new high school
- Move from lecture format classrooms to project-based learning
Hammond Technical Vocational High School – circa 1950
Design Challenge:

- Create a 21st Century Learning Academy focused on multimedia, video, radio, sound, web design, animation, story telling, recording and editing.
- Break the mold of traditional learning spaces.
- Spend no more than $1,999,999.
- Have it open by next school year.
SCHOOL CITY OF HAMMOND – POST-INDUSTRIAL CITY
NEW PRAIRIE UNITED SCHOOL CORP. – AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY
New Prairie United School Corporation

- Agricultural community located east of Chicagoland area
- 2,785 students
- 5 schools

Challenges
- Large enough to justify new building, but not large enough to have a dedicated space for every program
- Do so in a cost-effective way
New 21st Century Middle School, constructed in 2008
Hybrid technology labs using “station rotation” method of technology integration to increase flexibility
Classrooms shared between teachers and subjects in the grade level teams
Large group instruction area with telescoping seating is used by choir classes and for events like science fair.
Gym has foldable stage to support large assemblies, while minimizing floor area lost.
LESSONS LEARNED

- Reduction in school construction funding has led to an increased focus on strategic renovations
- More “thinking inside the box”, i.e. adaptive reuse
- Emphasis on project-based learning and high-tech instructional tools
- Incorporating flexibility to serve multiple programs and adapt to changing ones