



Indianapolis Public Schools

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Eugene G. White, Ed.D.
Superintendent

February 27, 2009

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS), I am writing to request your assistance for the Instructional Technology Plan for Shortridge Magnet High School for Law and Public Policy from the FY 2010 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill.

As an alumnus of the Class of 1950, you are well aware of Shortridge – formally Indianapolis High School – and its rich history of strong academic standards and culture. After being closed in 1981, Shortridge will reopen as the Shortridge Magnet High School for Law and Public Policy in the Fall of 2009. Community partners in government, law, law enforcement, forensics, and academia will be engaged and use technology as the primary vehicle for communication, education content delivery, and associated outreach for learning purposes. The school will feature an extended learning day where students will have access to interactive technology resources to fulfill the mission of the school in law and public policy.

The new Shortridge will provide students with 21st Century tools to empower learning and critical thinking skills using technology to drive its renewed mission as a premier high school that is student-centered, and focused on the development of skills through Problem Based Learning strategies. National Educational Technology Standards will be used as the benchmarks to ensure effective instructional strategies and student achievement outcomes. Shortridge students will be expected to demonstrate mastery of technology skills by integrating them into daily classroom work, including collaborating with peers on projects to gather and analyze data, preparing high-quality products using technology software and resources, maintaining portfolios during all four years of high school, and gaining advanced proficiency in the use of technology to supplement and enhance educational experiences inside and out of the classroom.

We respectfully request your assistance for \$650,000 from the Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill through the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) at the U.S. Department of Education. Federal funds will be used to purchase technology to facilitate instruction and other resources that are critical to fulfill Shortridge's academic goals and core specialization. The school will serve as a national model in light of the heightened federal interest in high school reform, and how to adequately equip students with 21st Century skills for postsecondary education and beyond. IPS is committed to ensuring that Shortridge has the equipment and resources needed to be successful.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eugene G. White". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Eugene G. White, Ed.D.
Superintendent