



## **Southwest Allen County Schools**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Southwest Allen County Schools to Host Deliberative Dialogue Series**

*Community invited to join the conversation about school funding.*

FORT WAYNE, IND., Nov. 30, 2015 — Southwest Allen County Schools is conducting a series of community conversations about the funding of schools. The public is invited to attend one of three community meetings:

7 p.m., Wednesday, December 2, 2015  
Deer Ridge Elementary

7 p.m., Thursday, December 3, 2015  
Lafayette Meadows Elementary

7 p.m., Next Tuesday, December 8, 2015  
Woodside Middle School

“The way public schools are funded in the United States is complex,” Superintendent Dr. Philip G. Downs says. “In fact, it could be argued that it is so complex that we are encouraged to be uninformed. The purpose of these meetings is to examine various ways schools have been funded and the tradeoffs of each. The School Board and Administration of Southwest Allen County Schools recognizes the complexity and knows that input from the people living in the district is essential to successful schools.”

At each meeting, participants will discuss in small groups a number of school funding philosophies and the tradeoffs of each. SACS is once again partnering with IPFW's Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics, which will be facilitating the meetings based on a process developed by the Kettering Foundation.

“Last year, the SACS community discussed their views of a 21st century education, and the School Board integrated the results of those findings into our mission and vision statements,” Downs says. “Just as important as defining what a 21st century education means is how does a community, state, and country fund such an education. Only by engaging the people who live in the district in a constructive and meaningful discussion can the School Board and Administration make, and act on, sound decisions.”

### **About Southwest Allen County Schools**

Nationally recognized and locally known for its award-winning programs, high-quality staff, and strong parental and community support, [Southwest Allen County Schools](#) is dedicated to a shared mission of preparing today's learners for tomorrow's opportunities.

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