

October 30, 2016

News & Tribune
221 Spring Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

RE: New Albany/Floyd County School Referendum

Dear Editor,

One Southern Indiana (1si) represents 1,000+ business members and investors in addition to our role of managing economic development services to growing and expanding companies in Clark and Floyd counties. Many of our members, as well as those companies looking to locate in the area, are concerned about our community's support of public education.


As we look to the referendum for New Albany/Floyd County Schools, our support in this decision is quite simple as to the directive from the businesses we serve: We all rely on our public schools to lead in developing future workers to fill the talent pipeline on which both new and existing companies depend for their future workforce.

Therefore, 1si supports fiscally responsible investments in our public education system that result in quality educational opportunities for all learners. These investments must result in measurable increases towards establishing a competitive workforce. High performing and competitive schools drive economic development, resulting in improvements for our workforce and our overall economy

With the availability of industrial and commercial sites in the area, we are fortunate that business growth in Southern Indiana has been steady over the past several years. However, our job growth rate is surpassing our ability to fill the pipeline with talented workers in the area that are prepared to take positions.

Our public schools play a critical role in addressing the needs for a talented workforce in our communities. The children in the NAFC school system will benefit from this investment into their future.

Sincerely,


Wendy Dant Chesser
President & CEO
One Southern Indiana