

Dear Friends:

It has come to our attention that a **forged** memo has been circulating in the field. The memo appears on Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) letterhead, is dated March 13, and purports to be from Dr. Bennett. This **FALSIFIED** memo, entitled “Response to Teachers’ Protests,” deals with legislation before the Indiana General Assembly, was sent from a gmail account, and asks administrators to distribute to all teachers. We are working to quickly identify the source of this blatant attempt to misrepresent a state agency, impersonate a public official (which we understand could be a Class A misdemeanor, pursuant to I.C. 35-44-2-3), and deceive the public.

To be clear, this memo **DID NOT** come from the IDOE or Dr. Bennett. As you know, all official IDOE communications will come from an address ending in **doe.in.gov**.

While the falsified memo almost entirely misrepresented IDOE’s position, it did get one thing right when it said, “Indiana’s educators deserve respect and gratitude for dedicating their lives to preparing children for success.” Unfortunately, these deceitful attempts to undermine IDOE do nothing to honor those teachers who work so hard on behalf of Indiana’s students every day.

This is just one more example of the lengths to which individuals to whom the truth is not obstacle will go in their attempts to defend the status quo. It is extremely disappointing that these individuals have resorted to scare tactics like this one during this year’s legislative session. While a small group of dishonest individuals continues to disseminate information that is inaccurate at best (and blatantly false at worst), the IDOE will continue its efforts to share up-to-date information on legislation and other news with education stakeholders across the state.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thanks,

*Kim Preston*

Communications Director  
Indiana Department of Education  
317-232-6615  
kpreston@doe.in.gov

