Greetings Friends:

It is my honor to welcome each of you to the first Indianapolis Public School’s State of the District meeting. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to IPS Board President Michael O’Connor and Superintendent Aleesia Johnson for leading this important report to the community.

I am a graduate of Arsenal Tech High School and as a resident in our community have watched IPS over many years. I’ve witnessed firsthand the struggles, the challenges as well as the victories and successes. This is a special district, the largest public-school system in our state serving one of the most diverse populations. It is our duty to provide our children with the quality education and care that will foster the growth of the individual student and our broader community. When one child succeeds, we all succeed.

Nelson Mandela said it best, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” This is why public education is instrumental not only to our city but to our country. By providing a strong public education system we shape tomorrow’s leaders and ensure that America remains competitive, innovative and prosperous.

With the start of a new year and under new leadership, there are new opportunities to do just that. But IPS cannot do it alone. Each of you – community leaders, neighbors, parents and students – play a vital role in the success of this district. Rest assured that I will continue to do my part in Washington D.C. to advocate for the polices and resources to support your efforts. We are indeed, as this year’s theme states, “Stronger Together”.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Indiana, I commend all of you for being here today and for the commitment you have shown to shaping young minds. I am grateful for what you do and look forward to our collective efforts to serve all our kids.

Sincerely,

Andre Carson
Member of Congress