INDIANA'S EDUCATION FUNDING, EXPLAINED



JUST THE FACTS:

HOW K-12 SCHOOL FUNDING WORKS & WHERE OUR EDUCATION DOLLARS GO



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Indiana's Education Funding Explained - Highlights

- ✓ On average, a 20 student school corporation classroom receives \$201,902 in combined state, local, and federal government financial support.
- ✓ Indiana traditional public school teachers were paid an average of **\$50,937** during the 2018-2019 school year, according to the National Education Association (NEA).
 - Indiana public school teachers were paid an average of \$56,175 when adjusted for costof-living differences, ranking in the top half of states nationally (22nd highest).

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- ✓ Data from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) shows that between the 2007-2008 and 2016-2017 school years, traditional public school enrollment decreased by 3% and the number of teachers decreased by 3.5%.
 - However, the number of public school administrative staff increased by <u>31%</u> over the same time period.
- ✓ \$12.43B was spent on K-12 education in Indiana during the 2017-2018 school year (total state, local, and federal government spending).
 - > This equates to an average of **\$10,095** in per student funding for traditional public schools.
- \$7.3B was invested in K-12 state tuition support for the 2019-2020 school year (FY 2020) and
 \$7.5B in state tuition support was appropriated for the 2020-2021 school year (FY 2021).
 - This equates to an average of \$6,795 in per student state funding for traditional public schools (the average voucher award for the 2018-2019 school year was just \$4,422).
- ✓ 73% (or \$785M) of all new General Fund spending in the new state budget went to K-12 education, when Department of Child Services (DCS) and Medicaid are excluded.
 - K-12 spending accounted for more than half of the overall state budget.
- ✓ The state has increased annual K-12 tuition support by **\$1.2B** between FY 2012 and FY 2021.
 - > This equates to an **18%** increase in state funding over nine years.
 - Student population will increase by only **4%** over the same period.
- ✓ Indiana ranked **3rd** in the nation, after Vermont and Kansas, for the highest percentage share of its state budget dedicated to K-12 education (National Association of State Budget Officers).
- ✓ During the 2018-2019 school year, the vast majority of traditional public school teachers received a raise according to the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board (EERB).
 - > 82% of public school teachers received a base salary increase of \$1,299 on average.
 - According to the EERB report, traditional public school teachers were paid an average of **\$52,737**, which is slightly higher than the number reported by the NEA.
 - A 4.6% increase over EERB's 2017-2018 average teacher salary data: \$50,425.
 - > 62% of public school teachers received a one-time stipend of \$897 on average.
- ✓ Only 58.1% of Indiana public school expenditures made it to the classroom during the 2016-2017 school year (FY 2017), according to the Office of Management & Budget's latest figures.
 - In 2016, Indiana had the 3rd lowest percentage in the nation (41.5%) of total public K-12 staff serving as classroom teachers according to March 2019 NCES data.

Current State Biennial Budget (FY 2020 - FY 2021)

The most recent state biennial budget (House Enrolled Act 1001 – 2019) heavily prioritized K-12 education funding in terms of BOTH new and total spending. Total K-12 education investments accounted for \$17.4B (50.2%) of the state's \$34.6B general fund appropriations for FY 2020 – FY 2021.



Total K-12 education funding received 42% of new spending over this biennium. As the following table illustrates, if funding increases for the Department of Child Services and Medicaid are set aside, total K-12 education accounted for 73% of all new spending:

	FY 2019 Base	FY 2020	FY 2021	New \$ vs FY19 Base	% of New \$	Total % K-12 excluding DCS and Medicaid		
Total Appropriations	\$16,354	\$17,100	\$17,489	\$1,881				
K-12 Tuition Support	\$7,153	\$7,331	\$7,514	\$539	28.7%	50.2%		
TRF 96 (one-time)*	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$150	8.0%	14.0%		
Other K-12	\$1,216	\$1,250	\$1,278	\$96	5.1%	8.9%		
Total K-12	\$8,369	\$8,731	\$8,792	\$785	41.7%	73.1%		
Higher Education	\$1,536	\$1,536	\$1,584	\$49	2.6%			
Student Financial Aid	\$339	\$374	\$388	\$84	4.5%			
DCS	\$679	\$910	\$900	\$452	24.0%			
Medicaid Assistance	\$2,374	\$2,485	\$2,619	\$356	18.9%			
Everything Else	\$3,058	\$3 <i>,</i> 065	\$3,208	\$157	8.3%			
*Total FY 2020 appropriations does not include the one-time transfer of \$150M from reserves to the Post-1996 TRF.								

New Spending Analysis (HEA1001--2019)

Under the current \$34.6B state biennial budget (FY 2020 – FY 2021):

- ✓ The \$785M in new total spending is the largest K-12 funding increase in state history.
- ✓ Total K-12 Education spending, including all programs and pensions, increased from \$16.6B in the prior budget to \$17.4B (plus \$150M TRF transfer) in the current budget, an 4.7% increase.
- ✓ Direct state support for K-12 education increased by \$689M, or 9.6% versus the FY 2019 base.
 - Tuition support alone will increase \$539M (2.5% in each of the next two years).
 - $\circ~$ The Post-1996 Teacher Retirement Fund received a \$150M one-time transfer, resulting
 - in ongoing annual savings of roughly \$70M for traditional public school corporations.
- \checkmark Other new and existing statewide K-12 programs received an investment of \$74M in new dollars.

The State Tuition Support Funding Formula

Indiana allocates the overwhelming majority of state K-12 education funding (86%) via the state tuition support funding formula, or state tuition support. Prior to 2009, the tuition support formula was funded through a combination of state and local tax dollars. Since 2009, the tuition support formula has been funded only with state tax dollars. The tuition support formula calculates state tuition support for traditional public schools, public charter schools (including virtual charter schools), and Choice Scholarships. Dollars received by schools from the tuition support formula are generally used to pay for operating expenses, such as salaries for teachers and staff, administrative costs, supplies, and utilities. For the upcoming 2019-2020 school year, the tuition support formula will distribute funding to educate more than one million Hoosier students (est. 1,066,826) across 289 school corporations, 75 charter schools, five virtual charters, and more than 37,000 Choice Scholarship recipients.

Under House Republican leadership, the tuition support formula has held firm to three key principles:

- 1. Money follows the child (i.e., the Foundation grant);
- 2. Additional needs receive additional resources (i.e., Complexity and Special Ed Grants); and
- 3. Schools should be rewarded for positive outcomes (i.e., Career & Technical Education Grants and Honors Diploma Grants).

The tuition support formula's fundamental building block is student enrollment. The official enrollment count—often referred to as Average Daily Membership (or ADM count)—relies upon two count dates (fall and spring). The official ADM counts are used to determine how much basic tuition support funding (i.e., the Foundation Grant plus Complexity Grant) each school corporation will receive throughout the school year, which aligns with the July-June state fiscal year. Public schools receive their first monthly tuition support distribution for a given school year in July. The July distribution is based on ADM estimates that schools provide to the Indiana Department of Education (DOE) by April 1 of the prior year. Once the September ADM count is certified, DOE reconciles the tuition support distributions for the first six months of the fiscal year (July through December) to match actual enrollment. Once the second count date is certified, DOE reconciles the tuition support distributions for the remaining six months. There are several supplemental counts that are used to determine other "categorical" grants: Special Education, Honors Diploma, and Career & Technical Education (CTE). The Special Education Grant count is December 1 of the preceding state fiscal year and reconciled before February 1 of the

current fiscal vear. The Honors Diploma Grants are determined by the number of students who received a state Honors Diploma in the CTE previous school year. Grants are based CTE courses enrollment at the September ADM count.

Indiana has increased tuition support by \$1.2B (18%) between FY 2012 and FY 2021, but total statewide K-12 enrollment has remained relatively flat, with just a 4% increase in total enrollment over the same period (see table to the right).



Every public school (both traditional and charter) receives the same base amount of per student funding, which is referred to as the Foundation grant. Schools receive additional funding depending on a variety of factors: the number of students that are in foster care or receive government assistance in the form of TANF or SNAP (food stamps); the number of Honors Diplomas issued in the prior year; the number of special education students served; and enrollment in career and technical education (CTE) courses. The amount and criteria for these categorical grants is statutorily defined.

- The Foundation grant for the 2019-2020 school year is \$5,548 per student.
 - The Foundation grant will increase to \$5,703 (or 2.8%) for the 2020-2021 school year.
- The Complexity Index for a particular school is determined by the number of students enrolled at the school that receive SNAP, TANF, and/or foster care.
 - The Complexity grant for the 2019-2020 school year is \$3,650 per student and will increase to \$3,675 per student for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - Four school corporations with very high English-Language Learner (ELL) populations are eligible for extra complexity funding, which equates to \$128 per student.
- Special education funding varies by the severity of each eligible student's special needs.
 - Per student grant awards range from \$500 up to \$9,156 for students with severe disabilities.
 - The current Pre-K Special Education Grant is \$2,875 per student and will increase to \$3,000 per student for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Schools receive \$1,100 for each Honors Diploma awarded, or \$1,500 if the student that earned the Honors Diploma was from a low-income family.
- Career & Technical Education funding varies by course classification as determined by the Department of Workforce Development and State Board of Education; this grant encourages school corporations to offer courses in high-wage, high-demand fields.
 - For example, introductory courses receive a \$150 grant while apprenticeships and highwage, high-demand training is reimbursed at \$500 to \$1,020 per student, respectively.
- Virtual charter schools receive only 85% of the Foundation grant.
- Since only public school corporations receive property taxes, high-performing and new public charter schools receive a \$750 per student grant outside of the tuition support formula.
 - $\circ~$ The total cost of the grant program will be \$22.5M each of the next two school years.

The Foundation grant has increased \$1,423 (33.2%) over the last five biennial state budgets:



The funding gap between the highest and lowest school corporation has fallen 41% since FY 2012. Prior to the first tuition support formula enacted by the House Republican majority in 2011, the tuition support formula stressed funding buildings rather than individual students, resulting in great disparities in per student funding across similarly situated school corporations.

- The highest and lowest tuition support per student between school corporations for the 2018-19 school year was \$8,430 and \$5,970, respectively resulting in a \$2,460 gap.
- However, that gap was \$4,721 during the 2010-2011 school year, which was the last tuition support formula year prior to the House Republican majority (see table below).
- The primary driver of the current gap is the Complexity Index, which varies among school corporations depending on the income level of the school's student population.



Significantly Reducing the Funding Gap

The tuition support versus ADM breakdown by school type for the 2019-2020 school year (FY 2020) is:

- Public charter schools 2.8% of the students and 3.1% of the funding.
- Virtual Public Charter Schools....... 1.3% of the students and 1.1% of the funding.
- Choice Scholarships (vouchers)..... 3.6% of the students and 2.4% of the funding.

School Funding Formula (State Tuition Support), FY2019-FY2021

	Total Funding								
	F	inal FY 2019	%	(Est.) FY 2020	%	(E	Est.) FY 2021	%
School Corporations	\$	6,709,622,562	93.80%	\$	6,847,664,293	93.40%	\$	6,989,689,553	93.02%
Charter Schools	\$	203,087,333	2.84%	\$	224,014,368	3.06%	\$	247,473,690	3.29%
Virtual Charter Schools	\$	79,025,573	1.10%	\$	83,173,886	1.13%	\$	90,772,675	1.21%
Choice Scholarships	\$	160,486,949	2.24%	\$	175,367,520	2.39%	\$	185,180,225	2.46%
Mitch Daniels	\$	1,048,000	0.01%	\$	1,220,000	0.02%	\$	1,220,000	0.02%
TOTAL	\$	7,153,270,417	100%	\$	7,331,440,067	100%	\$	7,514,336,143	100%

			ADM			
	Final FY 2019	%	(Est.) FY 2020	%	(Est.) FY 2021	%
School Corporations	987,399	92.74%	984,809	92.31%	984,853	91.89%
Charter Schools	27,653	2.60%	29,754	2.79%	32,373	3.02%
Virtual Charter Schools	13,126	1.23%	14,098	1.32%	15,127	1.41%
Choice Scholarships	36,290	3.41%	37,860	3.55%	39,175	3.65%
Mitch Daniels	262	0.02%	305	0.03%	305	0.03%
TOTAL	1,064,729	100%	1,066,826	100%	1,071,832	100%

Total State K-12 Education Funding

Although tuition support is by far the largest category of state K-12 funding, the state also invests significant General Fund dollars in several other K-12-related programs, including the Indiana Department of Education, State Board of Education, and payments to teacher pension funds. For the 2019-2020 school year (FY 2020), the state appropriated \$1.25B for these other K-12 programs. When all of the various K-12 education related programs are included, total state K-12 education spending will amount to roughly \$8.58B in FY 2020 (see table below).

Total K-12 education state funding has increased by \$1.5B over the last five biennial state budgets:



Total State K-12 Funding - All K-12 Programs

The table below lists just a handful of the significant state investments and programs that will complement tuition support this current biennium (FY 2020 – FY 2021):

	State General Fund Appropriation			
A Sample of K-12-Related State Programs	FY 2020	FY 2021		
Teacher Pension Payments (Pre-1996 TRF)	\$919,000,000	\$946,600,000		
Distribution for Adult Learners	\$40,331,250	\$40,331,250		
Curricular Material (Textbook) Reimbursement	\$39,000,000	\$39,000,000		
Teacher Appreciation Grants	\$37,500,000	\$37,500,000		
Non-English Speaking Program	\$22,500,000	\$22,500,000		
Charter & Innovation School Grant Program	\$22,500,000	\$22,500,000		
Special Education	\$24,070,000	\$24,070,000		
Secured School Safety Program	\$19,000,000	\$19,000,000		
Summer School	\$18,360,000	\$18,360,000		
Gifted and Talented Education Program	\$13,053,399	\$13,053,399		
Advanced Placement Program	\$5,200,000	\$5,200,000		
Next Level Computer Science Program	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000		
STEM Program Alignment	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000		

Local K-12 Education Funding

Local revenue accounts for roughly a quarter of all public spending on K-12 education. **It is important to note that only traditional public school corporations receive local tax revenue.** On average, school corporations receive about 41% of all property taxes collected statewide. Property tax revenues are used by schools to pay for the cost of transporting students to and from school (including the purchase of school buses), capital expenditures (including facility upgrades, repairs, and technology equipment), and various types of debt service (mortgages, bonds, leases, and certain pension debt).

- During the 2017-2018 school year (FY 2018), public schools collected \$3.15B in local revenue.
 - Nearly \$2.9B was from property taxes, 41% of total statewide collections (\$7.05B).
 - Roughly \$271M was from other local sources, such as vehicle excise tax revenue.
- During the 2017-2018 school year (FY 2018), total local revenue per student averaged \$3,185.
- Organized by fund, the three largest recipients of local tax dollars for K-12 education are 1.) Debt Service (39%); 2.) Capital Projects (21%); and, 3.) Transportation (16%).



Traditional public school corporations also have the ability to ask their taxpayers to pay more in property taxes to increase education funding through a capital project referendum, an operating levy referendum, and, effective July 1, 2019, a school safety levy referendum. Successful referenda are exempt from the constitutional property tax caps; however, they do expire and must be reauthorized.

- In FY 2019, \$283M (less than 10% of total local revenue) was from school corporation capital and operating referenda adopted by local voters.
- Since November 2008, local schools have passed 124 referenda while 73 have failed:
 - Operating......81 passed (68%) and 38 failed (32%);
 - Capital Project42 passed (55%) and 35 failed (45%); and
 - Other.....1 passed and 0 failed.

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Federal K-12 Education Funding

Indiana received around \$1.06B in federal K-12 education funding for the 2017-2018 school year (FY 2018) with close to \$438M dedicated to providing school lunches to low-income students. Nearly \$236M of the federal funding came in the form of Title I grants. All traditional public schools, most public charter schools, and most virtual charter schools received Title I dollars. The remaining federal dollars went to programs that support students with disabilities, migrant students, homelessness assistance and career and technical education – along with administrative and audit expenses.

- Title I is the federal program that provides funding to local school districts to improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students.
- Title I funds are currently allocated through four statutory formulas that are based primarily on census poverty estimates and the cost of education in each state.
- Schools must focus Title I services on children who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet state academic standards.
 - Schools with at least 40% at-risk enrollment may use the funds for school-wide programs.

Total K-12 Education Spending (State, Local, & Federal)

Indiana's K-12 education system receives funding from three sources: state government, local governments, and the federal government. During the most recent school year 2017-2018 (FY 2018) with complete figures, total public spending on K-12 programs in Indiana was \$12.43B. State funding was by far the largest source (66%), local revenues accounted for 25%, and federal funds provided the remaining 9%.



During the 2017-2018 school year (the most recent year for which we have complete data on all three primary revenue sources), total public support for the average traditional public school corporation student was \$10,095. The (rounded) numbers below break down per student support by source.

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Statewide average K-12 state tuition support for only public school corporations (FY 2018):

• \$6,694 / student

Statewide average local revenue for only public school corporations (FY 2018):

• \$3,185 / student

Statewide federal Title I revenue for only public school corporations (FY 2018):

• \$217 / student

Total State + Total Local + Total Federal Title I =

Statewide Average: <u>\$10,095 / school corp. student</u>

Hypothetical Average Public School Corporation Classroom Funding (FY 2018):

- Classroom of 18 ADM: \$181,712
- Classroom of 20 ADM: \$201,902
- Classroom of 25 ADM: \$252,378

Dollars-to-the-Classroom

Only 58.1% of public school expenditures made it to the classroom during the 2016-17 school year (FY 2017) according to the latest 'Dollars-to-the-Classroom Report' released by the Indiana Office of Management and Budget. Out of 381 traditional and public charter schools, 233 (61%) increased their percentage of dollars to the classroom from the previous year. The primary driver of the increase between FY 2016 and FY 2017 was school personnel salaries: certified salary (teachers and principals) spending increased \$117M and non-certified salaries \$50M. As the table below illustrates, the dollars-to-the-classroom metric has declined since hitting a peak of 61.4% in FY 2007.

Percentage of Total School Expenditures on Student Instruction (Dollars-to-the-Classroom)											
FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
60.6%	61.4%	60.6%	57.8%	58.7%	58.6%	58.1%	57.6%	57.4%	57.0%	57.3%	58.1%

Teachers, Administrators, and Non-Teaching Staff

The more that a school corporation spends on overhead and administrative staff salaries, the less available resources it can devote to direct classroom expenditures, especially teacher compensation. Indiana data from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) shows that between the 2007-2008 and 2016-2017 school years, traditional public school enrollment decreased by 3% and the number of teachers decreased by 3.5%. However, the number of public school administrative staff increased by 31% over the same time period. A March 2019 NCES report found Indiana had the third lowest percentage in the nation (41.4%) of public K-12 staff serving as classroom teachers. As the below graph indicates, during 2012 – 2014 Indiana's precentage of K-12 staff serving as classroom teachers was the lowest in the country.



- In 2016, Indiana's public K-12 staffing was a national outlier in other areas:
 - o In terms of total public K-12 staff serving in schools, Indiana was second lowest (63%).
 - In terms of non-school and non-district administrative staff, the share of Indiana's 'Other Support Services Staff' was the second highest in the country (27%).

Teacher Salaries

School corporation resource allocations, such as staffing and teacher salaries, inevitably vary districtby-district given unique needs and local decision making. While teacher salaries are determined by local school boards, the state does contribute directly to teacher pay through Teacher Appreciation Grants (TAG). For the 2018-2019 school year, DOE recommended that schools provide 'Highly Effective' and 'Effective' teachers \$320 and \$220, respectively, from the \$30M provided by the state for the TAG program. TAG grants provide extra income to teachers by supplementing the base salary increases and/or one-time stipends provided by local schools. The TAG program was increased to \$37.5M per year in the current biennial budget. According to the NEA, the average Indiana public school teacher salary was \$50,614 (2017-2018). After adjusting for cost-of-living differences between states, the average Indiana public school teacher salary is effectively \$56,175 and ranks 22nd nationally among states (see chart below):

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A second, Indiana-specific teacher compensation report is produced annually by the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board (EERB). EERB's 2018-2019 school year report found nearly all public school teachers received a pay raise, a bonus, or both:

Salaries	Total salary costs - all teachers	\$3,289,752,987
	Minimum annual teacher salary (full time)	\$30,325
	Average annual teacher salary (full time)	\$52,737
	Maximum annual teacher salary (full time)	\$91,843
	Total cost of all teacher salary base increases	\$84,888,603
	Count of corps providing base salary increases	268
	Count of teachers receiving base salary increase	51,223
	Average base salary increase	\$1,299
	Count of corps providing one time stipend (excluding extracurricular)	160
	Total amount of bargained stipends (excluding extracurricular)	\$19,098,193
	Count of teachers receiving a stipend	38,957
	Average stipend payment	\$897

- Highlights from the latest EERB report:
 - The average Indiana public school teacher salary was \$52,737, which is higher than the amount reported by the NEA; it is also than EERB's 2017-2018 figure (\$50,425).
 - o 82% of certified positions received a base salary increase—the average was \$1,299.
 - o 62% of certified positions received a one-time stipend—the average was \$897.

Choice Scholarships (Vouchers)

The appropriation for the tuition support formula includes funding for Choice Scholarships. Choice Scholarships are need-based vouchers that empower eligible lower-income families to send their children to participating 'Choice Schools.' Choice Scholarship awards are capped at a certain percentage of the per student state tuition support that is paid to the family's school corporation of legal settlement.

There are now three voucher cap amounts based on family income:

- @ 90% of the per ADM state tuition support amount of the recipient's school corporation, excluding special education grants and career and technical education grants, for households that are 100% or less of free or reduced lunch (FRL) eligibility (\$47,638 for a family of four);
- @ 70% for households that are 100% to 125% FRL (\$59,547 for a family of four); and
- @ 50% for households that are 125% to 150% FRL (\$71,456 for a family of four).
 - @ 50% cap up to 200% FRL if the family is under the Continuing Choice Scholarship Student Track or Special Education Track.

For the 2018-2019 school year, the average Choice award was \$4,422 per student, whereas the average per student tuition support for school corporations was \$6,795. Furthermore, Choice scholarships (and Public Charter Schools) do not draw on any property taxes or local revenue sources. The average local revenue per student for school corporations was \$3,185 during the 2017-2018 school year (the latest year for complete figures).

Because Choice Scholarship amounts are capped, the program results in a net savings to the entire school funding formula. According to the Indiana Department of Education's (DOE) latest 'Choice Scholarship Program Annual Report' (2019):

- During the 2018-2019 school year, 36,290 students received Choice Scholarships at a total cost of \$160M, or 2% of the entire tuition support appropriation (\$7.15B) for FY 2019;
 - For greater context, the entirety of the Choice program's funding is less than the state tuition support received by some school corporations with lower enrollment:
 - Indianapolis Public Schools taught 30,707 students and received \$238M in state tuition support; and
 - Fort Wayne Community Schools taught 28,537 students and received \$207M in state tuition support.
- The IDOE's 2017-2018 Choice Scholarship report found:
 - "[I]f the same 36,290 Choice students were to attend his/her public school corporation of legal settlement for the 2018-2019 school year, the amount that would be paid in public tuition support would total \$231,409,852.89."
- Choice Scholarships result in an aggregate savings of <u>\$70M</u> (\$161M vs. \$231M).
 - This significant savings remains within the tuition support formula, stretching the tuition support appropriation further to benefit <u>all public schools</u> through higher per student funding amounts.

As a result of the award caps and aggregate discount, the current biennium's tuition support formula favors traditional school corporations over Choice Scholarships (see table on page 5):

- In the 2019-2020 school year (FY 2020), Choice Scholarships will:
 - Receive an est. **2.4%** of tuition support dollars but will account for **3.6%** of enrollment.
 - In the 2019-2020 school year (FY 2020), traditional public school corporations will:
 - Receive an est. **93.4%** of tuition support but will account for only **92.3%** of enrollment.

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