

HOUSE BILL No. 1160

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-30-5; IC 20-32-4-21.

Synopsis: Naturalization examination. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, requires administration of the naturalization examination provided by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (exam) in grade 8. Beginning in the 2030-2031 school year, requires administration of the exam in high school, and requires a student to complete the exam with a score of not less than 70% in order to graduate high school. Allows a student to retake the exam. Allows certain students to obtain an academic waiver for the exam. Makes conforming changes.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Commons, Teshka, Baird

January 5, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.



Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1160

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 20-30-5-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.214-2025,
- 2 SECTION 141, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Each school corporation shall
- 4 include in the school corporation's curriculum the following studies:
- 5 (1) Language arts, including:
- 6 (A) English;
- 7 (B) grammar;
- 8 (C) composition;
- 9 (D) speech; and
- 10 (E) second languages.
- 11 (2) Mathematics.
- 12 (3) Social studies and citizenship, including the:
- 13 (A) constitutions;
- 14 (B) governmental systems; and
- 15 (C) histories;
- 16 of Indiana and the United States, including an enhanced study of
- 17 the Holocaust in each high school United States history course.



As part of the United States government credit awarded for the general, Core 40, Core 40 with academic honors, and Core 40 with technical honors designation, each high school shall administer the naturalization examination provided by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(4) Sciences, including, after June 30, 2021, computer science.

(5) Fine arts, including music and art.

(6) Health education, physical fitness, safety, and the effects of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and other substances on the human body.

(7) Additional studies selected by each governing body, subject to revision by the state board.

(8) As part of the United States government credit awarded for the general, Core 40, Core 40 with academic honors, and Core 40 with technical honors designation, each high school shall administer the naturalization examination provided by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. This subdivision expires June 30, 2030.

(b) Not later than November 1 each year, the department shall report to the general assembly in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 the following:

(1) The number of students who took the naturalization examination described in subsection ~~(a)(3)~~: **(a)(8)**.

(2) The number of students who passed the naturalization examination described in subsection ~~(a)(3)~~ **(a)(8)** by a score of not less than ~~sixty~~ **seventy** percent ~~(60%)~~ **(70%)** on their first attempt.

(3) The pass rate of the naturalization examination regarding the students who passed as described in subdivision (2).

This subsection expires June 30, 2030.

(c) Not more than thirty (30) days after the department reports to the general assembly the information under subsection (b), the department shall post the pass rate under subsection (b)(3) on the department's website. **This subsection expires June 30, 2030.**

SECTION 2. IC 20-30-5-26.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 26.5. (a) Each school shall administer the naturalization examination provided by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services according to the following schedule:**

(1) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and continuing thereafter, in grade 8.

(2) Beginning with the 2030-2031 school year and continuing



thereafter, in high school.

(b) Not later than November 1 each year, the department shall report to the general assembly in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 the following:

(1) The number of students who took the naturalization examination described in subsection (a).

(2) The number of students who passed the naturalization examination described in subsection (a) by a score of not less than seventy percent (70%) on their first attempt.

(3) The pass rate of the naturalization examination regarding the students who passed as described in subdivision (2).

(c) Not more than thirty (30) days after the department reports to the general assembly the information under subsection (b), the department shall post the pass rate under subsection (b)(3) on the department's website.

SECTION 3. IC 20-32-4-21 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 21. (a) This section applies to an individual who is a student in a cohort that is expected to graduate in 2031 or thereafter from a:

(1) public school, including a charter school; or

(2) state accredited nonpublic school.

(b) Beginning in 2031, in addition to completing the graduation requirements set forth in this article, a student described in this section must successfully complete the naturalization examination provided by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services with a score of seventy percent (70%) or higher to graduate from high school. A student who achieves a score of seventy percent (70%) or higher during the administration of the naturalization exam described in IC 20-30-5-26.5(a)(1) has satisfied this requirement.

(c) A student described in this section who fails to achieve a score of seventy percent (70%) or higher during the administration of the naturalization exam described in IC 20-30-5-26.5(a)(2) may retake the naturalization exam.

(d) A student described in this section who:

(1) has an individualized education program; and

(2) earns a certificate of completion;

may be granted an academic waiver for the requirement described in subsection (b).

