
HOUSE BILL No. 1176

AM117610 has been incorporated into January 8, 2026 printing.

Synopsis: Education matters.

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January 8, 2026

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. 1176

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 4-29.5-18-1, AS ADDED BY P.L.171-2021,
- 2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2027]: Sec. 1. For so long as the Band makes payments in
- 4 accordance with IC 4-29.5-17, the Band shall allocate a portion of the
- 5 annual payment to provide funding for public **or private** postsecondary
- 6 and vocational education for Band citizens (the "Pokagon Indiana
- 7 Education Fund").
- 8 SECTION 2. IC 4-29.5-18-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.171-2021,
- 9 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 10 JULY 1, 2027]: Sec. 2. The Pokagon Indiana Education Fund shall be
- 11 used solely to make payments directly to Indiana public **or private**
- 12 institutions of higher learning or workforce development and training
- 13 programs approved by the Indiana Department of Workforce
- 14 Development for eligible Band citizens for direct costs and expenses,
- 15 such as tuition, on-campus room and board, and other direct education
- 16 expenses. To be eligible, a Band citizen must (i) be enrolled in the
- 17 Band prior to benefitting from any payment, and (ii) meet the education

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or workforce provider admission requirements. Priority shall be given to Band citizens who are legal residents of the State of Indiana as of the date of their application for benefits.

SECTION 3. IC 6-1.1-17-3.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.136-2024, SECTION 20, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.1. (a) This section:

(1) applies only to an operating referendum tax levy under IC 20-46-1 approved by the voters before January 1, 2023, that is imposed by a school corporation for taxes first due and payable in 2024 and 2025;

(2) does not apply to an operating referendum tax levy under IC 20-46-1:

(A) approved by the voters during a time that the school corporation imposing the levy was designated as a distressed political subdivision; or

(B) approved by the voters after December 31, 2022, and before January 1, 2025, that is imposed by a school corporation for taxes first due and payable in 2024 or 2025; and

(3) does not apply to any other tax year.

(b) As used in this section, "ADM" refers to the school corporation's average daily membership used to determine the state tuition support distribution under IC 20-43. In the case of a school corporation that has entered into an agreement with one (1) or more charter schools to participate as an innovation network charter school under IC 20-25.7-5, the term includes the average daily membership of **students described in IC 20-25.7-5-2(b)(2) of any innovation network charter school that is treated as a school operated by the school corporation with regard to students described in IC 20-25.7-5-2(b)(2)** when calculating the total amount of state tuition support to be distributed to the school corporation.

(c) Notwithstanding any increase in the assessed value of property from the previous assessment date, for taxes first due and payable in 2024, the total amount of operating referendum tax that may be levied by a school corporation may not exceed the lesser of:

(1) the maximum operating referendum tax that could have been levied by the school corporation if the maximum referendum rate was imposed for taxes first due and payable in 2023 multiplied by one and three-hundredths (1.03); or

(2) the maximum operating referendum tax that could otherwise be levied by the school corporation for taxes first due and payable in 2024.

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The tax rate for an operating referendum tax levy shall be decreased, if necessary, to comply with this limitation.

(d) Notwithstanding any increase in the assessed value of property from the previous assessment date, for taxes first due and payable in 2025, the total amount of operating referendum tax that may be levied by a school corporation may not exceed the lesser of the following:

(1) The maximum operating referendum tax that could have been levied by the school corporation if the maximum referendum rate was imposed for taxes first due and payable in the immediately preceding calendar year, as adjusted by this section, multiplied by the result determined under STEP SEVEN of the following formula:

STEP ONE: Subtract:

(i) the school corporation's spring count of ADM made in the calendar year preceding by five (5) years the calendar year in which the property taxes are first due and payable; from

(ii) the school corporation's spring count of ADM made in the immediately preceding calendar year.

STEP TWO: Divide the STEP ONE result by four (4).

STEP THREE: Divide the STEP TWO result by the school corporation's spring count of ADM made in the calendar year preceding by five (5) years the calendar year in which the property taxes are first due and payable.

STEP FOUR: Multiply the STEP THREE amount by one and five-tenths (1.5).

STEP FIVE: Add the STEP FOUR result and one and six-hundredths (1.06).

STEP SIX: Determine the greater of the STEP FIVE result or one and six-hundredths (1.06).

STEP SEVEN: Determine the lesser of the STEP SIX result or one and twelve-hundredths (1.12).

(2) The maximum operating referendum tax that could otherwise be levied by the school corporation for taxes first due and payable in the current calendar year.

The tax rate for an operating referendum tax levy shall be decreased, if necessary, to comply with this limitation.

(e) The department of education shall provide to the department of local government finance each school corporation's applicable ADM counts as needed to make the determinations under this section.

SECTION 4. IC 20-24-11-5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS

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[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) An existing public elementary or secondary school may be converted into a charter school if the governing body of the school corporation:

(1) votes to convert the school within the school corporation; and

(2) submits to an authorizer a proposal described in IC 20-24-3-4 to convert the school within the school corporation to a charter school.

(b) The governing body of the school corporation described in subsection (a) may not serve as the authorizer of the charter school converted in accordance with this section.

(c) The organizer of a conversion charter school described in this section may be:

(1) the school corporation; or

(2) a nonprofit corporation that:

(A) is established by the school corporation;

(B) is incorporated or registered in Indiana;

(C) has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service to be tax exempt and maintains such tax exempt status; and

(D) has an independent board whose members have been elected or selected under the organizer's application and that has entered into a contract under this article to operate a charter school.

(d) The governing body of a school corporation may convert more than one (1) existing public elementary or secondary school within the school corporation under this section. The school corporation or an organizer that is a nonprofit corporation established by the school corporation under subsection (c)(2) may:

(1) submit a separate proposal for each school to an authorizer; or

(2) with the approval of the authorizer, operate two (2) or more schools under a single charter, provided that each school site:

(A) is identified in the charter application and charter; and

(B) is subject to the performance conditions, accountability measures, and renewal determinations established in the charter.

(e) A conversion charter school described in this section shall comply with the following:

(1) All legal requirements described in section 1(d) of this



chapter.

(2) Except as provided in this section, all requirements for charter schools under this article.

SECTION 5. IC 20-25.7-5-1.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 1.5. A board may not at the same time both:**

(1) be an authorizer of a charter school; and

(2) enter into or have an agreement under this chapter with the charter school.

SECTION 6. IC 20-25.7-5-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.213-2025, SECTION 169, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 2. (a) The A board may enter into an agreement with an organizer to:**

(1) reconstitute an eligible school as a participating innovation network charter school; or to

(2) establish a participating innovation network charter school at a location:

(A) selected by the board; ~~within the boundary of the school corporation; or~~

(B) within the geographic boundaries of any school corporation with which the organizer enters into an agreement under this chapter.

Notwithstanding IC 20-26-7.1, a participating innovation network charter school may be established within a vacant school building.

(b) The terms of the agreement entered into between ~~the a~~ board of a school corporation and an organizer must specify the following:

(1) A statement that the organizer authorizes the department to include the charter school's performance assessment results under IC 20-31-8 **for students who reside within the geographic boundaries of the school corporation** when calculating the school corporation's performance assessment under rules adopted by the state board.

(2) Subject to an administrative fee as described in subsection (g), a statement that the school corporation will distribute at least one hundred percent (100%) of state tuition support dollars that the school corporation receives ~~from student enrollment for~~ **students who:**

(A) reside within the geographic boundaries of the school corporation; and

(B) are enrolled in the participating innovation network charter school;

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in accordance with the school funding formula to the participating innovation network charter school (if the participating innovation network charter school is, **with regard to students described in this subsection**, treated in the same manner as a school operated by the school corporation under subsection (d)(2)).

(3) The performance goals and accountability metrics agreed upon for the charter school in the charter agreement between the organizer and the authorizer and a statement that the school corporation is prohibited from setting additional performance goals or accountability metrics.

(4) For an agreement entered into or renewed after June 30, 2023, the process the board is required to follow in determining whether to renew the agreement.

(5) The amount of money levied as property taxes that will be distributed by the school corporation to the organizer.

(6) Subject to section 5 of this chapter, the participating innovation network charter school's enrollment and discipline policies, including defined attendance areas and enrollment zones.

(7) A statement that the innovation agreement shall not create an obligation that would cause the organizer to be in violation of its charter agreement (as described in IC 20-24-1-3).

(c) If an organizer and ~~the~~ a board enter into an agreement under subsection (a), the organizer and the board shall notify the department that the agreement has been made under this section within thirty (30) days after the agreement is entered into.

(d) Upon receipt of the notification under subsection (c), for school years starting after the date of the agreement:

(1) the department shall include the participating innovation network charter school's performance assessment results under IC 20-31-8 **for students who reside within the geographic boundaries of the school corporation** when calculating the school corporation's performance assessment under rules adopted by the state board;

(2) the department shall:

(A) treat the participating innovation network charter school in the same manner as a school operated by the school corporation **with regard to students residing within the geographic boundaries of the school corporation** when calculating the total amount of state funding to be distributed to the school corporation unless subsection (e)

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applies; and

(B) in determining the school corporation's enrollment, include only eligible pupils enrolled in the participating innovation network charter school who reside within the geographic boundaries of the school corporation.

(3) if requested by a participating innovation network charter school that reconstitutes an eligible school, the department may use student growth as the state board's exclusive means to determine the innovation network charter school's category or designation of school improvement under 511 IAC 6.2-10-10 for a period of three (3) years. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the department may not use student growth as the state board's exclusive means to determine an innovation network charter school's category or designation of school improvement. This subdivision expires July 1, 2023.

(e) If a participating innovation network school was established before January 1, 2016, and for the current school year has a complexity index that is greater than the complexity index for the school corporation that the innovation network school has contracted with, the innovation network school shall be treated as a charter school for purposes of determining tuition support. This subsection expires June 30, 2027.

(f) If the board or organizer fails to follow the process described in subsection (b)(4), the board or organizer may appeal to the state board. The state board shall hear the appeal in a public meeting and ensure that the board or organizer follows the renewal process specified in the agreement. The board may not terminate an agreement until the board has provided evidence to the state board that the board has complied with the renewal process specified in the agreement. The state board shall issue a decision on an appeal under this subsection not later than sixty (60) days after the date the board or organizer submitted the appeal to the state board.

(g) If an administrative fee is included in an agreement entered into or renewed **under this chapter** after June 30, 2023, **2026**, under this section, the fee may not exceed one percent (1%) of the total amount of state tuition support that is distributed to the school corporation based on the participating innovation network charter school's student enrollment. **each school corporation with which an organizer of a participating innovation network charter school has entered into an agreement may assess an administrative fee of not more than one percent (1%) of the tuition support dollars that the school corporation receives for students who:**

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(1) reside within the geographic boundaries of the school corporation; and

(2) are enrolled in the participating innovation network charter school.

(h) An agreement entered into between the board and an organizer under this section may not be altered without written approval from the organizer.

SECTION 7. IC 20-25.7-5-2.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 2.5. In addition to any state tuition support dollars a participating innovation network charter school receives from a school corporation under this chapter, the department shall treat the participating innovation network charter school as a charter school when calculating the tuition support to be distributed to the innovation network charter school for students of the innovation network charter school who do not reside within the geographic boundaries of a school corporation with which the innovation network charter school has an agreement under this chapter.**

SECTION 8. IC 20-25.7-5-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.220-2021, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 5. (a) IC 20-24-5-5 (with the exception of IC 20-24-5-5(g)) does not apply to a participating innovation network charter school that enters into an agreement with the board to reconstitute or establish an eligible school.**

(b) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d), a participating innovation network charter school must enroll any eligible student who submits a timely application for enrollment.

(c) A participating innovation network charter school that reconstitutes or establishes an eligible school may limit new admissions to the participating innovation network charter school to:

(1) ensure that any student with legal settlement in the attendance area, or in ~~the school corporation~~ **any school corporation with which the participating innovation network charter school has entered into an agreement under this chapter** if the school does not have a defined attendance area, may attend the charter school;

(2) ensure that a student who attends the participating innovation network charter school during a school year may continue to attend the charter school in subsequent years;

(3) allow the siblings of a student alumnus or a current student who attends the participating innovation network charter school



to attend the charter school;

(4) allow preschool students who attend a Level 3 or Level 4 Paths to QUALITY program preschool to attend kindergarten at the participating innovation network charter school if the participating innovation network charter school and the school corporation or preschool provider have entered into an agreement to share services or facilities;

(5) allow each student who qualifies for free or reduced price lunch under the national school lunch program to receive preference for admission to the participating innovation network charter school if the preference is specifically provided for in the charter and is approved by the authorizer; and

(6) allow each student who attended a turnaround academy or attends a school that is located in the same school building as the participating innovation network charter school to receive preference for admission to the participating innovation network charter school if the preference is specifically provided for in the participating innovation network charter school's charter and is approved by the authorizer of the participating innovation network charter school.

(d) A participating innovation network charter school with a curriculum that includes study in a foreign country may deny admission to a student if:

(1) the student:

(A) has completed fewer than twenty-two (22) academic credits required for graduation; and

(B) will be in the grade 11 cohort during the school year in which the student seeks to enroll in the participating innovation network charter school; or

(2) the student has been suspended (as defined in IC 20-33-8-7) or expelled (as defined in IC 20-33-8-3) during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the student's application for enrollment for:

(A) ten (10) or more school days;

(B) a violation under IC 20-33-8-16;

(C) causing physical injury to a student, a school employee, or a visitor to the school; or

(D) a violation of a school corporation's drug or alcohol rules.

For purposes of subdivision (2)(A), student discipline received under IC 20-33-8-25(b)(7) for a violation described in subdivision (2)(B) through (2)(D) must be included in the calculation of the number of

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1 school days that a student has been suspended.

2 (e) A participating innovation network charter school may give
3 enrollment preferences to children of the participating innovation
4 network charter school's founders, governing board members, and
5 participating innovation network charter school employees, as long as
6 the enrollment preference under this subsection is not given to more
7 than ten percent (10%) of the participating innovation charter school's
8 total population and there is sufficient capacity for a program, class,
9 grade level, or building to ensure that any student with legal settlement
10 in the attendance area may attend the school.

11 (f) This subsection applies to an existing charter school that enters
12 into an innovation network agreement with ~~the~~ a board. During the
13 charter school's first year of operation as a participating innovation
14 network charter school, the charter school may limit admission to:

- 15 (1) those students who were enrolled in the charter school on the
16 date it entered into the innovation network agreement; and
17 (2) siblings of students described in subdivision (1).

18 (g) This subsection applies if the number of applications for a
19 program, class, grade level, or building exceeds the capacity of the
20 program, class, grade level, or building. If a participating innovation
21 network charter school receives a greater number of applications than
22 there are spaces for students, each timely applicant must be given an
23 equal chance of admission. The participating innovation network
24 charter school that is not in a county containing a consolidated city
25 must determine which of the applicants will be admitted to the
26 participating innovation network charter school or the program, class,
27 grade level, or building by random drawing in a public meeting with
28 each timely applicant limited to one (1) entry in the drawing. However,
29 the participating innovation network charter school located in a county
30 with a consolidated city shall determine which of the applicants will be
31 admitted to the participating innovation network charter school or the
32 program, class, grade level, or building by using a publicly verifiable
33 random selection process.

34 SECTION 9. IC 20-25.7-5-6, AS ADDED BY P.L.162-2024,
35 SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
36 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) Subject to an administrative fee as described
37 in section 2(g) of this chapter, a school corporation that enters into an
38 agreement with an organizer under this chapter shall distribute at least
39 one hundred percent (100%) of state tuition support dollars that the
40 school corporation receives from ~~student enrollment~~ **students who:**

- 41 **(1) reside in the geographic boundaries of the school**
42 **corporation; and**



1 **(2) are enrolled** in the participating innovation network charter
 2 school;
 3 in accordance with the school funding formula to the participating
 4 innovation network charter school.

5 (b) Unless an agreement entered into before July 1, 2024, between
 6 a board and an organizer provides otherwise, all participating
 7 innovation network charter schools operating under existing
 8 agreements with boards as of July 1, 2024, will receive funds as
 9 required under subsection (a).

10 SECTION 10. IC 20-32-6.5-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.180-2025,
 11 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 12 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year,
 13 if a school determines that a student in kindergarten through grade 8 is
 14 at risk of not achieving grade level proficiency in mathematics as
 15 determined by an analysis of the student's data from:

16 (1) a grade level screener approved by the department; or
 17 (2) a through-year statewide assessment;
 18 the school must provide intervention that meets the requirements under
 19 subsection (b).

20 (b) A school shall provide intervention to a student described in
 21 subsection (a) that meets the following conditions:

22 (1) The intervention includes a multitiered system of support that
 23 progresses from less to more intensive support based on the
 24 student's individual needs.

25 (2) The intervention is aligned to daily Tier I instruction and
 26 standard level learning progressions.

27 (3) The intervention is:

28 (A) targeted;

29 (B) differentiated; and

30 (C) supplemental to Tier I instruction.

31 (4) The intervention:

32 (A) is aligned with evidence based instructional strategies
 33 to promote conceptual understanding, procedural fluency,
 34 and real world problem solving; and

35 (B) allows a student opportunities to interact, show
 36 progress, and demonstrate understanding through rigorous
 37 grade level content.

38 (5) The intervention includes continual assessment and in depth
 39 analysis of each student's data to inform the flexible movement
 40 in and out of Tiers II and III.

41 **(c) Not later than fifteen (15) days after a school makes a**
 42 **determination under subsection (a) that a student is at risk, the**



1 school shall provide notice to a parent of the student regarding the
2 determination. The notification may contain the following:

3 (1) Specific information about how the student is performing.

4 (2) Information about the intervention the student will
5 receive from the school.

6 (3) A list or description of any recommended resources
7 available for use at home to support the student's academic
8 growth in mathematics.

9 (c) (d) The department shall provide guidance on the multitiered
10 system that a school is required to provide under subsection (b).

11 SECTION 11. IC 20-43-13-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.213-2025,
12 SECTION 197, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
13 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) Except as provided in
14 subsections (c) and (d), the complexity index is the percentage of the
15 school corporation's students who were receiving Supplemental
16 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Temporary Assistance
17 for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, or foster care services as of
18 October 1 in the school year ending in the later of:

19 (1) 2025; or

20 (2) the first year of operation of the school corporation.

21 (b) For a conversion charter school, the percentage determined
22 under this section is the percentage of the sponsor school corporation.

23 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d), the complexity index for
24 a school corporation that has entered into an agreement with one (1) or
25 more charter schools to participate as an innovation network charter
26 school under IC 20-25.7-5 for a state fiscal year is equal to the result
27 using the following formula:

28 STEP ONE: Determine:

29 (A) the school corporation's enrollment; minus

30 (B) the enrollment of students described in
31 IC 20-25.7-5-2(b)(2) of each participating innovation
32 network charter school.

33 STEP TWO: Determine the number of students in the school
34 corporation who were receiving Supplemental Nutrition
35 Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Temporary Assistance for
36 Needy Families (TANF) benefits, or foster care services as of
37 October 1 in the school year ending in 2025, not including
38 students enrolled in each participating innovation network
39 charter school.

40 STEP THREE: Divide the result of STEP TWO by the result of
41 STEP ONE.

42 STEP FOUR: Determine the enrollment of students described

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1 **in IC 20-25.7-5-2(b)(2)** of each participating innovation network
2 charter school.

3 STEP FIVE: Determine the number of students **described in**
4 **IC 20-25.7-5-2(b)(2)** in each participating innovation network
5 charter school who were receiving Supplemental Nutrition
6 Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Temporary Assistance for
7 Needy Families (TANF) benefits, or foster care services as of
8 October 1 in the school year ending in the later of:

9 (A) 2025; or

10 (B) the first year of operation of the participating innovation
11 network charter school.

12 STEP SIX: Divide the result of STEP FIVE by the result of
13 STEP FOUR.

14 STEP SEVEN: For each participating innovation network charter
15 school, determine the greater of:

16 (A) the result of STEP THREE; or

17 (B) the result of STEP SIX.

18 STEP EIGHT: For each participating innovation network charter
19 school, multiply the result of STEP SEVEN by the result of
20 STEP FOUR.

21 STEP NINE: Determine the sum of:

22 (A) the result of STEP TWO; plus

23 (B) the results of STEP EIGHT, for each participating
24 innovation network charter school.

25 STEP TEN: Determine the sum of:

26 (A) the result of STEP ONE; plus

27 (B) the results of STEP FOUR for each participating
28 innovation network charter school.

29 STEP ELEVEN: Divide the STEP NINE result by the STEP
30 TEN result.

31 (d) If the complexity index of a participating innovation network
32 charter school that was established before January 1, 2016, is, for the
33 current school year, greater than the complexity index for the school
34 corporation with which the innovation network charter school has
35 contracted, the complexity index of the participating innovation
36 network charter school is determined as described in IC 20-25.7-5-2(e).

37 SECTION 12. IC 20-51-1-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.162-2024,
38 SECTION 27, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
39 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. "Eligible student" refers to an individual who:

40 (1) has legal settlement in Indiana;

41 (2) is at least four (4) years of age and less than twenty-two (22)
42 years of age on October 1 of the applicable school year; **and**

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1 (3) either has been or is currently enrolled in a participating
2 school. and
3 (4) is a member of a household with an annual income of not
4 more than four hundred percent (400%) of the amount required
5 for the individual to qualify for the federal free or reduced price
6 lunch program.

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