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# HOUSE BILL No. 1176

AM117612 has been incorporated into January 8, 2026 printing.

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**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 and to make an appropriation.

*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 20-27-15 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
 11           AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 12           JULY 1, 2026]:

13           **Chapter 15. State Payment of School Bus Acquisition Costs**

14           **Sec. 1. This chapter applies to costs incurred by school**  
 15           **corporations for transportation of students after December 31,**  
 16           **2027.**

17           **Sec. 2. Notwithstanding any other law, the state shall provide**  
 18           **school corporations with the necessary funds to pay costs incurred**  
 19           **by school corporations for transportation of students after**  
 20           **December 31, 2027, as provided under this chapter.**

21           **Sec. 3. (a) Except as provided in section 4 of this chapter,**  
 22           **beginning January 1, 2028, not later than the 10th day of each**  
 23           **month, each school corporation shall provide written notice to the**  
 24           **department of the total amount owed in the ensuing month for**  
 25           **costs related to school buses, including payment of any debt service**  
 26           **related to the acquisition or maintenance of school buses.**

27           **(b) In the case of a school corporation that does not own or**  
 28           **replace school buses, the school corporation shall, not later than**  
 29           **January 15, 2028, and not later than each January 15 thereafter,**  
 30           **notify the department of the school corporation's arrangements,**  
 31           **transportation plan, and related costs.**

32           **Sec. 4. Not later than forty-eight (48) hours after receiving the**  
 33           **notices described in section 3 of this chapter, the department shall**  
 34           **certify to the state comptroller:**

35           **(1) the amounts provided under section 3(a) of this chapter;**  
 36           **and**

37           **(2) if the certification is being provided in January of a**  
 38           **calendar year, the number of school corporations that**  
 39           **provided the notice described in section 3(b) of this chapter.**

40           **Sec. 5. Not later than three (3) business days after receiving the**  
 41           **notice under section 4 of this chapter, the state comptroller shall**  
 42           **issue a warrant to the treasurer of state ordering the distribution**

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from the state general fund to the department of the following amounts:

(1) The total amount for all school corporations certified under section 3(a) of this chapter.

(2) If the notice was received in January of a calendar year, two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for each school corporation that provided the notice described in section 3(b) of this chapter.

Sec. 6. The department shall distribute to each school corporation from the amounts received from the state comptroller:

(1) not later than the 25th of each month in the case of a school corporation that submitted a notice described in section 3(a) of this chapter, the amount owed by the school corporation in the ensuing month for school bus related costs; and

(2) not later than January 25 of each year in the case of a school corporation described in section 3(b) of this chapter, two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to be used for transportation related expenses.

Sec. 7. There is appropriated from the state general fund in the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2028, and in each state fiscal year thereafter, a sufficient amount to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

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

(1) a grade level screener approved by the department; or

(2) a through-year statewide assessment;

the school must provide intervention that meets the requirements under subsection (b).

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

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

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

(3) The intervention is:

(A) targeted;

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- 1 (B) differentiated; and  
 2 (C) supplemental to Tier I instruction.  
 3 (4) The intervention:  
 4 (A) is aligned with evidence based instructional strategies  
 5 to promote conceptual understanding, procedural fluency,  
 6 and real world problem solving; and  
 7 (B) allows a student opportunities to interact, show  
 8 progress, and demonstrate understanding through rigorous  
 9 grade level content.  
 10 (5) The intervention includes continual assessment and in depth  
 11 analysis of each student's data to inform the flexible movement  
 12 in and out of Tiers II and III.  
 13 **(c) Not later than fifteen (15) days after a school makes a**  
 14 **determination under subsection (a) that a student is at risk, the**  
 15 **school shall provide notice to a parent of the student regarding the**  
 16 **determination. The notification may contain the following:**  
 17 **(1) Specific information about how the student is performing.**  
 18 **(2) Information about the intervention the student will**  
 19 **receive from the school.**  
 20 **(3) A list or description of any recommended resources**  
 21 **available for use at home to support the student's academic**  
 22 **growth in mathematics.**  
 23 **(c) (d) The department shall provide guidance on the multitiered**  
 24 **system that a school is required to provide under subsection (b).**  
 25 SECTION 12. IC 20-43-13-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.213-2025,  
 26 SECTION 197, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 27 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) Except as provided in  
 28 subsections (c) and (d), the complexity index is the percentage of the  
 29 school corporation's students who were receiving Supplemental  
 30 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Temporary Assistance  
 31 for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, or foster care services as of  
 32 October 1 in the school year ending in the later of:  
 33 (1) 2025; or  
 34 (2) the first year of operation of the school corporation.  
 35 (b) For a conversion charter school, the percentage determined  
 36 under this section is the percentage of the sponsor school corporation.  
 37 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d), the complexity index for  
 38 a school corporation that has entered into an agreement with one (1) or  
 39 more charter schools to participate as an innovation network charter  
 40 school under IC 20-25.7-5 for a state fiscal year is equal to the result  
 41 using the following formula:  
 42 STEP ONE: Determine:

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- 1 (A) the school corporation's enrollment; minus
- 2 (B) the enrollment **of students described in**
- 3 **IC 20-25.7-5-2(b)(2)** of each participating innovation
- 4 network charter school.
- 5 STEP TWO: Determine the number of students in the school
- 6 corporation who were receiving Supplemental Nutrition
- 7 Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Temporary Assistance for
- 8 Needy Families (TANF) benefits, or foster care services as of
- 9 October 1 in the school year ending in 2025, not including
- 10 students enrolled in each participating innovation network
- 11 charter school.
- 12 STEP THREE: Divide the result of STEP TWO by the result of
- 13 STEP ONE.
- 14 STEP FOUR: Determine the enrollment **of students described**
- 15 **in IC 20-25.7-5-2(b)(2)** of each participating innovation network
- 16 charter school.
- 17 STEP FIVE: Determine the number of students **described in**
- 18 **IC 20-25.7-5-2(b)(2)** in each participating innovation network
- 19 charter school who were receiving Supplemental Nutrition
- 20 Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Temporary Assistance for
- 21 Needy Families (TANF) benefits, or foster care services as of
- 22 October 1 in the school year ending in the later of:
- 23 (A) 2025; or
- 24 (B) the first year of operation of the participating innovation
- 25 network charter school.
- 26 STEP SIX: Divide the result of STEP FIVE by the result of
- 27 STEP FOUR.
- 28 STEP SEVEN: For each participating innovation network charter
- 29 school, determine the greater of:
- 30 (A) the result of STEP THREE; or
- 31 (B) the result of STEP SIX.
- 32 STEPEIGHT: For each participating innovation network charter
- 33 school, multiply the result of STEP SEVEN by the result of
- 34 STEP FOUR.
- 35 STEP NINE: Determine the sum of:
- 36 (A) the result of STEP TWO; plus
- 37 (B) the results of STEP EIGHT, for each participating
- 38 innovation network charter school.
- 39 STEP TEN: Determine the sum of:
- 40 (A) the result of STEP ONE; plus
- 41 (B) the results of STEP FOUR for each participating
- 42 innovation network charter school.

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1 STEP ELEVEN: Divide the STEP NINE result by the STEP  
2 TEN result.

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

9 SECTION 13. IC 20-51-1-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.162-2024,  
10 SECTION 27, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
11 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. "Eligible student" refers to an individual who:

- 12 (1) has legal settlement in Indiana;
- 13 (2) is at least four (4) years of age and less than twenty-two (22)
- 14 years of age on October 1 of the applicable school year; **and**
- 15 (3) either has been or is currently enrolled in a participating
- 16 school. ~~and~~
- 17 ~~(4) is a member of a household with an annual income of not~~
- 18 ~~more than four hundred percent (400%) of the amount required~~
- 19 ~~for the individual to qualify for the federal free or reduced price~~
- 20 ~~lunch program.~~

21 SECTION 14. IC 20-51.4-4-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.213-2025,  
22 SECTION 211, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
23 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) After June 30, 2022, a parent  
24 of an eligible student or an emancipated eligible student may establish  
25 an Indiana education scholarship account for the eligible student by  
26 entering into a written agreement with the department on a form  
27 prepared by the department. The department shall establish a date by  
28 which an application to establish an ESA account for the upcoming  
29 school year must be submitted. However, for a school year beginning  
30 after July 1, 2022, applications must be submitted for an eligible  
31 student not later than September 1 for the immediately following  
32 school year. The ESA account of an eligible student shall be made in  
33 the name of the eligible student. The department shall make the  
34 agreement available on the website of the department. To be eligible,  
35 a parent of an eligible student or an emancipated eligible student  
36 wishing to participate in the ESA program must agree that:

- 37 (1) subject to subsection (i), a grant deposited in the eligible
- 38 student's ESA account under section 2 of this chapter and any
- 39 interest that may accrue in the ESA account will be used only for
- 40 the eligible student's ESA qualified expenses;
- 41 (2) if the eligible student participates in the CSA program, a
- 42 grant deposited in the eligible student's ESA account under

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1 IC 20-51.4-4.5-3 and any interest that may accrue in the ESA  
 2 account will be used only for the eligible student's ESA qualified  
 3 expenses;

4 (3) money in the ESA account when the ESA account is  
 5 terminated ~~reverts~~ **does not revert** to the state general fund **and**  
 6 **remains available to provide grants to eligible students under**  
 7 **this chapter;**

8 (4) the parent of the eligible student or the emancipated eligible  
 9 student will use part of the money in the ESA account:

10 (A) for the eligible student's study in the subject of reading,  
 11 grammar, mathematics, social studies, or science; or

12 (B) for use in accordance with the eligible student's:

13 (i) individualized education program;

14 (ii) service plan developed under 511 IAC 7-34;

15 (iii) choice special education plan developed under 511  
 16 IAC 7-49; or

17 (iv) plan developed under Section 504 of the federal  
 18 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794;

19 (5) the eligible student will not be enrolled in a school that  
 20 receives tuition support under IC 20-43; and

21 (6) the eligible student will take the statewide summative  
 22 assessment, as applicable based on the eligible student's grade  
 23 level, as provided under IC 20-32-5.1, or the assessment  
 24 specified in the eligible student's:

25 (A) individualized education program developed under  
 26 IC 20-35;

27 (B) service plan developed under 511 IAC 7-34;

28 (C) choice special education plan developed under 511  
 29 IAC 7-49; or

30 (D) plan developed under Section 504 of the federal  
 31 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.

32 (b) A parent of an eligible student may enter into a separate  
 33 agreement under subsection (a) for each child of the parent. However,  
 34 not more than one (1) ESA account may be established for each  
 35 eligible student.

36 (c) The ESA account must be established under subsection (a) by  
 37 a parent of an eligible student or an emancipated eligible student for a  
 38 school year on or before a date established by the department which  
 39 must be at least thirty (30) days before the fall count day of ADM  
 40 established under IC 20-43-4-3. A parent of an eligible student or an  
 41 emancipated eligible student may not enter into an agreement under  
 42 this section or maintain an ESA account under this chapter if the

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1 eligible student receives a choice scholarship under IC 20-51-4 for the  
 2 same school year. An eligible student may not receive a grant under  
 3 section 2 of this chapter if the eligible student is currently included in  
 4 a school corporation's ADM count under IC 20-43-4.

5 (d) Except as provided in subsections (e) and (f), an agreement  
 6 made under this section is valid for one (1) school year while the  
 7 eligible student is in kindergarten through grade 12 and may be  
 8 renewed annually. Upon graduation, or receipt of a certificate of  
 9 completion under the eligible student's individualized education  
 10 program, the eligible student's ESA account is terminated.

11 (e) An agreement entered into under this section terminates  
 12 automatically for an eligible student if:

13 (1) the eligible student no longer resides in Indiana while the  
 14 eligible student is eligible to receive grants under section 2 of  
 15 this chapter; or

16 (2) the ESA account is not renewed within three hundred  
 17 ninety-five (395) days after the date the ESA account was either  
 18 established or last renewed.

19 If an ESA account is terminated under this section, money in the  
 20 eligible student's ESA account, including any interest accrued, ~~reverts~~  
 21 **does not revert** to the state general fund **and remains available to**  
 22 **provide grants to eligible students under this chapter.**

23 (f) An agreement made under this section for an eligible student  
 24 while the eligible student is in kindergarten through grade 12 may be  
 25 terminated before the end of the school year if the parent of the eligible  
 26 student or the emancipated eligible student notifies the department in  
 27 a manner specified by the department.

28 (g) A distribution made to an ESA account under section 2 of this  
 29 chapter is considered tax exempt as long as the distribution is used for  
 30 an ESA qualified expense. The amount is subtracted from the  
 31 definition of adjusted federal gross income under IC 6-3-1-3.5 to the  
 32 extent the distribution used for the ESA qualified expense is included  
 33 in the taxpayer's adjusted federal gross income under the Internal  
 34 Revenue Code.

35 (h) The department shall establish a student test number as  
 36 described in IC 20-19-3-9.4 for each eligible student.

37 (i) A student described in IC 20-51.4-2-4(3)(B) may not use the  
 38 money deposited into the eligible student's ESA account for ESA  
 39 qualified expenses described in IC 20-51.4-2-9(a)(3),  
 40 IC 20-51.4-2-9(a)(6), IC 20-51.4-2-9(a)(7), or IC 20-51.4-2-9(a)(9).

41 SECTION 15. IC 20-51.4-4-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.213-2025,  
 42 SECTION 212, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS

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[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) An eligible student who currently maintains an ESA account is entitled to an ESA annual grant amount for each school year until the student graduates or obtains a certificate of completion under the student's individualized education program. An eligible student may not receive a grant under this section after graduating or obtaining a certificate of completion. The ESA annual grant amount shall be paid from the ESA program fund. The department shall deposit the ESA annual grant amount under this section, in quarterly deposits, into an eligible student's ESA account.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), at the end of the year in which an ESA account is established, the parent of an eligible student or the emancipated eligible student may roll over for use in a subsequent year a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). However, for each year thereafter, the parent of the eligible student or the emancipated eligible student may roll over one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus any amount rolled over in a previous year.

(c) An eligible student's ESA account shall terminate the later of:

(1) the date the student graduates high school; or

(2) July 1 of the year in the year which the student graduates high school.

Any money, including interest that remains in the eligible student's ESA account when it terminates under this subsection ~~reverts~~ **does not revert** to the state general fund **and remains available to provide grants to eligible students under this chapter.**

SECTION 16. IC 20-51.4-4-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.213-2025, SECTION 213, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) The Indiana education scholarship account program fund is established for the purpose of providing grants to eligible students under the ESA program. Money appropriated to the fund may be used to provide grants under this chapter in the manner prescribed in section 2 of this chapter.

(b) The department shall administer the ESA program fund.

(c) The ESA program fund consists of the following:

(1) Appropriations by the general assembly.

(2) Interest deposited in the ESA program fund under subsection

(d).

(d) The treasurer of state shall invest money in the ESA program fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the ESA program fund in the same manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the ESA program fund.

(e) Money in the ESA program fund at the end of a state fiscal year

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1 ~~reverts~~ **does not revert** to the state general fund **and remains in the**  
 2 **fund for the purposes of the fund.**

3 SECTION 17. IC 20-51.4-4-3.5, AS AMENDED BY  
 4 P.L.213-2025, SECTION 214, IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 5 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.5. (a) The Indiana  
 6 education scholarship account administration fund is established for the  
 7 purpose of accepting money for the Indiana education scholarship  
 8 account program to support administration of the ESA program.

9 (b) The department shall administer the fund.

10 (c) The fund consists of the following:

11 (1) Appropriations by the general assembly.

12 (2) Interest deposited in the fund under subsection (d).

13 (d) The treasurer of state shall invest money in the fund not  
 14 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same  
 15 manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues  
 16 from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

17 (e) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year ~~reverts~~ **does**  
 18 **not revert** to the state general fund **and remains in the fund for the**  
 19 **purposes of the fund.**

20 SECTION 18. IC 20-51.4-4.5-1, AS AMENDED BY  
 21 P.L.213-2025, SECTION 220, IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 22 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) After June 30,  
 23 2023, a parent of a career scholarship student or an emancipated career  
 24 scholarship student may establish a career scholarship account for the  
 25 career scholarship student by entering into a written agreement with the  
 26 department on a form prepared by the department. An application to  
 27 establish a CSA account, or an application to participate in the CSA  
 28 program with an ESA account, must be submitted not later than  
 29 October 1 for the school year. Subject to subsection (f), the CSA  
 30 account of a career scholarship student must be made in the name of  
 31 the career scholarship student. The department shall make the  
 32 agreement available on the website of the department.

33 (b) To be eligible to participate in the CSA program, a parent of  
 34 a career scholarship student or an emancipated career scholarship  
 35 student must agree that:

36 (1) a grant deposited in the career scholarship student's CSA  
 37 account under section 3 of this chapter and any interest that may  
 38 accrue in the CSA account will be used only for the CSA  
 39 qualified expenses;

40 (2) money in the CSA account when the CSA account is  
 41 terminated ~~reverts~~ **does not revert** to the state general fund **and**  
 42 **remains available to provide grants to career scholarship**

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1 **students under this chapter; and**

2 (3) the parent of the career scholarship student or the  
3 emancipated career scholarship student will use the money in the  
4 CSA account for the career scholarship student to attend one (1)  
5 or more of the sequences, courses, apprenticeships, or programs  
6 of study designated and approved under section 6(a) of this  
7 chapter.

8 (c) A parent of a career scholarship student may enter into a  
9 separate agreement under subsection (a) for each child of the parent.  
10 However, not more than one (1) CSA account may be established for  
11 each career scholarship student.

12 (d) Except as provided under subsection (f), a CSA account must  
13 be established under subsection (a) by a parent of a career scholarship  
14 student or an emancipated career scholarship student for a school year  
15 not later than thirty (30) days after the date that the department  
16 approves an application submitted under subsection (a).

17 (e) Except as provided in section 2 of this chapter, an agreement  
18 made under this section is valid for one (1) school year while the career  
19 scholarship student is in grades 10 through 12 and may be renewed  
20 annually. Upon graduation, or receipt of:

21 (1) a certificate of completion under the career scholarship  
22 student's individualized education program; or

23 (2) an Indiana high school equivalency diploma under  
24 IC 22-4.1-18;

25 the career scholarship student's CSA account is terminated.

26 (f) If:

27 (1) a parent of a career scholarship student or an emancipated  
28 career scholarship student enters into a written agreement with  
29 the department on a form under subsection (a); and

30 (2) the career scholarship student participates in the ESA  
31 program under this article;

32 the parent or emancipated career scholarship student must participate  
33 in the CSA program using the student's ESA account instead of  
34 establishing a CSA account. However, if the student ceases to  
35 participate in the ESA program, the parent of the student or the  
36 emancipated student must establish a CSA account to participate in the  
37 CSA program.

38 SECTION 19. IC 20-51.4-4.5-2, AS AMENDED BY  
39 P.L.213-2025, SECTION 221, IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
40 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) An agreement  
41 entered into under section 1 of this chapter terminates automatically for  
42 a career scholarship student if:



(1) the career scholarship student no longer resides in Indiana while the career scholarship student is eligible to receive grants under section 3 of this chapter; or

(2) the CSA account is not renewed within three hundred ninety-five (395) days after the date the CSA account was either established or last renewed.

If a CSA account is terminated under this section, money in the career scholarship student's CSA account, including any interest accrued, **reverts does not revert** to the state general fund **and remains available to provide grants to career scholarship students under this chapter.**

(b) An agreement made under section 1 of this chapter for a career scholarship student while the career scholarship student is in grades 10 through 12 may be terminated before the end of the school year if the parent of the career scholarship student or the emancipated career scholarship student notifies the department in a manner specified by the department.

(c) A distribution made to a CSA account or ESA account, as applicable, under section 3 of this chapter is considered tax exempt as long as the distribution is used for:

(1) a CSA qualified expense; or

(2) an ESA qualified expense if the career scholarship student is participating in the ESA program.

The amount is subtracted from the definition of "adjusted gross income" under IC 6-3-1-3.5 to the extent the distribution used for the CSA qualified expense or ESA qualified expense, as applicable, is included in the taxpayer's adjusted federal gross income under the Internal Revenue Code.

(d) If a career scholarship student does not have a student test number, the department shall establish a student test number as described in IC 20-19-3-9.4 for the career scholarship student. The department shall provide the department information necessary for the department to comply with this subsection.

SECTION 20. IC 20-51.4-4.5-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.213-2025, SECTION 222, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) A career scholarship student who currently maintains a CSA account or an ESA account and participates in the CSA program is entitled to an annual grant amount for each school year until the student:

(1) graduates; or

(2) obtains:

(A) a certificate of completion under the student's



individualized education program; or

(B) an Indiana high school equivalency diploma under IC 22-4.1-18.

(b) A career scholarship student may not receive a grant under this section after graduating, receiving an Indiana high school equivalency diploma, or obtaining a certificate of completion. The CSA annual grant amount shall be paid from the CSA program fund. The department shall deposit the CSA annual grant amount under this section, in quarterly deposits, into a career scholarship student's:

(1) CSA account; or

(2) ESA account if the student participates in the ESA program; in a manner established by the department.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d), at the end of the year in which a CSA account is established, the parent of a career scholarship student or the emancipated career scholarship student may roll over for use in a subsequent year a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). However, for each year thereafter, the parent of the career scholarship student or emancipated eligible student may roll over one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus any amount rolled over in a previous year.

(d) A career scholarship student's CSA account shall terminate the later of:

(1) the date the student graduates high school or obtains an Indiana high school equivalency diploma; or

(2) July 1 of the year in which the student graduates high school or obtains an Indiana high school equivalency diploma.

Any money, including interest that remains in the career scholarship student's CSA account when it terminates under this subsection, ~~reverts~~ **does not revert** to the state general fund **and remains available to provide grants to career scholarship students under this chapter.**

SECTION 21. IC 20-51.4-4.5-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.213-2025, SECTION 223, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) The career scholarship account program fund is established for the purpose of providing grants to career scholarship students under the CSA program.

(b) The department shall administer the CSA program fund.

(c) The CSA program fund consists of the following:

(1) Appropriations by the general assembly.

(2) Interest deposited in the CSA program fund under subsection

(d).

(d) The treasurer of state shall invest money in the CSA program fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the CSA program fund in the same manner as other public money may be invested.

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- 1 Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the
- 2 CSA program fund.
- 3 (e) Money in the CSA program fund at the end of a state fiscal
- 4 year ~~reverts~~ **does not revert** to the state general fund **and remains in**
- 5 **the fund for the purposes of the fund.**

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