



February 18, 2026

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# ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 88

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DIGEST OF SB 88 (Updated February 18, 2026 9:47 am - DI 110)

**Citations Affected:** IC 20-19; IC 20-30; IC 20-32; IC 21-40.

**Synopsis:** Education matters. Amends good citizenship instruction requirements. Includes the Classic Learning Test in certain references to nationally recognized college entrance examinations. Requires a state educational institution (SEI) to accept the Classic Learning Test examination to the same extent the SEI accepts the ACT or SAT examination with respect to admission criteria.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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**Byrne, Raatz, Deery, Young M, Buck**  
(HOUSE SPONSORS — CARBAUGH, TESHKA, DEVON, CASH)

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December 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

January 22, 2026, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

January 26, 2026, read second time, ordered engrossed. Engrossed.

January 27, 2026, returned to second reading.

January 28, 2026, re-read second time, amended, ordered engrossed.

January 29, 2026, re-engrossed. Read third time, passed. Yeas 39, nays 9.

HOUSE ACTION

February 2, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.

February 18, 2026, amended, reported — Do Pass.

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ES 88—LS 6452/DI 152





February 18, 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.

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 88

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 20-19-2-14.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.93-2024,  
2 SECTION 138, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14.5. (a) As used in this section:  
4 (1) "college and career readiness educational standards" means  
5 Indiana standards that a high school graduate must meet to obtain  
6 the requisite knowledge and skill to transition without  
7 remediation to postsecondary education or training, and  
8 ultimately into a sustainable career; and  
9 (2) "cut scores" means the scores that define a student's  
10 performance on an assessment, including passing, failing, or  
11 falling into a performance category.  
12 (b) The state board shall adopt Indiana college and career readiness  
13 educational standards. The educational standards must do the  
14 following:  
15 (1) Meet national and international benchmarks for college and  
16 career readiness standards and be aligned with postsecondary  
17 educational expectations.

ES 88—LS 6452/DI 152



- 1 (2) Use the highest standards in the United States.
- 2 (3) Comply with federal standards to receive a flexibility waiver
- 3 under 20 U.S.C. 7861, as in effect on January 1, 2014.
- 4 (4) Prepare Indiana students for college and career success,
- 5 including the proper preparation for nationally recognized college
- 6 entrance examinations such as the ACT, ~~and~~ SAT, **or Classic**
- 7 **Learning Test.**
- 8 (5) Maintain Indiana sovereignty.
- 9 (6) Provide strict safeguards to protect the confidentiality of
- 10 student data.
- 11 (c) The state, or the state board on behalf of the state, may not enter
- 12 into or renew an agreement with any organization, entity, group, or
- 13 consortium that requires the state to cede any measure of autonomy or
- 14 control of education standards and assessments, including cut scores.
- 15 The state board may not adopt Common Core (Common Core State
- 16 Standards Initiative) or an assessment or test, except as provided in this
- 17 subsection, that is produced solely by the United States government or
- 18 a consortium of states. However, the state board is not prohibited from
- 19 incorporating as part of Indiana's statewide assessments any
- 20 assessment, part of an assessment, or series of questions if the
- 21 assessment, part of an assessment, or series of questions is aligned to
- 22 Indiana's academic standards.
- 23 (d) The state board may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement
- 24 this section.
- 25 SECTION 2. IC 20-30-4-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.9-2021,
- 26 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 27 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) In consultation with the student's school
- 28 counselor, after seeking consultation with each student's parents, and
- 29 not later than the date on which the student completes grade 8, each
- 30 student shall develop a graduation plan that is a part of the student's
- 31 permanent school record and accessible to a parent of the student in
- 32 accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (20
- 33 U.S.C. 1232g et seq.).
- 34 (b) The graduation plan developed under subsection (a) must
- 35 include the following:
- 36 (1) A statement of intent to graduate from high school.
- 37 (2) An acknowledgment of the importance of:
- 38 (A) good citizenship;
- 39 (B) school attendance; and
- 40 (C) diligent study habits.
- 41 (3) The subject and skill areas of interest to the student.
- 42 (4) The postsecondary goals of the student aligned with the



- 1 graduation pathway requirements under IC 20-32-4-1.5.
- 2 (5) A program of study under the college/technology preparation
- 3 curriculum adopted by the state board under IC 20-30-10-2 for
- 4 grades 10, 11, and 12 that meets the interests, aptitude, and
- 5 postsecondary goals of the student.
- 6 (6) Assurances that, upon satisfactory fulfillment of the plan, the
- 7 student:
- 8 (A) is entitled to graduate; and
- 9 (B) will have taken at least the minimum variety and number
- 10 of courses necessary to gain admittance to a state educational
- 11 institution.
- 12 (7) An indication of assessments (other than the statewide
- 13 assessment program and the graduation examination (before July
- 14 1, 2018)) that the student plans to take voluntarily during grade 10
- 15 through grade 12 and which may include any of the following:
- 16 (A) The SAT Reasoning Test.
- 17 (B) The ACT test.
- 18 **(C) The Classic Learning Test.**
- 19 ~~(D)~~ **(D)** Advanced placement exams.
- 20 ~~(E)~~ **(E)** College readiness exams approved by the department.
- 21 ~~(F)~~ **(F)** Workforce readiness exams approved by the
- 22 department of workforce development established under
- 23 IC 22-4.1-2.
- 24 ~~(G)~~ **(G)** Cambridge International examinations.
- 25 SECTION 3. IC 20-30-5-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.246-2005,
- 26 SECTION 170, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 27 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) This section applies only to
- 28 public schools, **including charter schools.**
- 29 (b) As used in this section, "good citizenship instruction" means
- 30 integrating instruction into the current curriculum that stresses the
- 31 nature and importance of the following:
- 32 (1) Being honest and truthful.
- 33 (2) Respecting authority.
- 34 (3) Respecting the property of others.
- 35 (4) Always doing the student's personal best.
- 36 (5) Not stealing.
- 37 (6) Possessing the skills (including methods of conflict resolution)
- 38 necessary to live peaceably in society and not resorting to
- 39 violence to settle disputes.
- 40 (7) Taking personal responsibility for obligations to family and
- 41 community.
- 42 (8) Taking personal responsibility for earning a livelihood.



- 1 (9) Treating others the way the student would want to be treated.  
 2 (10) Respecting the national flag, the Constitution of the United  
 3 States, and the Constitution of the State of Indiana.  
 4 (11) Respecting the student's parents and home.  
 5 (12) Respecting the student's self.  
 6 (13) Respecting the rights of others to have their own views and  
 7 religious beliefs.  
 8 **(14) Research based actions that data indicates result in**  
 9 **economic prosperity, including:**  
 10 **(A) obtaining at least a high school diploma and acquiring**  
 11 **additional training in preparation for the workforce;**  
 12 **(B) securing full-time employment; and**  
 13 **(C) waiting until marriage to begin having children.**  
 14 (c) The department shall:  
 15 (1) identify; and  
 16 (2) make available;  
 17 models of conflict resolution instruction to school corporations **and**  
 18 **charter schools**. The instruction may consist of a teacher education  
 19 program that applies the techniques to the students in the classroom to  
 20 assist school corporations **and charter schools** in complying with this  
 21 section.  
 22 SECTION 4. IC 20-32-5.1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.150-2024,  
 23 SECTION 47, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 24 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section  
 25 and in the manner provided in section 6 of this chapter, the state board  
 26 is responsible for determining the appropriate subjects, grades, and  
 27 format of the statewide assessment program.  
 28 (b) For each school year beginning after June 30, 2018, and except  
 29 as provided in section 11 of this chapter, the statewide assessment  
 30 program must be administered to all full-time students attending a  
 31 school corporation, charter school, state accredited nonpublic school,  
 32 or eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) in grades subject to the  
 33 statewide summative assessment required by federal law and in a  
 34 manner prescribed by the state board.  
 35 (c) Subject matter tested on by the statewide assessment program as  
 36 determined by the state board under subsection (a) must, at a minimum,  
 37 do the following:  
 38 (1) Comply with requirements established under federal law with:  
 39 (A) math and English/language arts assessed yearly in grades  
 40 3 through 8, and at least once in grades 9 through 12; and  
 41 (B) science assessed at least once in grades 3 through 5, grades  
 42 6 through 9, and grades 10 through 12.



- 1           (2) Require that United States history or United States  
2           government be assessed at least once in grades 5 or 8.
- 3           (d) Except as provided under subsection (e), for each school year  
4           beginning after June 30, 2021, a nationally recognized college entrance  
5           exam **such as the ACT, SAT, or Classic Learning Test** must be  
6           administered for the high school subjects required under subsection (c).  
7           The proficiency benchmark must be approved by the commission for  
8           higher education, in consultation with the state educational institutions,  
9           and may not be lower than the national college ready benchmark  
10          established for that particular exam.
- 11          (e) If the state board determines that no nationally recognized  
12          college entrance exam assesses a given high school subject that is  
13          required under subsection (c), the state board may select another type  
14          of assessment, including an end of course assessment, for that subject.
- 15          (f) The statewide assessment program:
- 16               (1) may not use technology that may negatively influence the  
17               ability to measure a student's mastery of material or a particular  
18               academic standard being tested; and
- 19               (2) may use a technology enhanced test question only when the  
20               technology enhanced test question is the best way to measure the  
21               academic standard being tested.
- 22          (g) A statewide summative assessment, other than an assessment  
23          administered under subsection (d), must use a scale score that will  
24          ensure the statewide summative assessment scores are comparable to  
25          scale scores used as part of the ISTEP program under IC 20-32-5,  
26          before its expiration.
- 27          SECTION 5. IC 21-40-4-8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
28          AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS** [EFFECTIVE JULY  
29          1, 2026]: **Sec. 8. With respect to admission criteria, a state**  
30          **educational institution shall accept the Classic Learning Test**  
31          **examination to the same extent the state educational institution**  
32          **accepts the ACT or SAT examination.**



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 88, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 8, delete lines 2 through 42.

Page 9, delete lines 1 through 26.

Re-number all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 88 as introduced.)

RAATZ, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 7, Nays 3.

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SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Engrossed Senate Bill 88, which is eligible for third reading, be returned to second reading for purposes of amendment.

BYRNE

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SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senate Bill 88 be amended to read as follows:

Page 2, delete lines 25 through 42.

Delete pages 3 through 5.

Page 6, delete lines 1 through 6.

Re-number all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to SB 88 as printed January 23, 2026.)

BYRNE



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Education, to which was referred Senate Bill 88, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 3, line 28, delete "schools." and insert "schools, **including charter schools.**".

Page 4, delete lines 8 through 12, begin a new line block indented and insert:

**"(14) Research based actions that data indicates result in economic prosperity, including:**

**(A) obtaining at least a high school diploma and acquiring additional training in preparation for the workforce;**

**(B) securing full-time employment; and**

**(C) waiting until marriage to begin having children."**

Page 4, line 16, delete "corporations." and insert "corporations **and charter schools.**".

Page 4, line 18, after "corporations" insert "**and charter schools**".  
and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 88 as reprinted January 29, 2026.)

BEHNING

Committee Vote: yeas 7, nays 3.

