
SENATE BILL No. 88

AM008806 has been incorporated into introduced printing.

Synopsis: Various education matters.

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2026

IN 88—LS 6452/DI 152



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Introduced

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.

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
6 obtain 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
13 readiness educational standards. The educational standards must do the
14 following:
15 (1) Meet national and international benchmarks for college and

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1 career readiness standards and be aligned with postsecondary
2 educational expectations.

3 (2) Use the highest standards in the United States.

4 (3) Comply with federal standards to receive a flexibility waiver
5 under 20 U.S.C. 7861, as in effect on January 1, 2014.

6 (4) Prepare Indiana students for college and career success,
7 including the proper preparation for nationally recognized
8 college entrance examinations such as the ACT, **and SAT, or**
9 **Classic Learning Test.**

10 (5) Maintain Indiana sovereignty.

11 (6) Provide strict safeguards to protect the confidentiality of
12 student data.

13 (c) The state, or the state board on behalf of the state, may not
14 enter into or renew an agreement with any organization, entity, group,
15 or consortium that requires the state to cede any measure of autonomy
16 or control of education standards and assessments, including cut scores.
17 The state board may not adopt Common Core (Common Core State
18 Standards Initiative) or an assessment or test, except as provided in this
19 subsection, that is produced solely by the United States government or
20 a consortium of states. However, the state board is not prohibited from
21 incorporating as part of Indiana's statewide assessments any
22 assessment, part of an assessment, or series of questions if the
23 assessment, part of an assessment, or series of questions is aligned to
24 Indiana's academic standards.

25 (d) The state board may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement
26 this section.

27 SECTION 2. IC 20-28-5-12.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.201-2025,
28 SECTION 3, AND AS AMENDED BY P.L.214-2025, SECTION 114,
29 AND AS AMENDED BY THE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL
30 OF THE 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IS CORRECTED AND
31 AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:
32 Sec. 12.5. (a) The department shall grant an initial practitioner license
33 to an individual who:

34 (1) possesses a bachelor's degree from an accredited
35 postsecondary four (4) year institution;

36 (2) successfully completes an alternative teacher certification
37 program that includes:

38 (A) the required content training in the area in which the
39 individual seeks to be licensed;

40 (B) pedagogy training and an examination that is in
41 substantive alignment with nationally recognized



1 pedagogical standards and teaches effective:
2 (i) instructional delivery;
3 (ii) classroom management and organization;
4 (iii) assessment;
5 (iv) instructional design; and
6 (v) professional learning and leadership;
7 (C) successful demonstration of content area proficiency in
8 an examination that includes content area material in
9 substantive alignment with nationally recognized content
10 area standards in the areas that the individual is required to
11 have a license to teach;
12 (D) verification from a third party that regularly reviews
13 educational and professional examinations that the
14 alternative certification examination is equal to or greater in
15 rigor than the written examination under section 12 of this
16 chapter; and
17 *(E) content within the curriculum that prepares teacher
18 candidates to use evidence based trauma informed
19 classroom instruction, including instruction in evidence
20 based social emotional learning classroom practices that
21 are conducive to supporting students who have experienced
22 trauma that may interfere with a student's academic
23 functioning; and*
24 *(F) (E) content within the curriculum that:*
25 (i) beginning July 1, 2024, is aligned to the science of
26 reading; and
27 (ii) beginning July 1, 2024, prepares teacher candidates
28 or program participants who seek to obtain an
29 elementary generalist license that is valid for teaching
30 in kindergarten through grade 5 or an early childhood
31 license that is valid for teaching prekindergarten
32 through grade 3 to obtain the literacy endorsement
33 required under section 19.7 of this chapter;
34 (3) successfully completes an applicable teacher licensing exam
35 as approved by the state board;
36 (4) holds a valid cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification
37 from a provider approved by the department; and
38 (5) has attended youth suicide awareness and prevention
39 training.
40 (b) The individual must complete a one (1) year practical
41 experience program during the individual's first year in the classroom

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1 when the individual is employed as a full-time teacher. The provider
2 must:

3 (1) provide the practical experience program at no cost to the
4 state or to the school corporation, charter school, or state
5 accredited nonpublic school; and

6 (2) as part of the practical instruction program, provide
7 instruction in:

8 (A) instructional design and planning;

9 (B) effective instructional delivery;

10 (C) classroom management and organization;

11 (D) effective use of assessment data;

12 (E) content in federal and Indiana special education laws;
13 and

14 (F) required awareness, preparation, and understanding of:

15 (i) individualized education programs;

16 (ii) service plans developed under 511 IAC 7-34;

17 (iii) choice special education plans developed under
18 511 IAC 7-49; and

19 (iv) plans developed under Section 504 of the federal
20 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.

21 (c) An in-state alternative teacher certification program under
22 subsection (a)(2) must operate in accordance with the procedures and
23 program approval standards and requirements set by the department
24 and the state board for teacher education programs for the licensure of
25 teachers.

26 (d) An out-of-state alternative teacher certification program under
27 subsection (a)(2) must:

28 (1) currently operate in at least five (5) states; and

29 (2) have operated an alternative teacher certification program for
30 at least ten (10) years.

31 (e) An individual who receives an alternative teacher certification
32 under subsection (a)(2) is authorized to teach the subject and
33 educational level that the individual has successfully completed.

34 (f) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under
35 this section shall be treated in the same manner as an individual who
36 receives an initial practitioner license after completing a traditional
37 teacher preparation program.

38 (g) An individual who graduates from an alternative teacher
39 certification program must be treated in the same manner as a
40 traditional teacher preparation program graduate during the transition
41 from an initial practitioner license to a practitioner license.

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24 (j) Not later than July 1, 2024, the department shall prepare a
25 report that shall be submitted to the general assembly in an electronic
26 format under IC 5-14-6. The report must contain the following
27 information:

28 (1) Data showing how many teachers obtained an initial
29 practitioner license under this section.
30 (2) A description of the number of teachers who received an
31 initial practitioner license under this section who are currently
32 employed as a teacher by each:
33 (A) school corporation;
34 (B) charter school; or
35 (C) state accredited nonpublic school.

36 The description must include a breakdown of the subjects taught
37 by teachers who receive an initial practitioner license under this
38 section.

39 (3) A comparison of the *Praxis Subject Assessment applicable*
40 *teacher licensing exam as approved by the state board* pass rates
41 for individuals who receive an initial practitioner license under

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1 this section in comparison with the *Praxis Subject Assessment*
 2 *applicable teacher licensing exam as approved by the state*
 3 *board* pass rates for teachers who obtained an initial practitioner
 4 license using a different pathway to licensure.

5 (4) A description of how many teachers who received an initial
 6 practitioner license under this section are rated as effective or
 7 highly effective.

8 **(k) An individual in an alternative teacher certification**
 9 **program may request a waiver from the department, in a time and**
 10 **manner determined by the department, of the examination**
 11 **requirements described in subsection (a)(3), if the individual:**

12 **(1) received a score on a nationally recognized college**
 13 **entrance examination, such as the ACT, SAT, or Classic**
 14 **Learning Test; or**

15 **(2) received a score on a nationally recognized graduate**
 16 **school entrance exam, such as the GRE or GMAT;**

17 **that placed the individual in at least the eightieth percentile of**
 18 **other test takers for the given examination.**

19 SECTION 3. IC 20-30-4-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.9-2021,
 20 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 21 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) In consultation with the student's school
 22 counselor, after seeking consultation with each student's parents, and
 23 not later than the date on which the student completes grade 8, each
 24 student shall develop a graduation plan that is a part of the student's
 25 permanent school record and accessible to a parent of the student in
 26 accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (20
 27 U.S.C. 1232g et seq.).

28 (b) The graduation plan developed under subsection (a) must
 29 include the following:

30 (1) A statement of intent to graduate from high school.

31 (2) An acknowledgment of the importance of:

32 (A) good citizenship;

33 (B) school attendance; and

34 (C) diligent study habits.

35 (3) The subject and skill areas of interest to the student.

36 (4) The postsecondary goals of the student aligned with the
 37 graduation pathway requirements under IC 20-32-4-1.5.

38 (5) A program of study under the college/technology preparation
 39 curriculum adopted by the state board under IC 20-30-10-2 for
 40 grades 10, 11, and 12 that meets the interests, aptitude, and
 41 postsecondary goals of the student.

42 (6) Assurances that, upon satisfactory fulfillment of the plan, the



1 student:

2 (A) is entitled to graduate; and
 3 (B) will have taken at least the minimum variety and
 4 number of courses necessary to gain admittance to a state
 5 educational institution.

6 (7) An indication of assessments (other than the statewide
 7 assessment program and the graduation examination (before July
 8 1, 2018)) that the student plans to take voluntarily during grade
 9 10 through grade 12 and which may include any of the
 10 following:

11 (A) The SAT Reasoning Test.
 12 (B) The ACT test.

13 **(C) The Classic Learning Test.**

14 ~~(D)~~ Advanced placement exams.

15 ~~(E)~~ College readiness exams approved by the
 16 department.

17 ~~(F)~~ Workforce readiness exams approved by the
 18 department of workforce development established under
 19 IC 22-4.1-2.

20 ~~(G)~~ Cambridge International examinations.

21 SECTION 4. IC 20-30-5-26 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 22 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 23 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 26. (a) This section applies to**
 24 **each school that provides instruction or discussion on the content**
 25 **described in the following:**

26 (1) **Section 1 of this chapter.**
 27 (2) **Section 2 of this chapter.**
 28 (3) **Section 4 of this chapter.**
 29 (4) **Section 5(a)(5) of this chapter.**
 30 (5) **Section 6(b)(10) of this chapter.**
 31 (6) **Section 7(a)(3) of this chapter.**
 32 (7) **Section 7.3 of this chapter.**

33 **(b) The instruction or discussion described in subsection (a)**
 34 **may not foster a national identity, heritage, or culture established**
 35 **by:**

36 (1) **racial identity or racial discrimination;**
 37 (2) **gender identity or gender discrimination;**
 38 (3) **victimization;**
 39 (4) **class struggle;**
 40 (5) **a hierarchy of privileges; or**
 41 (6) **systemic exclusion;**

42 **that is contrary to the concepts described in subsection (a).**



1 SECTION 5. IC 20-30-16-6.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.200-2021,
2 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6.5. The department in accordance with
4 requirements established by the state board shall approve a civics
5 course access program course that:

6 (1) meets the requirements under IC 20-30-5-2(a) **and**
7 **IC 20-30-5-26**; and

8 (2) is presented with special emphasis on the items listed in
9 IC 20-30-5-5(a) and IC 20-30-5-6(b).

10 SECTION 6. IC 20-32-5.1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.150-2024,
11 SECTION 47, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
12 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section
13 and in the manner provided in section 6 of this chapter, the state board
14 is responsible for determining the appropriate subjects, grades, and
15 format of the statewide assessment program.

16 (b) For each school year beginning after June 30, 2018, and except
17 as provided in section 11 of this chapter, the statewide assessment
18 program must be administered to all full-time students attending a
19 school corporation, charter school, state accredited nonpublic school,
20 or eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) in grades subject to the
21 statewide summative assessment required by federal law and in a
22 manner prescribed by the state board.

23 (c) Subject matter tested on by the statewide assessment program
24 as determined by the state board under subsection (a) must, at a
25 minimum, do the following:

26 (1) Comply with requirements established under federal law
27 with:

28 (A) math and English/language arts assessed yearly in
29 grades 3 through 8, and at least once in grades 9 through 12;
30 and

31 (B) science assessed at least once in grades 3 through 5,
32 grades 6 through 9, and grades 10 through 12.

33 (2) Require that United States history or United States
34 government be assessed at least once in grades 5 or 8.

35 (d) Except as provided under subsection (e), for each school year
36 beginning after June 30, 2021, a nationally recognized college entrance
37 exam **such as the ACT, SAT, or Classic Learning Test** must be
38 administered for the high school subjects required under subsection (c).
39 The proficiency benchmark must be approved by the commission for
40 higher education, in consultation with the state educational institutions,
41 and may not be lower than the national college ready benchmark

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1 established for that particular exam.

2 (e) If the state board determines that no nationally recognized
3 college entrance exam assesses a given high school subject that is
4 required under subsection (c), the state board may select another type
5 of assessment, including an end of course assessment, for that subject.

6 (f) The statewide assessment program:

7 (1) may not use technology that may negatively influence the
8 ability to measure a student's mastery of material or a particular
9 academic standard being tested; and

10 (2) may use a technology enhanced test question only when the
11 technology enhanced test question is the best way to measure the
12 academic standard being tested.

13 (g) A statewide summative assessment, other than an assessment
14 administered under subsection (d), must use a scale score that will
15 ensure the statewide summative assessment scores are comparable to
16 scale scores used as part of the ISTEP program under IC 20-32-5,
17 before its expiration.

18 SECTION 7. IC 21-40-4-8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
19 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
20 1, 2026]: **Sec. 8. With respect to admission criteria, a state**
21 **educational institution shall accept the Classic Learning Test**
22 **examination to the same extent the state educational institution**
23 **accepts the ACT or SAT examination.**

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