
SENATE BILL No. 88

AM008807 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.~~

9 (5) Maintain Indiana sovereignty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 (B) pedagogy training and an examination that is in
40 substantive alignment with nationally recognized
41 pedagogical standards and teaches effectively:

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

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- 1 must:
- 2 (1) provide the practical experience program at no cost to the
- 3 state or to the school corporation, charter school, or state
- 4 accredited nonpublic school; and
- 5 (2) as part of the practical instruction program, provide
- 6 instruction in:
- 7 (A) instructional design and planning;
- 8 (B) effective instructional delivery;
- 9 (C) classroom management and organization;
- 10 (D) effective use of assessment data;
- 11 (E) content in federal and Indiana special education laws;
- 12 and
- 13 (F) required awareness, preparation, and understanding of:
- 14 (i) individualized education programs;
- 15 (ii) service plans developed under 511 IAC 7-34;
- 16 (iii) choice special education plans developed under
- 17 511 IAC 7-49; and
- 18 (iv) plans developed under Section 504 of the federal
- 19 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.
- 20 (c) An in-state alternative teacher certification program under
- 21 subsection (a)(2) must operate in accordance with the procedures and
- 22 program approval standards and requirements set by the department
- 23 and the state board for teacher education programs for the licensure of
- 24 teachers.
- 25 (d) An out-of-state alternative teacher certification program under
- 26 subsection (a)(2) must:
- 27 (1) currently operate in at least five (5) states; and
- 28 (2) have operated an alternative teacher certification program for
- 29 at least ten (10) years.
- 30 (e) An individual who receives an alternative teacher certification
- 31 under subsection (a)(2) is authorized to teach the subject and
- 32 educational level that the individual has successfully completed.
- 33 (f) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under
- 34 this section shall be treated in the same manner as an individual who
- 35 receives an initial practitioner license after completing a traditional
- 36 teacher preparation program.
- 37 (g) An individual who graduates from an alternative teacher
- 38 certification program must be treated in the same manner as a
- 39 traditional teacher preparation program graduate during the transition
- 40 from an initial practitioner license to a practitioner license.
- 41 (h) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under

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1 this section may not teach a special education course for a special
 2 education student for the period the individual maintains a license
 3 under this section unless the individual is at least twenty-six (26) years
 4 of age and employed in a school setting or with another community
 5 organization, including a for-profit or nonprofit organization, to
 6 provide care or instruction for a student with a physical, intellectual, or
 7 developmental disability. However, an individual who receives an
 8 initial practitioner license under this section may not be a teacher of
 9 record for a special education student for the period the individual
 10 maintains the initial practitioner license.

11 (i) A school corporation, charter school, or state accredited
 12 nonpublic school shall submit a plan to the department if the school
 13 corporation, charter school, or state accredited nonpublic school hires
 14 one (1) or more individuals who have received an initial practitioner
 15 license under this section. The plan must be submitted in a manner
 16 prescribed by the department and must include a description of how the
 17 school corporation, charter school, or state accredited nonpublic school
 18 will, excluding the practical experience program described in
 19 subsection (b), provide an individual who receives an initial
 20 practitioner license under this section opportunities to obtain exposure
 21 to classroom management and instructional techniques, including
 22 meaningful exposure to special education. The plan is a public record.

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

27 (1) Data showing how many teachers obtained an initial
 28 practitioner license under this section.

29 (2) A description of the number of teachers who received an
 30 initial practitioner license under this section who are currently
 31 employed as a teacher by each:

32 (A) school corporation;

33 (B) charter school; or

34 (C) state accredited nonpublic school.

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

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

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applicable teacher licensing exam as approved by the state board pass rates for teachers who obtained an initial practitioner license using a different pathway to licensure.

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

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

(1) received a score on a nationally recognized college entrance examination; or

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

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

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

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

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

(2) An acknowledgment of the importance of:

(A) good citizenship;

(B) school attendance; and

(C) diligent study habits.

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

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

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

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

(A) is entitled to graduate; and

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(B) will have taken at least the minimum variety and number of courses necessary to gain admittance to a state educational institution.

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

~~(A) The SAT Reasoning Test.~~

~~(B) The ACT test.~~

~~(C) (A) Advanced placement exams.~~

~~(D) (B) College readiness exams approved by the department.~~

~~(E) (C) Workforce readiness exams approved by the department of workforce development established under IC 22-4.1-2.~~

~~(F) (D) Cambridge International examinations.~~

SECTION 4. IC 20-30-5-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.246-2005, SECTION 170, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) This section applies only to public schools.

(b) As used in this section, "good citizenship instruction" means integrating instruction into the current curriculum that stresses the nature and importance of the following:

(1) Being honest and truthful.

(2) Respecting authority.

(3) Respecting the property of others.

(4) Always doing the student's personal best.

(5) Not stealing.

(6) Possessing the skills (including methods of conflict resolution) necessary to live peaceably in society and not resorting to violence to settle disputes.

(7) Taking personal responsibility for obligations to family and community.

(8) Taking personal responsibility for earning a livelihood.

(9) Treating others the way the student would want to be treated.

(10) Respecting the national flag, the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Indiana.

(11) Respecting the student's parents and home.

(12) Respecting the student's self.

(13) Respecting the rights of others to have their own views and



religious beliefs.

(14) The importance of:

- (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.**

(c) The department shall:

- (1) identify; and
- (2) make available;

models of conflict resolution instruction to school corporations. The instruction may consist of a teacher education program that applies the techniques to the students in the classroom to assist school corporations in complying with this section.

SECTION 5. IC 20-30-5-7.3, AS ADDED BY P.L.39-2021, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7.3. **(a)** Beginning with students entering grade 6 in the 2023-2024 school year, each school corporation, charter school, and state accredited nonpublic school shall require each student of the school corporation, charter school, or state accredited nonpublic school to successfully complete in grade 6, 7, or 8 one (1) semester of a civics education course.

(b) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, a civics education course described in subsection (a) must include instruction on the following:

- (1) The roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments.**
- (2) The structures, powers, and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.**
- (3) The meaning and significance of historic documents, including the:**
 - (A) Ten Commandments;**
 - (B) Magna Carta;**
 - (C) Mayflower Compact;**
 - (D) Declaration of Independence;**
 - (E) Articles of Confederation;**
 - (F) Constitution of the United States;**
 - (G) Bill of Rights; and**
 - (H) Federalist Papers.**
- (4) The principles of federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, consent of the governed, ordered liberty, justice, the rule of law, limited government, natural rights,**



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1 republicanism, and the equal dignity of all human beings.

2 (5) Individual rights and responsibilities under the
3 Constitution of the United States, including the expressed,
4 implied, concurrent, and reserved powers.

5 (6) The electoral process and democratic participation.

6 (7) A comparative discussion of political ideologies, including
7 communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the
8 principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to the
9 founding principles of the United States.

10 SECTION 6. IC 20-30-5-26 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
11 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
12 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 26. (a) This section applies to
13 each school that provides instruction or discussion on the content
14 described in the following:

15 (1) Section 1 of this chapter.

16 (2) Section 2 of this chapter.

17 (3) Section 4 of this chapter.

18 (4) Section 5(a)(5) of this chapter.

19 (5) Section 6(b)(10) of this chapter.

20 (6) Section 7(a)(3) of this chapter.

21 (7) Section 7.3 of this chapter.

22 (b) The instruction or discussion described in subsection (a)
23 may not foster a national identity, heritage, or culture established
24 by:

25 (1) racial identity or racial discrimination;

26 (2) gender identity or gender discrimination;

27 (3) victimization;

28 (4) class struggle;

29 (5) a hierarchy of privileges; or

30 (6) systemic exclusion;

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

32 SECTION 7. IC 20-30-16-6.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.200-2021,
33 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
34 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6.5. The department in accordance with
35 requirements established by the state board shall approve a civics
36 course access program course that:

37 (1) meets the requirements under IC 20-30-5-2(a) and
38 IC 20-30-5-26; and

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

