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## SENATE BILL No. 88

Proposed Changes to introduced printing by AM008807

### DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Testing. Removes provisions referencing the Classic Learning Test. Amends current law to remove references to the ACT or SAT.

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  
16 career readiness standards and be aligned with postsecondary  
17 educational expectations.  
18 (2) Use the highest standards in the United States.  
19 (3) Comply with federal standards to receive a flexibility waiver  
20 under 20 U.S.C. 7861, as in effect on January 1, 2014.  
21 (4) Prepare Indiana students for college and career success,

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1 including the proper preparation for nationally recognized  
 2 college entrance examinations~~1 such has the~~  
 3 ~~ACT, and SAT, or Classic Learning Test~~  
 4 (5) Maintain Indiana sovereignty.

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

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

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

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

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

30 (2) successfully completes an alternative teacher certification  
 31 program that includes:

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

34 (B) pedagogy training and an examination that is in  
 35 substantive alignment with nationally recognized  
 36 pedagogical standards and teaches effective:

37 (i) instructional delivery;

38 (ii) classroom management and organization;

39 (iii) assessment;

40 (iv) instructional design; and

41 (v) professional learning and leadership;

42 (C) successful demonstration of content area proficiency in



1 an examination that includes content area material in  
 2 substantive alignment with nationally recognized content  
 3 area standards in the areas that the individual is required to  
 4 have a license to teach;

5 (D) verification from a third party that regularly reviews  
 6 educational and professional examinations that the  
 7 alternative certification examination is equal to or greater in  
 8 rigor than the written examination under section 12 of this  
 9 chapter; and

10 *(E) content within the curriculum that prepares teacher  
 11 candidates to use evidence based trauma informed  
 12 classroom instruction; including instruction in evidence  
 13 based social emotional learning classroom practices that  
 14 are conducive to supporting students who have experienced  
 15 trauma that may interfere with a student's academic  
 16 functioning; and*

17 ~~(F)~~ (E) content within the curriculum that:

18 (i) beginning July 1, 2024, is aligned to the science of  
 19 reading; and

20 (ii) beginning July 1, 2024, prepares teacher candidates  
 21 or program participants who seek to obtain an  
 22 elementary generalist license that is valid for teaching  
 23 in kindergarten through grade 5 or an early childhood  
 24 license that is valid for teaching prekindergarten  
 25 through grade 3 to obtain the literacy endorsement  
 26 required under section 19.7 of this chapter;

27 (3) successfully completes an applicable teacher licensing exam  
 28 as approved by the state board;

29 (4) holds a valid cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification  
 30 from a provider approved by the department; and

31 (5) has attended youth suicide awareness and prevention  
 32 training.

33 (b) The individual must complete a one (1) year practical  
 34 experience program during the individual's first year in the classroom  
 35 when the individual is employed as a full-time teacher. The provider  
 36 must:

37 (1) provide the practical experience program at no cost to the  
 38 state or to the school corporation, charter school, or state  
 39 accredited nonpublic school; and

40 (2) as part of the practical instruction program, provide  
 41 instruction in:

42 (A) instructional design and planning;



20 (1) currently operate in at least five (5) states; and  
21 (2) have operated an alternative teacher certification program for  
22 at least ten (10) years.

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

26 (f) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under  
27 this section shall be treated in the same manner as an individual who  
28 receives an initial practitioner license after completing a traditional  
29 teacher preparation program.

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

34 (h) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under  
35 this section may not teach a special education course for a special  
36 education student for the period the individual maintains a license  
37 under this section unless the individual is at least twenty-six (26) years  
38 of age and employed in a school setting or with another community  
39 organization, including a for-profit or nonprofit organization, to  
40 provide care or instruction for a student with a physical, intellectual, or  
41 developmental disability. However, an individual who receives an  
42 initial practitioner license under this section may not be a teacher of

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1 record for a special education student for the period the individual  
 2 maintains the initial practitioner license.

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

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

- 19 (1) Data showing how many teachers obtained an initial  
 20 practitioner license under this section.  
 21 (2) A description of the number of teachers who received an  
 22 initial practitioner license under this section who are currently  
 23 employed as a teacher by each:  
 24 (A) school corporation;  
 25 (B) charter school; or  
 26 (C) state accredited nonpublic school.

27 The description must include a breakdown of the subjects taught  
 28 by teachers who receive an initial practitioner license under this  
 29 section.

- 30 (3) A comparison of the *Praxis Subject Assessment applicable*  
 31 *teacher licensing exam as approved by the state board* pass rates  
 32 for individuals who receive an initial practitioner license under  
 33 this section in comparison with the *Praxis Subject Assessment*  
 34 *applicable teacher licensing exam as approved by the state*  
 35 *board* pass rates for teachers who obtained an initial practitioner  
 36 license using a different pathway to licensure.  
 37 (4) A description of how many teachers who received an initial  
 38 practitioner license under this section are rated as effective or  
 39 highly effective.

40 (k) **An individual in an alternative teacher certification**  
 41 **program may request a waiver from the department, in a time and**  
 42 **manner determined by the department, of the examination**



1       **requirements described in subsection (a)(3), if the individual:**  
 2        **(1) received a score on a nationally recognized college**  
 3        **entrance examination~~, such as the ACT, SAT, or Classic~~**  
 4        **Learning Test>; or**  
 5        **(2) received a score on a nationally recognized graduate**  
 6        **school entrance exam, such as the GRE or GMAT;**  
 7       **that placed the individual in at least the eightieth percentile of**  
 8       **other test takers for the given examination.**

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

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

- 20        (1) A statement of intent to graduate from high school.
- 21        (2) An acknowledgment of the importance of:
  - 22           (A) good citizenship;
  - 23           (B) school attendance; and
  - 24           (C) diligent study habits.
- 25        (3) The subject and skill areas of interest to the student.
- 26        (4) The postsecondary goals of the student aligned with the  
 27        graduation pathway requirements under IC 20-32-4-1.5.
- 28        (5) A program of study under the college/technology preparation  
 29        curriculum adopted by the state board under IC 20-30-10-2 for  
 30        grades 10, 11, and 12 that meets the interests, aptitude, and  
 31        postsecondary goals of the student.
- 32        (6) Assurances that, upon satisfactory fulfillment of the plan, the  
 33        student:
  - 34           (A) is entitled to graduate; and
  - 35           (B) will have taken at least the minimum variety and  
 36           number of courses necessary to gain admittance to a state  
 37           educational institution.
- 38        (7) An indication of assessments (other than the statewide  
 39        assessment program and the graduation examination (before July  
 40        1, 2018)) that the student plans to take voluntarily during grade  
 41        10 through grade 12 and which may include any of the  
 42        following:



1                         (A) The SAT Reasoning Test.  
 2                         (B) The ACT test.  
 3                         **(C) The Classic Learning Test.**

- 4                         (C) Advanced placement exams.  
 5                         (D) College readiness exams approved by  
 6                         the department.  
 7                         (E) Workforce readiness exams approved by  
 8                         the department of workforce development established under  
 9                         IC 22-4.1-2.  
 10                        (F) Cambridge International examinations.

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

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

- 18                        (1) Being honest and truthful.
- 19                        (2) Respecting authority.
- 20                        (3) Respecting the property of others.
- 21                        (4) Always doing the student's personal best.
- 22                        (5) Not stealing.
- 23                        (6) Possessing the skills (including methods of conflict  
 24                        resolution) necessary to live peaceably in society and not  
 25                        resorting to violence to settle disputes.
- 26                        (7) Taking personal responsibility for obligations to family and  
 27                        community.
- 28                        (8) Taking personal responsibility for earning a livelihood.
- 29                        (9) Treating others the way the student would want to be treated.
- 30                        (10) Respecting the national flag, the Constitution of the United  
 31                        States, and the Constitution of the State of Indiana.
- 32                        (11) Respecting the student's parents and home.
- 33                        (12) Respecting the student's self.
- 34                        (13) Respecting the rights of others to have their own views and  
 35                        religious beliefs.

36                        **(14) The importance of:**

- 37                        (A) obtaining at least a high school diploma and  
 38                        acquiring additional training in preparation for the  
 39                        workforce;
- 40                        (B) securing full-time employment; and
- 41                        (C) waiting until marriage to begin having children.

42                        (c) The department shall:



- 1 (1) identify; and
- 2 (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.

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

18                   **(1) The roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local**  
19                   **governments.**

**(2) The structures, powers, and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.**

### (A) Ten Commandments:

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

## 39 (6) The electoral process and democratic participation.

(7) A comparative discussion of political ideologies, including communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to the



## **founding principles of the United States.**

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

- (1) Section 1 of this chapter.**
  - (2) Section 2 of this chapter.**
  - (3) Section 4 of this chapter.**
  - (4) Section 5(a)(5) of this chapter.**
  - (5) Section 6(b)(10) of this chapter.**
  - (6) Section 7(a)(3) of this chapter.**
  - (7) Section 7.3 of this chapter.**

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

- (1) racial identity or racial discrimination;
  - (2) gender identity or gender discrimination;
  - (3) victimization;
  - (4) class struggle;
  - (5) a hierarchy of privileges; or
  - (6) systemic exclusion;

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

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

- (1) meets the requirements under IC 20-30-5-2(a) and **IC 20-30-5-26**; and
  - (2) is presented with special emphasis on the items listed in IC 20-30-5-5(a) and IC 20-30-5-6(b).

← SECTION 8. IC 20-32-5.1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.150-2024,  
SECTION 47, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
JULY 1, 2026]: See. 7. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section  
and in the manner provided in section 6 of this chapter, the state board  
is responsible for determining the appropriate subjects, grades, and  
format of the statewide assessment program.

— (b) For each school year beginning after June 30, 2018, and except as provided in section 11 of this chapter, the statewide assessment program must be administered to all full-time students attending a school corporation, charter school, state accredited nonpublic school,

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1 or eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) in grades subject to the  
 2 statewide summative assessment required by federal law and in a  
 3 manner prescribed by the state board:  
 4     (c) Subject matter tested on by the statewide assessment program  
 5     as determined by the state board under subsection (a) must, at a  
 6     minimum, do the following:  
 7         (1) Comply with requirements established under federal law  
 8         with:  
 9             (A) math and English/language arts assessed yearly in  
 10             grades 3 through 8, and at least once in grades 9 through 12;  
 11             and  
 12             (B) science assessed at least once in grades 3 through 5,  
 13             grades 6 through 9, and grades 10 through 12;  
 14             (2) Require that United States history or United States  
 15             government be assessed at least once in grades 5 or 8.  
 16         (d) Except as provided under subsection (e), for each school year  
 17     beginning after June 30, 2021, a nationally recognized college entrance  
 18     exam such as the ACT, SAT, or Classic Learning Test must be  
 19     administered for the high school subjects required under subsection (e).  
 20     The proficiency benchmark must be approved by the commission for  
 21     higher education, in consultation with the state educational institutions;  
 22     and may not be lower than the national college ready benchmark  
 23     established for that particular exam.  
 24         (e) If the state board determines that no nationally recognized  
 25     college entrance exam assesses a given high school subject that is  
 26     required under subsection (e), the state board may select another type  
 27     of assessment, including an end of course assessment, for that subject.  
 28         (f) The statewide assessment program:  
 29             (1) may not use technology that may negatively influence the  
 30             ability to measure a student's mastery of material or a particular  
 31             academic standard being tested; and  
 32             (2) may use a technology enhanced test question only when the  
 33             technology enhanced test question is the best way to measure the  
 34             academic standard being tested.  
 35         (g) A statewide summative assessment, other than an assessment  
 36     administered under subsection (d), must use a scale score that will  
 37     ensure the statewide summative assessment scores are comparable to  
 38     scale scores used as part of the ISTEP program under IC 20-32-5,  
 39     before its expiration.  
 40         SECTION 9. IC 21-40-4-8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
 41     AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 42     1, 2026]: See. 8. With respect to admission criteria, a state



1        ~~educational institution shall accept the Classic Learning Test~~  
2        ~~examination to the same extent the state educational institution~~  
3        ~~accepts the ACT or SAT examination. >~~

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