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## SENATE BILL No. 88

AM008809 has been incorporated into introduced printing.

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**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 1-1-4-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025,  
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The following definitions apply to the  
4 construction of all Indiana statutes, unless the construction is plainly  
5 repugnant to the intent of the general assembly or of the context of the  
6 statute:  
7 (1) "Adult", "of full age", and "person in his majority" mean a  
8 person at least eighteen (18) years of age.  
9 (2) "Attorney" includes a counselor or other person authorized  
10 to appear and represent a party in an action or special  
11 proceeding.  
12 (3) "Autism" means a neurological condition as described in the  
13 most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of  
14 Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association.  
15 (4) "Bond" does not necessarily imply a seal.

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(5) "Clerk" means the clerk of the court or a person authorized to perform the clerk's duties.

**(6) "Female", when referencing the human species, means an individual who naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but for a congenital anomaly, an intentional disruption, or an unintentional disruption, the reproductive system that at some point produces, transports, and utilizes eggs for fertilization.**

**(7) "Gender" is a synonym for sex and has the meaning set forth in subdivision (25).**

~~(6)~~ (8) "Health record", "hospital record", or "medical record" means written or printed information possessed by a provider (as defined in IC 16-18-2-295) concerning any diagnosis, treatment, or prognosis of the patient, unless otherwise defined. Except as otherwise provided, the terms include mental health records and drug and alcohol abuse records.

~~(7)~~ (9) "Highway" includes county bridges and state and county roads, unless otherwise expressly provided.

~~(8)~~ (10) "Infant" or "minor" means a person less than eighteen (18) years of age.

~~(9)~~ (11) "Inhabitant" may be construed to mean a resident in any place.

~~(10)~~ (12) "Judgment" means all final orders, decrees, and determinations in an action and all orders upon which executions may issue.

~~(11)~~ (13) "Land", "real estate", and "real property" include lands, tenements, and hereditaments.

**(14) "Male", when referencing the human species, means an individual who naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but for a congenital anomaly, an intentional disruption, or an unintentional disruption, the reproductive system that at some point produces, transports, and utilizes sperm for fertilization.**

~~(12)~~ (15) "Mentally incompetent" means of unsound mind.

~~(13)~~ (16) "Money demands on contract", when used in reference to an action, means an action arising out of contract when the relief demanded is a recovery of money.

~~(14)~~ (17) "Month" means a calendar month, unless otherwise expressed.

~~(15)~~ (18) "Noncode statute" means a statute that is not codified as part of the Indiana Code.

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1 ~~(16)~~ **(19)** "Oath" includes "affirmation", and "to swear" includes  
2 to "affirm".  
3 ~~(17)~~ **(20)** "Person" extends to bodies politic and corporate.  
4 ~~(18)~~ **(21)** "Personal property" includes goods, chattels, evidences  
5 of debt, and things in action.  
6 ~~(19)~~ **(22)** "Population" has the meaning set forth in IC 1-1-3.5-3.  
7 ~~(20)~~ **(23)** "Preceding" and "following", referring to sections in  
8 statutes, mean the sections next preceding or next following that  
9 in which the words occur, unless some other section is  
10 designated.  
11 ~~(21)~~ **(24)** "Property" includes personal and real property.  
12 **(25) "Sex" refers to the two (2) sexes, female and male, in the**  
13 **human species with the organization of the anatomy,**  
14 **hormones, and the gametes oriented toward fertilization**  
15 **without regard to the individual's psychological, behavioral,**  
16 **social, chosen, or subjective experience of gender.**  
17 ~~(22)~~ **(26)** "Sheriff" means the sheriff of the county or another  
18 person authorized to perform sheriff's duties.  
19 ~~(23)~~ **(27)** "State", applied to any one (1) of the United States,  
20 includes the District of Columbia and the commonwealths,  
21 possessions, states in free association with the United States, and  
22 the territories. "United States" includes the District of Columbia  
23 and the commonwealths, possessions, states in free association  
24 with the United States, and the territories.  
25 ~~(24)~~ **(28)** "Under legal disabilities" includes persons less than  
26 eighteen (18) years of age, mentally incompetent, or out of the  
27 United States.  
28 ~~(25)~~ **(29)** "Verified", when applied to pleadings, means  
29 supported by oath or affirmation in writing.  
30 ~~(26)~~ **(30)** "Will" includes a testament and codicil.  
31 ~~(27)~~ **(31)** "Without relief" in any judgment, contract, execution,  
32 or other instrument of writing or record, means without the  
33 benefit of valuation laws.  
34 ~~(28)~~ **(32)** "Written" and "in writing" include printing,  
35 lithographing, or other mode of representing words and letters.  
36 If the written signature of a person is required, the terms mean  
37 the proper handwriting of the person or the person's mark.  
38 ~~(29)~~ **(33)** "Year" means a calendar year, unless otherwise  
39 expressed.  
40 ~~(30)~~ **(34)** The definitions in IC 35-31.5 apply to all statutes  
41 relating to penal offenses.

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(b) This subsection applies to the definitions of "Hoosier veteran" and "veteran" when used in reference to state programs for veterans. The term "veteran" includes "Hoosier veteran", and applies to the construction of all Indiana statutes, unless the construction is expressly excluded by the terms of the statute, is plainly repugnant to the intent of the general assembly or of the context of the statute, or is inconsistent with federal law. "Hoosier veteran" means an individual who meets the following criteria:

- (1) The individual is a resident of Indiana.
- (2) The individual served in an active or reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard.
- (3) The individual completed any required military occupational specialty training and was not discharged or separated from the armed forces or the Indiana National Guard under conditions other than conditions set forth in IC 10-17-12-7.5(2).

The definitions set forth in this subsection may not be construed to affect a Hoosier veteran's eligibility for any state program that is based upon a particular aspect of the Hoosier veteran's service such as a disability or a wartime service requirement.

SECTION 2. IC 20-19-2-14.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.93-2024, SECTION 138, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14.5. (a) As used in this section:

- (1) "college and career readiness educational standards" means Indiana standards that a high school graduate must meet to obtain the requisite knowledge and skill to transition without remediation to postsecondary education or training, and ultimately into a sustainable career; and
- (2) "cut scores" means the scores that define a student's performance on an assessment, including passing, failing, or falling into a performance category.

(b) The state board shall adopt Indiana college and career readiness educational standards. The educational standards must do the following:

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



1 including the proper preparation for nationally recognized  
 2 college entrance examinations such as the ACT, ~~and~~ SAT, or  
 3 **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 3. 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;



(C) successful demonstration of content area proficiency in an examination that includes content area material in substantive alignment with nationally recognized content area standards in the areas that the individual is required to have a license to teach;

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

~~(E) content within the curriculum that prepares teacher candidates to use evidence based trauma informed classroom instruction, including instruction in evidence based social-emotional learning classroom practices that are conducive to supporting students who have experienced trauma that may interfere with a student's academic functioning; and~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) as part of the practical instruction program, provide

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- 1 instruction in:
- 2 (A) instructional design and planning;
- 3 (B) effective instructional delivery;
- 4 (C) classroom management and organization;
- 5 (D) effective use of assessment data;
- 6 (E) content in federal and Indiana special education laws;
- 7 and
- 8 (F) required awareness, preparation, and understanding of:
- 9 (i) individualized education programs;
- 10 (ii) service plans developed under 511 IAC 7-34;
- 11 (iii) choice special education plans developed under
- 12 511 IAC 7-49; and
- 13 (iv) plans developed under Section 504 of the federal
- 14 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.
- 15 (c) An in-state alternative teacher certification program under
- 16 subsection (a)(2) must operate in accordance with the procedures and
- 17 program approval standards and requirements set by the department
- 18 and the state board for teacher education programs for the licensure of
- 19 teachers.
- 20 (d) An out-of-state alternative teacher certification program under
- 21 subsection (a)(2) must:
- 22 (1) currently operate in at least five (5) states; and
- 23 (2) have operated an alternative teacher certification program for
- 24 at least ten (10) years.
- 25 (e) An individual who receives an alternative teacher certification
- 26 under subsection (a)(2) is authorized to teach the subject and
- 27 educational level that the individual has successfully completed.
- 28 (f) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under
- 29 this section shall be treated in the same manner as an individual who
- 30 receives an initial practitioner license after completing a traditional
- 31 teacher preparation program.
- 32 (g) An individual who graduates from an alternative teacher
- 33 certification program must be treated in the same manner as a
- 34 traditional teacher preparation program graduate during the transition
- 35 from an initial practitioner license to a practitioner license.
- 36 (h) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under
- 37 this section may not teach a special education course for a special
- 38 education student for the period the individual maintains a license
- 39 under this section unless the individual is at least twenty-six (26) years
- 40 of age and employed in a school setting or with another community
- 41 organization, including a for-profit or nonprofit organization, to

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provide care or instruction for a student with a physical, intellectual, or developmental disability. However, an individual who receives an initial practitioner license under this section may not be a teacher of record for a special education student for the period the individual maintains the initial practitioner license.

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

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

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

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

(A) school corporation;

(B) charter school; or

(C) state accredited nonpublic school.

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

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

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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, such as the ACT, SAT, or Classic Learning Test; 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 4. 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

(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) The Classic Learning Test.**

~~(C)~~ **(D)** Advanced placement exams.

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

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

~~(F)~~ **(G)** Cambridge International examinations.

SECTION 5. 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**



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1           **acquiring additional training in preparation for the**  
 2           **workforce;**

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

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

5           (c) The department shall:

6               (1) identify; and

7               (2) make available;

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

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

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

23               **(1) The roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local**  
 24               **governments.**

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

27               **(3) The meaning and significance of historic documents,**  
 28               **including the:**

29                   **(A) Ten Commandments;**

30                   **(B) Magna Carta;**

31                   **(C) Mayflower Compact;**

32                   **(D) Declaration of Independence;**

33                   **(E) Articles of Confederation;**

34                   **(F) Constitution of the United States;**

35                   **(G) Bill of Rights; and**

36                   **(H) Federalist Papers.**

37               **(4) The principles of federalism, separation of powers, checks**  
 38               **and balances, consent of the governed, ordered liberty,**  
 39               **justice, the rule of law, limited government, natural rights,**  
 40               **republicanism, and the equal dignity of all human beings.**

41               **(5) Individual rights and responsibilities under the**  
 42               **Constitution of the United States, including the expressed,**



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1 implied, concurrent, and reserved powers.

2 (6) The electoral process and democratic participation.

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

7 SECTION 7. IC 20-30-5-26 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
8 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
9 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 26. (a) This section applies to  
10 each school that provides instruction or discussion on the content  
11 described in the following:

12 (1) Section 1 of this chapter.

13 (2) Section 2 of this chapter.

14 (3) Section 4 of this chapter.

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

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

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

18 (7) Section 7.3 of this chapter.

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

22 (1) racial identity or racial discrimination;

23 (2) gender identity or gender discrimination;

24 (3) victimization;

25 (4) class struggle;

26 (5) a hierarchy of privileges; or

27 (6) systemic exclusion;

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

29 SECTION 8. IC 20-30-16-6.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.200-2021,  
30 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
31 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6.5. The department in accordance with  
32 requirements established by the state board shall approve a civics  
33 course access program course that:

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

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

38 SECTION 9. IC 20-32-5.1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.150-2024,  
39 SECTION 47, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
40 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section  
41 and in the manner provided in section 6 of this chapter, the state board  
42 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, or eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) in grades subject to the statewide summative assessment required by federal law and in a manner prescribed by the state board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(f) The statewide assessment program:

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

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

(g) A statewide summative assessment, other than an assessment administered under subsection (d), must use a scale score that will

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1 ensure the statewide summative assessment scores are comparable to  
 2 scale scores used as part of the ISTEP program under IC 20-32-5,  
 3 before its expiration.

4 SECTION 10. IC 20-33-13.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 5 CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 6 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

7 **Chapter 13.6. Physical Privacy of Students**

8 **Sec. 1. (a) As used in this chapter, "multiple occupancy**  
 9 **restroom or changing area" means a room or area in a school**  
 10 **building that may be used by more than one (1) student at a time**  
 11 **and in which students may be in various stages of undress in the**  
 12 **presence of other individuals.**

13 **(b) The term includes a restroom, locker room, changing**  
 14 **room, and shower room.**

15 **(c) The term does not include a single occupancy restroom,**  
 16 **locker room, changing room, or shower room.**

17 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "school" means any:**

- 18 **(1) school maintained by a school corporation; or**  
 19 **(2) charter school;**

20 **that provides instruction to students in any combination of**  
 21 **kindergarten through grade 12.**

22 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "sleeping quarters" means a**  
 23 **room with a bed in which more than one (1) individual is housed**  
 24 **overnight.**

25 **Sec. 4. Each school shall designate each multiple occupancy**  
 26 **restroom or changing area as follows:**

- 27 **(1) For the exclusive use of the male sex.**  
 28 **(2) For the exclusive use of the female sex.**

29 **Sec. 5. (a) Subject to subsection (b), an individual shall only**  
 30 **use a multiple occupancy restroom or changing area that is**  
 31 **designated for the sex that is the individual's sex.**

32 **(b) An individual does not violate subsection (a) if the:**

- 33 **(1) multiple occupancy restroom or changing area has been**  
 34 **temporarily designated for use by the opposite sex; or**  
 35 **(2) individual is entering a multiple occupancy restroom or**  
 36 **changing area for one (1) or more of the following reasons:**  
 37 **(A) For custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes.**  
 38 **(B) To render medical or emergency assistance.**  
 39 **(C) To accompany a student needing assistance if the**  
 40 **individual assisting the student is the student's parent or**  
 41 **caregiver.**  
 42 **(D) To provide coaching or athletic training during**



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athletic events, provided the individual providing coaching or training took reasonable steps to ensure no individuals are in a state of undress prior to entering.

**Sec. 6.** During any activity or event authorized by a school in which students share sleeping quarters, a school shall not require a student to share sleeping quarters with a member of the opposite sex, unless the individual of the opposite sex is a member of the student's family.

**Sec. 7. (a)** An individual who encounters an individual violating section 5 of this chapter may bring a civil action against the school corporation or school if the school corporation or school:

(1) provided the individual who violated section 5 of this chapter permission to use a multiple occupancy restroom or changing area that is designated for the sex that is not the individual's sex; or

(2) failed to take reasonable steps to prohibit the individual who violated section 5 of this chapter from using a multiple occupancy restroom or changing area that is designated for the sex that is not the individual's sex.

(b) If a school or school corporation violates section 6 of this chapter, an individual who is directly or indirectly injured as a result of the violation may bring a civil action against the school or school corporation.

(c) An action described in this section must be commenced within two (2) years of the violation.

**Sec. 8.** The court may award to an individual who prevails in an action under section 7 of this chapter any of the following:

(1) Injunctive relief.

(2) Declaratory judgment.

(3) Costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

**Sec. 9.** Nothing in this chapter prohibits a school corporation or school from:

(1) providing single occupancy sleeping quarters or a single occupancy restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room; or

(2) adopting policies necessary to accommodate individuals protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and any amendments and regulations related to the Act.

**Sec. 10.** The provisions of this chapter are severable as provided in IC 1-1-1-8(b).

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SECTION 11. IC 20-33-14.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

**Chapter 14.5. Individual Identification**

**Sec. 1.** As used in this chapter, "school" means any:

- (1) school maintained by a school corporation; or
- (2) charter school.

**Sec. 2.** A school employee or staff member shall not subject a student to disciplinary action solely because the student declines to:

- (1) identify the student's pronouns; or
- (2) address an individual by using a name other than the individual's legal name or derivative of the individual's legal name by using a pronoun or a title that is not consistent with the individual's sex.

**Sec. 3.** A school corporation or school shall not subject a school employee or staff member to an adverse employment action solely because the school employee or staff member declines to:

- (1) identify their pronouns; or
- (2) address an individual by using a name other than the individual's legal name or derivative of the individual's legal name by using a pronoun or a title that is not consistent with the individual's sex.

**Sec. 4. (a)** A student who is harmed as a result of a violation of section 2 of this chapter, or a school employee or staff member who is harmed as a result of a violation of section 3 of this chapter may bring a civil action against the school corporation or school.

**(b)** An action described in this section must be commenced within two (2) years of the violation.

**Sec. 5.** The court may award to an individual who prevails in an action under section 4 of this chapter any of the following:

- (1) Injunctive relief.
- (2) Declaratory judgment.
- (3) Costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

**Sec. 6.** The provisions of this chapter are severable as provided in IC 1-1-1-8(b).

SECTION 12. IC 21-39-10 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

**Chapter 10. Physical Privacy of Students**

**Sec. 1. (a)** As used in this chapter, "multiple occupancy restroom or changing area" means a room or area in a state educational institution building that may be used by more than one



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(1) student at a time and in which students may be in various stages of undress in the presence of other individuals.

(b) The term includes a restroom, locker room, changing room, and shower room.

(c) The term does not include a single occupancy restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "sleeping quarters" means a room with a bed in which more than one (1) individual is housed overnight.

Sec. 3. Each state educational institution shall designate each multiple occupancy restroom or changing area as follows:

(1) For the exclusive use of the male sex.

(2) For the exclusive use of the female sex.

Sec. 4. (a) Subject to subsection (b), an individual shall only use a multiple occupancy restroom or changing area that is designated for the sex that is the individual's sex.

(b) An individual does not violate subsection (a) if the:

(1) multiple occupancy restroom or changing area has been temporarily designated for use by the opposite sex; or

(2) individual is entering a multiple occupancy restroom or changing area for one (1) or more of the following reasons:

(A) For custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes.

(B) To render medical or emergency assistance.

(C) To accompany a student needing assistance if the individual assisting the student is the student's parent or caregiver.

(D) To provide coaching or athletic training during athletic events, provided the individual providing coaching or training took reasonable steps to ensure no individuals are in a state of undress prior to entering.

Sec. 5. A state educational institution shall not require a student to share sleeping quarters with a member of the opposite sex:

(1) during any activity or event authorized by a state educational institution; or

(2) in state educational institution on campus housing;

unless the individual who is a member of the opposite sex is a member of the student's family.

Sec. 6. (a) An individual who encounters an individual violating section 4 of this chapter may bring a civil action against the state educational institution if the state educational institution:

(1) provided the individual who violated section 4 of this



chapter permission to use a multiple occupancy restroom or changing area that is designated for the sex that is not the individual's sex; or

(2) failed to take reasonable steps to prohibit the individual who violated section 4 of this chapter from using a multiple occupancy restroom or changing area that is designated for the sex that is not the individual's sex.

(b) If a state educational institution violates section 5 of this chapter, an individual who is directly or indirectly injured as a result of the violation may bring a civil action against the state educational institution.

(c) An action described in this section must be commenced within two (2) years of the violation.

Sec. 7. The court may award to an individual who prevails in an action under section 6 of this chapter any of the following:

(1) Injunctive relief.

(2) Declaratory judgment.

(3) Costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

Sec. 8. Nothing in this chapter prohibits a state educational institution from:

(1) providing single occupancy sleeping quarters or a single occupancy restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room; or

(2) adopting policies necessary to accommodate individuals protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and any amendments and regulations related to the Act.

Sec. 9. The provisions of this chapter are severable as provided in IC 1-1-1-8(b).

SECTION 13. IC 21-39-11 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

#### **Chapter 11. Individual Identification**

Sec. 1. A state educational institution, including an employee or staff member of a state educational institution, shall not subject a student of a state educational institution to disciplinary action solely because the student declines to:

(1) identify the student's pronouns; or

(2) address an individual by using a name other than the individual's legal name or derivative of the individual's legal name by using a pronoun or a title that is not consistent with the individual's sex.



1        **Sec. 2. A state educational institution shall not subject a school**  
 2        **employee or staff member to an adverse employment action solely**  
 3        **because the school employee or staff member declines to:**

4        (1) identify their pronouns; or

5        (2) address an individual by using a name other than the  
 6        individual's legal name or derivative of the individual's legal  
 7        name by using a pronoun or a title that is not consistent with  
 8        the individual's sex.

9        **Sec. 3. (a) A student who is harmed as a result of a violation of**  
 10       **section 1 of this chapter, or a school employee or staff member who**  
 11       **is harmed as a result of a violation of section 2 of this chapter may**  
 12       **bring a civil action against the state educational institution.**

13       (b) An action described in this section must be commenced  
 14       within two (2) years of the violation.

15       **Sec. 4. The court may award to an individual who prevails in**  
 16       **an action under section 3 of this chapter any of the following:**

17       (1) Injunctive relief.

18       (2) Declaratory judgment.

19       (3) Costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

20       **Sec. 5. The provisions of this chapter are severable as provided**  
 21       **in IC 1-1-1-8(b).**

22       SECTION 14. IC 21-40-4-8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 23       CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 24       [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 8. With respect to admission**  
 25       **criteria, a state educational institution shall accept the Classic**  
 26       **Learning Test examination to the same extent the state educational**  
 27       **institution accepts the ACT or SAT examination.**

28       SECTION 15. IC 24-15-2-14, AS ADDED BY P.L.94-2023,  
 29       SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 30       JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. "Health record" has the meaning set forth in  
 31       ~~IC 1-1-4-5(a)(6).~~ **IC 1-1-4-5(a)(8).**

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