

SENATE BILL No. 88

AM008810 has been incorporated into introduced printing.

Synopsis: Various education matters.

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

9 (7) "Gender" is a synonym for sex and has the meaning set
10 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.

17 (7) (9) "Highway" includes county bridges and state and county
18 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.

34 (12) (15) "Mentally incompetent" means of unsound mind.

38 **(14) (17)** "Month" means a calendar month, unless otherwise
39 expressed.



1 **(10) (19)** "Oath" includes "affirmation", and "to swear" includes
2 to "affirm

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

6 (1) "college and career readiness educational standards" means
7 Indiana standards that a high school graduate must meet to
8 obtain the requisite knowledge and skill to transition without
9 remediation to postsecondary education or training, and
10 ultimately into a sustainable career; and

10 ultimately into a sustainable career, and
11 (2) "cut scores" means the scores that define a student's
12 performance on an assessment, including passing, failing, or
13 falling into a performance category.

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

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

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

27 (5) Maintain Indiana sovereignty.

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

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

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

14 (A) the required content training in the area in which the
15 individual seeks to be licensed;
16 (B) pedagogy training and an examination that is in
17 substantive alignment with nationally recognized
18 pedagogical standards and teaches effective;

19 (i) instructional delivery;

20 (ii) classroom management and organization;

21 (iii) assessment;

22 (iv) instructional design; and

23 (v) professional learning and leadership;

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

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

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

functioning, and **41** **42** (E) content within the curriculum that:

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(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.

(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 instruction in:

(A) instructional design and planning:

(B) effective instructional delivery:

(C) classroom management and organization:

(D) effective use of assessment data;

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

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

(i) individualized education programs;

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

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

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

38 (c) An in-state alternative teacher certification program under
39 subsection (a)(2) must operate in accordance with the procedures and
40 program approval standards and requirements set by the department
41 and the state board for teacher education programs for the licensure of



1 teachers.

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

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

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

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

10 (f) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under
11 this section shall be treated in the same manner as an individual who
12 receives an initial practitioner license after completing a traditional
13 teacher preparation program.

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

18 (h) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under
19 this section may not teach a special education course for a special
20 education student for the period the individual maintains a license
21 under this section unless the individual is at least twenty-six (26) years
22 of age and employed in a school setting or with another community
23 organization, including a for-profit or nonprofit organization, to
24 provide care or instruction for a student with a physical, intellectual, or
25 developmental disability. However, an individual who receives an
26 initial practitioner license under this section may not be a teacher of
27 record for a special education student for the period the individual
28 maintains the initial practitioner license.

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

41 (j) Not later than July 1, 2024, the department shall prepare a



1 report that shall be submitted to the general assembly in an electronic
2 format under IC 5-14-6. The report must contain the following
3 information:

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

15 (3) A comparison of the *Praxis Subject Assessment applicable*
16 *teacher licensing exam as approved by the state board* pass rates
17 for individuals who receive an initial practitioner license under
18 this section in comparison with the *Praxis Subject Assessment*
19 *applicable teacher licensing exam as approved by the state*
20 *board* pass rates for teachers who obtained an initial practitioner
21 license using a different pathway to licensure.

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

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

1 (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.

36 SECTION 4. IC 20-30-4-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.9-2021,
37 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
38 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) In consultation with the student's school
39 counselor, after seeking consultation with each student's parents, and
40 not later than the date on which the student completes grade 8, each
41 student shall develop a graduation plan that is a part of the student's
42 permanent school record and accessible to a parent of the student in

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1 accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (20
2 U.S.C. 1232g et seq.).

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

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

6 (2) An acknowledgment of the importance of:

7 (A) good citizenship;

8 (B) school attendance; and

9 (C) diligent study habits.

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

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

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

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

19 (A) is entitled to graduate; and

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

23 (7) An indication of assessments (other than the statewide
24 assessment program and the graduation examination (before July
25 1, 2018)) that the student plans to take voluntarily during grade
26 10 through grade 12 and which may include any of the
27 following:

28 (A) The SAT Reasoning Test.

29 (B) The ACT test.

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

31 (D) Advanced placement exams.

32 (E) College readiness exams approved by the
33 department.

34 (F) Workforce readiness exams approved by the
35 department of workforce development established under
36 IC 22-4.1-2.

37 (G) Cambridge International examinations.

38 SECTION 5. IC 20-30-5-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.246-2005,

39 SECTION 170, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS

40 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) This section applies only to
41 public schools.



(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.

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

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1 **may not foster a national identity, heritage, or culture established
2 by:**

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

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

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

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

19 SECTION 9. IC 20-32-5.1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.150-2024,
20 SECTION 47, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
21 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section
22 and in the manner provided in section 6 of this chapter, the state board
23 is responsible for determining the appropriate subjects, grades, and
24 format of the statewide assessment program.

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

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

35 (1) Comply with requirements established under federal law
36 with:
37 (A) math and English/language arts assessed yearly in
38 grades 3 through 8, and at least once in grades 9 through 12;
39 and
40 (B) science assessed at least once in grades 3 through 5,
41 grades 6 through 9, and grades 10 through 12.
42 (2) Require that United States history or United States



1 government be assessed at least once in grades 5 or 8.

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

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

14 (f) The statewide assessment program:

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

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

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

26 SECTION 10. IC 20-33-14.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 27 CODE AS A **NEW CHAPTER** TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 28 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

29 **Chapter 14.5. Individual Identification**

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

31 **(1) school maintained by a school corporation; or**
 32 **(2) charter school.**

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

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

40 **Sec. 3. A school corporation or school shall not subject a school**
 41 **employee or staff member to an adverse employment action solely**
 42 **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 11. 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.

Sec. 2. A state educational institution 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. 3. (a) A student who is harmed as a result of a violation of section 1 of this chapter, or a school employee or staff member who is harmed as a result of a violation of section 2 of this chapter may



1 **bring a civil action against the state educational institution.**

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

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

6 **(1) Injunctive relief.**

7 **(2) Declaratory judgment.**

8 **(3) Costs and reasonable attorney's fees.**

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

11 SECTION 12. IC 21-40-4-8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
12 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
13 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. **With respect to admission**
14 **criteria, a state educational institution shall accept the Classic**
15 **Learning Test examination to the same extent the state educational**
16 **institution accepts the ACT or SAT examination.**

17 SECTION 13. IC 24-15-2-14, AS ADDED BY P.L.94-2023,
18 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
19 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. "Health record" has the meaning set forth in
20 **IC 1-1-4-5(a)(6). IC 1-1-4-5(a)(8).**

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