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SENATE BILL No. 88

Proposed Changes to January 29, 2026 printing by AM008812

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Good citizenship instruction. Provides that good citizenship instruction requirements apply to charter schools.

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.

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

5 (5) Maintain Indiana sovereignty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (2) An acknowledgment of the importance of:

35 (A) good citizenship;

36 (B) school attendance; and

37 (C) diligent study habits.

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

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

41 (5) A program of study under the college/technology preparation
 42 curriculum adopted by the state board under IC 20-30-10-2 for

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- 1 grades 10, 11, and 12 that meets the interests, aptitude, and
- 2 postsecondary goals of the student.
- 3 (6) Assurances that, upon satisfactory fulfillment of the plan, the
- 4 student:
- 5 (A) is entitled to graduate; and
- 6 (B) will have taken at least the minimum variety and
- 7 number of courses necessary to gain admittance to a state
- 8 educational institution.
- 9 (7) An indication of assessments (other than the statewide
- 10 assessment program and the graduation examination (before July
- 11 1, 2018)) that the student plans to take voluntarily during grade
- 12 10 through grade 12 and which may include any of the
- 13 following:
- 14 (A) The SAT Reasoning Test.
- 15 (B) The ACT test.
- 16 **(C) The Classic Learning Test.**
- 17 ~~(D)~~ **(D)** Advanced placement exams.
- 18 ~~(E)~~ **(E)** College readiness exams approved by the
- 19 department.
- 20 ~~(F)~~ **(F)** Workforce readiness exams approved by the
- 21 department of workforce development established under
- 22 IC 22-4.1-2.
- 23 ~~(G)~~ **(G)** Cambridge International examinations.
- 24 SECTION 3. IC 20-30-5-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.246-2005,
- 25 SECTION 170, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 26 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) This section applies only to
- 27 public schools[[, including charter schools.](#)]
- 28 (b) As used in this section, "good citizenship instruction" means
- 29 integrating instruction into the current curriculum that stresses the
- 30 nature and importance of the following:
- 31 (1) Being honest and truthful.
- 32 (2) Respecting authority.
- 33 (3) Respecting the property of others.
- 34 (4) Always doing the student's personal best.
- 35 (5) Not stealing.
- 36 (6) Possessing the skills (including methods of conflict
- 37 resolution) necessary to live peaceably in society and not
- 38 resorting to violence to settle disputes.
- 39 (7) Taking personal responsibility for obligations to family and
- 40 community.
- 41 (8) Taking personal responsibility for earning a livelihood.
- 42 (9) Treating others the way the student would want to be treated.

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- 1 (10) Respecting the national flag, the Constitution of the United
- 2 States, and the Constitution of the State of Indiana.
- 3 (11) Respecting the student's parents and home.
- 4 (12) Respecting the student's self.
- 5 (13) Respecting the rights of others to have their own views and
- 6 religious beliefs.

- 7 **(14) The importance of:**
- 8 **(A) obtaining at least a high school diploma and**
- 9 **acquiring additional training in preparation for the**
- 10 **workforce;**
- 11 **(B) securing full-time employment; and**
- 12 **(C) waiting until marriage to begin having children.**

- 13 (c) The department shall:
- 14 (1) identify; and
- 15 (2) make available;

16 models of conflict resolution instruction to school corporations and

17 charter schools.[] The instruction may consist of a teacher education

18 program that applies the techniques to the students in the classroom to

19 assist school corporations and charter schools in complying with

20 this section.

21 SECTION 4. IC 20-32-5.1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.150-2024,

22 SECTION 47, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE

23 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section

24 and in the manner provided in section 6 of this chapter, the state board

25 is responsible for determining the appropriate subjects, grades, and

26 format of the statewide assessment program.

27 (b) For each school year beginning after June 30, 2018, and except

28 as provided in section 11 of this chapter, the statewide assessment

29 program must be administered to all full-time students attending a

30 school corporation, charter school, state accredited nonpublic school,

31 or eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) in grades subject to the

32 statewide summative assessment required by federal law and in a

33 manner prescribed by the state board.

34 (c) Subject matter tested on by the statewide assessment program

35 as determined by the state board under subsection (a) must, at a

36 minimum, do the following:

- 37 (1) Comply with requirements established under federal law
- 38 with:
- 39 (A) math and English/language arts assessed yearly in
- 40 grades 3 through 8, and at least once in grades 9 through 12;
- 41 and
- 42 (B) science assessed at least once in grades 3 through 5,

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

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