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SENATE BILL No. 88

Proposed Changes to January 29, 2026 printing by AM008817

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Examinations. Provides that a school corporation must allow certain students to take certain examinations at a school maintained by the school corporation. Provides, with exception, that the cost of the examination shall be paid by the student's parent or the student, if the student is an adult or an emancipated minor.

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.

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

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

7 (5) Maintain Indiana sovereignty.

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

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

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

24 [SECTION 2. IC 20-26-5-48 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
25 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
26 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 48. (a) As used in this section,
27 "student" means an individual who is attending a nonaccredited
28 nonpublic school that has less than one (1) employee.

29 (b) Subject to subsection (c)(2), a school corporation must
30 allow a student who resides within the boundaries of the school
31 corporation to take the following examinations at a school
32 maintained by the school corporation if the school corporation
33 offers the examination:

34 (1) Advancement placement examinations.

35 (2) The PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

36 (3) The SAT.

37 (4) The ACT.

38 (5) The Classic Learning Test.

39 (6) The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.

40 If an examination described in this subsection is not offered by the
41 school corporation in which the student resides, any other school
42 corporation that offers the examination must allow the student to

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1 take the examination at a school maintained by that school
 2 corporation.

3 (c) A student's parent, or a student, if the student is an adult
 4 or an emancipated minor:

5 (1) except as provided in subsection (d), is responsible for the
 6 cost of the examination; and

7 (2) must provide reasonable notice to the school corporation
 8 that the student intends to take an examination described in
 9 subsection (b) before the school corporation must comply
 10 with the requirements of this section.

11 (d) A school corporation shall cover the cost of an examination
 12 described in subsection (b) for a student to the extent the school
 13 corporation covers the cost of the examination for an individual
 14 enrolled in the school corporation.

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

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

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

27 (2) An acknowledgment of the importance of:

28 (A) good citizenship;

29 (B) school attendance; and

30 (C) diligent study habits.

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

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

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

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

40 (A) is entitled to graduate; and

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

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

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1 (A) obtaining at least a high school diploma and
 2 acquiring additional training in preparation for the
 3 workforce;

4 (B) securing full-time employment; and

5 (C) waiting until marriage to begin having children.

6 (c) The department shall:

7 (1) identify; and

8 (2) make available;

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

13 SECTION ~~47~~[5]. IC 20-32-5.1-7, AS AMENDED BY
 14 P.L.150-2024, SECTION 47, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 15 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Except as
 16 otherwise provided in this section and in the manner provided in
 17 section 6 of this chapter, the state board is responsible for determining
 18 the appropriate subjects, grades, and format of the statewide
 19 assessment program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 (d) Except as provided under subsection (e), for each school year
 40 beginning after June 30, 2021, a nationally recognized college entrance
 41 exam **such as the ACT, SAT, or Classic Learning Test** must be
 42 administered for the high school subjects required under subsection (c).

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1 The proficiency benchmark must be approved by the commission for
 2 higher education, in consultation with the state educational institutions,
 3 and may not be lower than the national college ready benchmark
 4 established for that particular exam.

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

9 (f) The statewide assessment program:

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

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

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

21 SECTION ~~6~~ [6]. IC 21-40-4-8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 22 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 23 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 8. With respect to admission**
 24 **criteria, a state educational institution shall accept the Classic**
 25 **Learning Test examination to the same extent the state educational**
 26 **institution accepts the ACT or SAT examination.**

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