
SENATE BILL No. 88

AM008818 has been incorporated into January 29, 2026 printing.

Synopsis: Various education matters.

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SB 88—LS 6452/DI 152



Reprinted
January 29, 2026

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 *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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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 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.

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- 1 (2) Use the highest standards in the United States.
 2 (3) Comply with federal standards to receive a flexibility waiver
 3 under 20 U.S.C. 7861, as in effect on January 1, 2014.
 4 (4) Prepare Indiana students for college and career success,
 5 including the proper preparation for nationally recognized
 6 college entrance examinations such as the ACT, ~~and~~ SAT, or
 7 **Classic Learning Test.**
 8 (5) Maintain Indiana sovereignty.
 9 (6) Provide strict safeguards to protect the confidentiality of
 10 student data.
- 11 (c) The state, or the state board on behalf of the state, may not
 12 enter into or renew an agreement with any organization, entity, group,
 13 or consortium that requires the state to cede any measure of autonomy
 14 or control of education standards and assessments, including cut scores.
 15 The state board may not adopt Common Core (Common Core State
 16 Standards Initiative) or an assessment or test, except as provided in this
 17 subsection, that is produced solely by the United States government or
 18 a consortium of states. However, the state board is not prohibited from
 19 incorporating as part of Indiana's statewide assessments any
 20 assessment, part of an assessment, or series of questions if the
 21 assessment, part of an assessment, or series of questions is aligned to
 22 Indiana's academic standards.
- 23 (d) The state board may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement
 24 this section.
- 25 SECTION 2. IC 20-26-5-48 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 26 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 27 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 48. (a) As used in this section,**
 28 **"student" means an individual who is attending a nonaccredited**
 29 **nonpublic school that has less than one (1) employee.**
- 30 (b) **Subject to subsection (c)(2), a school corporation must**
 31 **allow a student who resides within the boundaries of the school**
 32 **corporation to take the following examinations at a school**
 33 **maintained by the school corporation if the school corporation**
 34 **offers the examination:**
- 35 (1) **Advancement placement examinations.**
 36 (2) **The PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.**
 37 (3) **The SAT.**
 38 (4) **The ACT.**
 39 (5) **The Classic Learning Test.**
 40 (6) **The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.**
 41 **If an examination described in this subsection is not offered by the**
 42 **school corporation in which the student resides, any other school**

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1 corporation that offers the examination must allow the student to
2 take the examination at a school maintained by that school
3 corporation.

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

6 (1) is responsible for the cost of the examination, unless the
7 school corporation agrees to pay the cost; and

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

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

21 (b) The graduation plan developed under subsection (a) must
22 include the following:

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

24 (2) An acknowledgment of the importance of:

25 (A) good citizenship;

26 (B) school attendance; and

27 (C) diligent study habits.

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

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

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

35 (6) Assurances that, upon satisfactory fulfillment of the plan, the
36 student:

37 (A) is entitled to graduate; and

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

41 (7) An indication of assessments (other than the statewide
42 assessment program and the graduation examination (before July

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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.

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

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

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

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

SECTION 4. 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 acquiring additional training in preparation for the workforce;

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- 1 **(B) securing full-time employment; and**
- 2 **(C) waiting until marriage to begin having children.**

- 3 (c) The department shall:
- 4 (1) identify; and
- 5 (2) make available;

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

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

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

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

- 26 (1) Comply with requirements established under federal law
 27 with:
- 28 (A) math and English/language arts assessed yearly in
 29 grades 3 through 8, and at least once in grades 9 through 12;
 30 and
- 31 (B) science assessed at least once in grades 3 through 5,
 32 grades 6 through 9, and grades 10 through 12.

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

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

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

5 (f) The statewide assessment program:
6 (1) may not use technology that may negatively influence the
7 ability to measure a student's mastery of material or a particular
8 academic standard being tested; and
9 (2) may use a technology enhanced test question only when the
10 technology enhanced test question is the best way to measure the
11 academic standard being tested.

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

17 SECTION 6. IC 21-40-4-8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
18 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
19 1, 2026]: **Sec. 8. With respect to admission criteria, a state
20 educational institution shall accept the Classic Learning Test
21 examination to the same extent the state educational institution
22 accepts the ACT or SAT examination.**

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