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# SENATE BILL No. 88

Proposed Changes to January 29, 2026 printing by AM008821

## DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Report. Requires: (1) each state educational institution to provide certain information regarding college entrance exams and admissions; and (2) the commission for higher education to submit a report to the general assembly regarding the information.

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

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1 under 20 U.S.C. 7861, as in effect on January 1, 2014.

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

6 (5) Maintain Indiana sovereignty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (2) An acknowledgment of the importance of:

36 (A) good citizenship;

37 (B) school attendance; and

38 (C) diligent study habits.

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

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

42 (5) A program of study under the college/technology preparation

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1 curriculum adopted by the state board under IC 20-30-10-2 for  
 2 grades 10, 11, and 12 that meets the interests, aptitude, and  
 3 postsecondary goals of the student.

4 (6) Assurances that, upon satisfactory fulfillment of the plan, the  
 5 student:

6 (A) is entitled to graduate; and

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

10 (7) An indication of assessments (other than the statewide  
 11 assessment program and the graduation examination (before July  
 12 1, 2018)) that the student plans to take voluntarily during grade  
 13 10 through grade 12 and which may include any of the  
 14 following:

15 (A) The SAT Reasoning Test.

16 (B) The ACT test.

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

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

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

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

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

25 SECTION 3. IC 20-30-5-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.246-2005,  
 26 SECTION 170, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 27 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) This section applies only to  
 28 public schools.

29 (b) As used in this section, "good citizenship instruction" means  
 30 integrating instruction into the current curriculum that stresses the  
 31 nature and importance of the following:

32 (1) Being honest and truthful.

33 (2) Respecting authority.

34 (3) Respecting the property of others.

35 (4) Always doing the student's personal best.

36 (5) Not stealing.

37 (6) Possessing the skills (including methods of conflict  
 38 resolution) necessary to live peaceably in society and not  
 39 resorting to violence to settle disputes.

40 (7) Taking personal responsibility for obligations to family and  
 41 community.

42 (8) Taking personal responsibility for earning a livelihood.

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- 1 (9) Treating others the way the student would want to be treated.  
 2 (10) Respecting the national flag, the Constitution of the United  
 3 States, and the Constitution of the State of Indiana.  
 4 (11) Respecting the student's parents and home.  
 5 (12) Respecting the student's self.  
 6 (13) Respecting the rights of others to have their own views and  
 7 religious beliefs.  
 8 **(14) The importance of:**  
 9 **(A) obtaining at least a high school diploma and**  
 10 **acquiring additional training in preparation for the**  
 11 **workforce;**  
 12 **(B) securing full-time employment; and**  
 13 **(C) waiting until marriage to begin having children.**  
 14 (c) The department shall:  
 15 (1) identify; and  
 16 (2) make available;  
 17 models of conflict resolution instruction to school corporations. The  
 18 instruction may consist of a teacher education program that applies the  
 19 techniques to the students in the classroom to assist school corporations  
 20 in complying with 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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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 ensure the statewide summative assessment scores are comparable to scale scores used as part of the ISTEP program under IC 20-32-5, before its expiration.

[ SECTION 5. IC 21-18-6-11 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) Each state educational institution shall submit to the commission information on how each state educational institution uses:

(1) the SAT;

(2) the ACT;

(3) the Classic Learning Test; and

(4) any other college entrance exam;

when admitting a student to the institution or a program within the institution.

(b) Not later than December 1, 2026, the commission shall prepare and submit to the general assembly in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 a report regarding the information submitted by state educational institutions under subsection (a).

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1            **(c) This section expires July 1, 2027.**  
2            1    SECTION ~~6~~ [6]. IC 21-40-4-8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
3            CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
4            [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 8. With respect to admission**  
5            **criteria, a state educational institution shall accept the Classic**  
6            **Learning Test examination to the same extent the state educational**  
7            **institution accepts the ACT or SAT examination.**

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