



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST FOR ESB 199

Citations Affected: IC 20-26-14-6; IC 20-28; IC 20-30-5-7.4; IC 20-32; IC 21-18.

Synopsis: Various education matters. Makes changes to the composition of the case review panel established by an interscholastic athletic association. Requires the secretary of education, not later than December 1, 2026, to identify key metrics and activities concerning civic literacy and to submit the information to the general assembly. Requires the secretary of education, not later than December 1, 2026, to identify and make certain recommendations concerning paid leave for employees following certain events and to submit the findings to the general assembly. Provides that certain requirements apply to schools in which, over the course of three consecutive years, fewer than 75% of students achieved a valid passing score on the determinant evaluation of reading skills. Requires the commission for higher education (commission), not later than December 1, 2026, to evaluate accrediting agencies of state educational institutions and to report the commission's findings and recommendations to the general assembly. Provides that state educational institutions with degree programs that meet the definition of a low earning outcome program under federal law must request approval from the commission to continue the degree program. **(This conference committee report does the following: (1) Includes the placement of a child in foster care with an employee to the list of events the secretary of education must make certain recommendations on concerning paid leave. (2) Removes provisions: (A) establishing requirements and restrictions regarding adolescent use of social media; and (B) making a violation of the requirements and restrictions a deceptive act.)**

Effective: Upon passage; July 1, 2026.



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MR. PRESIDENT:

Your Conference Committee appointed to confer with a like committee from the House upon Engrossed House Amendments to Engrossed Senate Bill No. 199 respectfully reports that said two committees have conferred and agreed as follows to wit:

that the Senate recede from its dissent from all House amendments and that the Senate now concur in all House amendments to the bill and that the bill be further amended as follows:

- 1 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:
- 2 SECTION 1. IC 20-26-14-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.43-2021,
- 3 SECTION 78, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 4 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) The association must establish a case review
- 5 panel that meets the following requirements:
- 6 (1) The panel has nine (9) members.
- 7 (2) The secretary of education or the secretary's designee is a
- 8 member of the panel and is the chairperson of the panel.
- 9 (3) The secretary of education appoints as members of the panel
- 10 persons having the following qualifications:
- 11 (A) Four (4) parents of high school students.
- 12 ~~(B) Two (2) high school principals.~~
- 13 ~~(C) Two (2) high school athletic directors.~~
- 14 **(B) Four (4) school administrators.**
- 15 (4) The secretary of education shall administer the functions of
- 16 the panel.
- 17 (5) A member of the panel serves for a four (4) year term, subject
- 18 to the following:
- 19 (A) An appointee who ceases to meet the member's
- 20 qualification under subdivision (3) ceases to be a member of
- 21 the panel.

- 1 (B) The secretary of education shall appoint fifty percent
 2 (50%) of the initial appointees under each clause in
 3 subdivision (3) for terms of two (2) years, so that terms of the
 4 panel are staggered.
- 5 (6) The panel must meet monthly, unless there are no cases before
 6 the panel. The panel may meet more frequently at the call of the
 7 chairperson. However, the chairperson must call a meeting within
 8 five (5) business days, or as soon thereafter as a quorum can be
 9 assembled, after the panel receives a case in which time is a factor
 10 in relation to the scheduling of an athletic competition.
- 11 (7) A quorum of the panel is five (5) members. The affirmative
 12 vote of the greater of the majority present or four (4) members of
 13 the panel is required for the panel to take action.
- 14 (b) A student's parent who disagrees with a decision of the
 15 association concerning the application or interpretation of a rule of the
 16 association to the student shall have the right to do one (1) of the
 17 following:
- 18 (1) Accept the decision.
- 19 (2) Refer the case to the panel. The parent must refer the case to
 20 the panel not later than thirty (30) days after the date of the
 21 association's decision.
- 22 (c) After a case is referred under subsection (b)(2), the panel must
 23 do the following:
- 24 (1) Collect testimony and information on the case, including
 25 testimony and information from both the association and the
 26 parent.
- 27 (2) Place the case on the panel's agenda and consider the case at
 28 a meeting of the panel.
- 29 (3) Not later than ten (10) business days after the meeting at
 30 which the panel considers the case, issue a written decision that
 31 does one (1) of the following:
- 32 (A) Upholds the association's decision on the case.
- 33 (B) Modifies the association's decision on the case.
- 34 (C) Nullifies the association's decision on the case.
- 35 (d) Subject to section 7 of this chapter, the association must
 36 implement the decision of the panel on each case. However, a decision
 37 of the panel:
- 38 (1) applies only to the case before the panel; and
 39 (2) does not affect any rule of the association or decision under
 40 any rule concerning any student other than the student whose
 41 parent referred the case to the panel.
- 42 (e) The association shall pay all costs attributable to the operation
 43 of the panel, including travel and a stipend of at least fifty dollars (\$50)
 44 for each meeting for panel members.
- 45 SECTION 2. IC 20-28-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.190-2025,
 46 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 47 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this section, "teacher
 48 candidate" means an individual recommended for an initial teaching
 49 license from a teacher preparation program located in Indiana.
- 50 (b) As used in this section, "teacher preparation program" includes,

- 1 but is not limited to, the following:
- 2 (1) A teacher education school or department.
- 3 (2) A transition to teaching program under IC 20-28-4.
- 4 (3) Any other entity approved by the department to offer a course
- 5 of study leading to an initial teaching license.
- 6 (c) The department shall:
- 7 (1) arrange a statewide system of professional instruction for
- 8 teacher education;
- 9 (2) accredit and review teacher preparation programs that comply
- 10 with the rules of the department;
- 11 (3) approve content area licensure programs for particular kinds
- 12 of teachers in accredited teacher preparation programs; and
- 13 (4) specify the types of licenses for individuals who complete
- 14 programs of approved courses.
- 15 (d) The department shall work with teacher preparation programs to
- 16 develop a system of teacher education that ensures individuals who
- 17 complete teacher preparation programs are able to meet the highest
- 18 professional standards.
- 19 (e) Before July 1, 2015, the department shall establish standards for
- 20 the continuous improvement of program processes and the performance
- 21 of individuals who complete teacher preparation programs. The state
- 22 board shall adopt rules containing the standards not later than two
- 23 hundred seventy (270) days after the department finishes the standards.
- 24 (f) The standards established under subsection (e) must include
- 25 benchmarks for performance, including test score data for each teacher
- 26 preparation entity on content area licensure tests and test score data for
- 27 each teacher preparation entity on pedagogy licensure tests.
- 28 (g) Each teacher preparation program shall annually report the
- 29 program's performance on the standards and benchmarks established
- 30 under this section to the department. The department shall make the
- 31 information reported under this subsection available to the public on
- 32 the department's website. Each teacher preparation program shall make
- 33 the information reported under this subsection available to the public
- 34 on the teacher preparation program's website. In addition to reporting
- 35 performance, each teacher preparation program must report to the
- 36 department the following:
- 37 (1) The attrition, retention, and completion rates of teacher
- 38 candidates for the previous three (3) calendar years. The teacher
- 39 preparation program must also provide underlying data, as
- 40 determined by the department, used as part of calculating the
- 41 teacher preparation program's retention rates.
- 42 (2) The number of teacher candidates in each content area who
- 43 complete the teacher preparation program during the year,
- 44 disaggregated by ranges of cumulative grade point averages.
- 45 (3) The number of teacher candidates in each content area who,
- 46 during the year:
- 47 (A) do not pass a content area licensure examination; and
- 48 (B) do not retake the content area licensure examination.
- 49 (h) In making information available to the public on the
- 50 department's website, the department shall include in the report under

1 subsection (g), in addition to the matrix ratings described in subsection
2 (i), the following information:

3 (1) Average scaled or standard scores of teacher candidates who
4 complete teacher preparation programs on basic skills, content
5 area, and pedagogy licensure examinations.

6 (2) The average number of times teacher candidates who
7 complete a teacher preparation program take each licensing test
8 before receiving a passing score and the percentage of teacher
9 candidates who receive a passing score on each licensing test on
10 the teacher candidates' first attempts.

11 (i) Not later than July 30, 2016, the department and the commission
12 for higher education, in conjunction with the state board, the
13 Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc., and teacher preparation
14 programs, shall establish a matrix rating system for teacher preparation
15 programs based on the performance of the programs as demonstrated
16 by the data collected under subsections (g) and (h). The matrix rating
17 system must be based on data collected for teachers who initially
18 receive their teaching license during the previous three (3) years. The
19 department shall make the matrix ratings available to the public on the
20 department's website.

21 (j) Each teacher preparation program shall report to the department,
22 in a manner prescribed by the department, the teacher preparation
23 program's admission practices, in accordance with:

24 (1) the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
25 standards, for teacher preparation programs accredited by the
26 Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation;

27 (2) rigorous academic entry requirements for admission into a
28 teacher preparatory program that are equivalent to the minimum
29 academic requirements determined by the Council for the
30 Accreditation of Educator Preparation, for teacher preparation
31 programs that are not accredited by the Council for the
32 Accreditation of Educator Preparation; ~~or~~

33 (3) the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator
34 Preparation standards, for teacher preparation programs
35 accredited by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator
36 Preparation; **or**

37 **(4) the department's admission standards for teacher
38 preparation programs accredited by the department.**

39 The department shall include information reported to the department
40 on the department's website.

41 (k) Not later than July 30, 2016, the department and the commission
42 for higher education, in conjunction with the state board, the
43 Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc., and teacher preparation
44 programs, shall establish a minimum rating under the matrix rating
45 system established under subsection (i) that teacher preparation
46 programs must achieve to avoid referral under subsection (l).

47 (l) Not later than July 1 of each year, the department shall submit a
48 list of teacher preparation programs that do not meet the minimum
49 rating established under subsection (k) or the requirements of section
50 3.1 or 3.2 of this chapter to the commission for higher education and

1 the Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. for one (1) of the following
2 actions:

3 (1) In the case of a state educational institution, the commission
4 for higher education shall place the teacher preparation program
5 on an improvement plan with clear performance goals and a
6 designated period in which the performance goals must be
7 achieved.

8 (2) In the case of a proprietary postsecondary educational
9 institution, the commission for higher education shall recommend
10 to the teacher preparation program an improvement plan with
11 clear performance goals and a designated period in which the
12 performance goals should be achieved.

13 (3) In the case of a nonprofit college or university, the
14 Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc., shall coordinate a peer
15 review process to make recommendations to the peer institution
16 in achieving the department's performance metrics.

17 (m) The department shall approve at least two (2) accreditors that:

18 (1) accredit teacher preparation programs; and

19 (2) are recognized by the Council for Higher Education
20 Accreditation;

21 to accredit teacher preparation programs for use in Indiana. **The**
22 **department may also serve as an accreditor in addition to the two**
23 **(2) accreditors approved under this subsection.**

24 (n) Not later than December 31, 2024, the department and the
25 commission for higher education, in conjunction with the state board,
26 shall partner with teacher preparation programs to receive an outside
27 evaluation by a nationally recognized nonprofit, nonpartisan
28 organization that leverages evidence based approaches on the science
29 of reading to evaluate teacher preparation reading instruction programs.

30 SECTION 3. IC 20-28-10-20 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
31 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
32 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 20. (a) As used in this section,**
33 **"stillbirth" means a birth after twenty (20) weeks of gestation that**
34 **is not a live birth.**

35 **(b) Not later than December 1, 2026, the secretary of education**
36 **shall do the following:**

37 **(1) Identify school corporations that provide employees paid**
38 **leave upon any of the following events:**

39 **(A) The birth of an employee's child.**

40 **(B) The birth of a child to an employee's spouse.**

41 **(C) The placement of a child for adoption with an**
42 **employee.**

43 **(D) The placement of a child in foster care with an**
44 **employee.**

45 **(E) The stillbirth of an employee's child.**

46 **(2) Identify the length of paid leave school corporations**
47 **provide for each event under subdivision (1).**

48 **(3) Make recommendations concerning paid leave for**
49 **employees for each event under subdivision (1).**

50 **(4) Submit the findings and recommendations under this**
51 **subsection to the general assembly in an electronic format**

1 **under IC 5-14-6.**

2 **(c) This section expires July 1, 2027.**

3 SECTION 4. IC 20-30-5-7.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
4 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
5 1, 2026]: **Sec. 7.4. (a) Not later than December 1, 2026, the**
6 **secretary of education shall do the following:**

7 **(1) Identify key metrics and activities to be used to measure**
8 **civic literacy and engagement in kindergarten through grade**
9 **12 and postsecondary education.**

10 **(2) Submit the metrics identified under subdivision (1) to the**
11 **general assembly in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.**

12 **(b) This section expires July 1, 2027.**

13 SECTION 5. IC 20-32-5.1-17, AS AMENDED BY P.L.150-2024,
14 SECTION 55, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
15 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 17. (a) The state board shall approve two (2) or
16 more benchmark, formative, interim, or similar assessments to identify
17 students that require remediation and provide individualized instruction
18 in which a school corporation, charter school, state accredited
19 nonpublic school, or eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) may
20 receive a grant under subsection (g).

21 (b) For a benchmark, formative, interim, or similar assessment
22 described in subsection (a) that is administered to students in
23 kindergarten through grade 2, the assessment must meet one (1) or
24 more of the following:

25 (1) The assessment:

26 (A) focuses on English/language arts; and

27 (B) shows alignment, verified by a third party, to Indiana's
28 academic standards for English/language arts domains,
29 specifically foundational reading skills.

30 (2) The assessment is a universal screener that:

31 (A) meets the screening requirements listed in IC 20-35.5-2-2;

32 (B) measures foundational reading skills;

33 (C) received a convincing or partially convincing rating for
34 accuracy, reliability, and validity by the National Center on
35 Intensive Intervention or a nationally recognized dyslexia
36 assessment expert;

37 (D) screens for early literacy skill deficits;

38 (E) provides parents and schools with data analysis guides for
39 interpreting results and comprehensive support for schools to
40 guide classroom instruction and the implementation of reading
41 interventions; and

42 (F) provides the department with an annual analysis of
43 statewide data trends to support identification of early literacy
44 skill deficits and guides targeted intervention efforts.

45 (3) The assessment focuses on numeracy and shows alignment,
46 verified by a third party, to Indiana's academic standards for
47 mathematical domains, specifically:

48 (A) number sense;

49 (B) computation and algebraic thinking; and

50 (C) measurement.

51 (c) For a benchmark, formative, interim, or similar assessment

1 described in subsection (a) that is administered to students in grades 3
2 through 7, the assessment must show alignment, verified by a third
3 party, to Indiana's academic standards.

4 (d) For a benchmark, formative, interim, or similar assessment
5 described in subsection (a) that is administered to students in grades 8
6 through 10, the assessment must show alignment, verified by a third
7 party, to:

8 (1) Indiana's academic standards; or

9 (2) the nationally recognized college entrance exam required to be
10 administered under section 7 of this chapter.

11 (e) This subsection does not apply to an assessment that is a
12 universal screener described in subsection (b)(2). The majority of the
13 benchmark, formative, interim, or similar assessment reporting must
14 indicate the degree to which students are on track for grade level
15 proficiency and college and career readiness. Approved assessments
16 must also provide predictive study results for student performance on
17 the statewide summative assessment under section 7 of this chapter, not
18 later than two (2) years after the statewide summative assessment has
19 been first administered.

20 (f) This subsection does not apply to an assessment that is a
21 universal screener described in subsection (b)(2). A school corporation,
22 charter school, state accredited nonpublic school, or eligible school (as
23 defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) may elect to administer a benchmark,
24 formative, interim, or similar assessment described in subsection (a).
25 If a school corporation, charter school, state accredited nonpublic
26 school, or eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) administers an
27 assessment described in subsection (a), the school corporation, charter
28 school, state accredited nonpublic school, or eligible school (as defined
29 in IC 20-51-1-4.7) may prescribe the time and the manner in which the
30 assessment is administered.

31 (g) If a school corporation, charter school, state accredited
32 nonpublic school, or eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7)
33 elects to administer a benchmark, formative, interim, or similar
34 assessment described in subsection (a), the school corporation, charter
35 school, state accredited nonpublic school, or eligible school (as defined
36 in IC 20-51-1-4.7) is entitled to receive a grant or reimbursement from
37 the department in an amount not to exceed the cost of the assessment.
38 The department shall provide grants and reimbursements to a school
39 corporation, charter school, state accredited nonpublic school, or
40 eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) under this section from
41 money appropriated to the department for the purpose of carrying out
42 this section.

43 (h) Except as provided in subsection (j), the state board and the
44 department may not contract with, approve, or endorse the use of a
45 single vendor to provide benchmark, formative, interim, or similar
46 assessments for any grade level or levels of kindergarten through grade
47 7.

48 (i) Before the state board may approve a benchmark, formative,
49 interim, or similar assessment described in subsection (a), the
50 assessment vendor must enter into a data share agreement with the

1 department in the manner prescribed by the department. A vendor
 2 providing an assessment described in subsection (b)(2) shall provide
 3 a summary of a student's assessment results to the student and the
 4 student's parents. The summary of the results must be in an
 5 understandable format for parents that is easy to read.

6 (j) The department shall procure a preferred assessment that meets
 7 the requirements specified in subsection (b)(2) for use by schools in
 8 which, **over the course of three (3) consecutive years**, fewer than
 9 **seventy percent (70%) an average of seventy-five percent (75%)** of
 10 students in the school achieved a valid passing score on the
 11 determinant evaluation of reading skills approved by the state board.

12 (k) This subsection applies to:

- 13 (1) a public school, including a charter school;
- 14 (2) a state accredited nonpublic school; and
- 15 (3) an eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7).

16 An elementary school shall administer an assessment described in
 17 subsection (b)(2) to students in kindergarten through grade 2. The
 18 department shall provide guidance as to the number of times the
 19 assessment is required and when the administrations of the assessment
 20 should occur.

21 SECTION 6. IC 20-32-8.5-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025,
 22 SECTION 291, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 23 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) Except as provided in
 24 subsection (b), the plan required by this chapter must include the
 25 following:

- 26 (1) Reading skill standards for grade 1 through grade 3.
- 27 (2) A method for making determinant evaluations by grade 3 that
 28 remedial action is required for a student, including:
 29 (A) except as provided in subsections (c) and (g), beginning
 30 with evaluations administered during the 2024-2025 school
 31 year, retention of the student in grade 3 if the student has not
 32 achieved a passing score on the determinant evaluation of
 33 reading skills approved by the state board after the student has
 34 had an opportunity to retake the determinant evaluation at least
 35 twice in the summer; and
 36 (B) the use of curricular materials and supplemental materials
 37 aligned to the science of reading that are designed to address
 38 deficiencies in reading;

39 after other methods of remediation have been evaluated or used,
 40 or both, if reading skills are below the standard. Appropriate
 41 consultation with parents or guardians must be part of the plan.

42 (3) A requirement that schools notify a student's parent of the
 43 following:

- 44 (A) The student's assessment results regarding skill level in:
 45 (i) phonemic awareness;
 46 (ii) phonics;
 47 (iii) fluency;
 48 (iv) vocabulary; and
 49 (v) comprehension.
- 50 (B) The student's assessment results on the determinant

- 1 evaluation of reading skills approved by the state board.
 2 (C) Any intervention provided to the student or any remedial
 3 action taken.
- 4 (4) A requirement that schools monitor the progress of students
 5 who failed to achieve a valid passing score on the:
 6 (A) determinant evaluation of reading skills approved by the
 7 state board; or
 8 (B) statewide assessment program test.
- 9 (5) A requirement that schools provide reading instruction that
 10 includes a core reading program aligned with the science of
 11 reading to all students in kindergarten through grade 8.
- 12 (6) A requirement for the administration of the determinant
 13 evaluation of reading skills approved by the state board to
 14 students in grade 2.
- 15 (7) A requirement that all students take the determinant
 16 evaluation of reading skills approved by the state board until the
 17 student:
 18 (A) receives a passing score, regardless of the student's grade
 19 level; or
 20 (B) enters grade 7.
- 21 (8) A requirement that a school report the following to the
 22 department:
 23 (A) The literacy interventions that will be used for students in
 24 grade 2 who are at risk of not being reading proficient and
 25 students in grade 3 who do not achieve a valid passing score
 26 on the determinant evaluation of reading skills approved by
 27 the state board.
 28 (B) The literacy interventions in use before the adoption of the
 29 plan for students in grade 2 who are at risk of not being
 30 reading proficient and students in grade 3 who do not achieve
 31 a valid passing score on the determinant evaluation of reading
 32 skills approved by the state board.
 33 (C) The literacy interventions in use before the adoption of the
 34 plan for students who do not achieve a valid passing score on
 35 the determinant evaluation of reading skills approved by the
 36 state board.
 37 (D) The number of students being served by the interventions
 38 described in clauses (B) and (C).
 39 (E) The cost of providing the interventions described in
 40 clauses (B) and (C).
 41 (F) Any other information requested by the department.
- 42 (9) Requirements for a school in which, **over the course of three**
 43 **(3) consecutive years, fewer than seventy an average of**
 44 **seventy-five percent (~~70%~~) (75%)** of students of the school
 45 achieved a valid passing score on the determinant evaluation of
 46 reading skills approved by the state board that must include the
 47 following:
 48 (A) Use of curriculum that is:
 49 (i) based on the science of reading;
 50 (ii) age appropriate; and

- 1 (iii) approved by the department.
- 2 (B) Employment of the following:
- 3 (i) Before July 1, 2025, an instructional coach who is trained
- 4 in the science of reading, as determined by the department.
- 5 This item expires January 1, 2026.
- 6 (ii) After June 30, 2025, an instructional coach with a
- 7 literacy related endorsement who is trained in the science of
- 8 reading.
- 9 (C) Use of only benchmark, formative, interim, or similar
- 10 assessments that:
- 11 (i) show alignment with Indiana's academic standards; and
- 12 (ii) are approved by the department.
- 13 (D) Use of a screener procured under IC 20-32-5.1-17(j).
- 14 (10) The fiscal impact of each component of the plan, if any. In
- 15 determining whether a component has a fiscal impact,
- 16 consideration shall be given to whether the component will
- 17 increase costs to the state or a school corporation or require the
- 18 state or school corporation to reallocate resources.
- 19 (b) A school may receive a waiver of the requirements provided in
- 20 511 IAC 6.2-3.1-4(a)(2) if the state board approves an alternative
- 21 reading plan provided by the school.
- 22 (c) Except as approved by the department under subsection (g), a
- 23 student who would otherwise be subject to retention in grade 3 under
- 24 the plan is not subject to the retention requirement only if the student
- 25 meets one (1) of the following criteria:
- 26 (1) The student was subject to retention and has been retained in
- 27 grade 3 for one (1) school year.
- 28 (2) The student has an intellectual disability or the student's
- 29 individualized education program specifies that retention is not
- 30 appropriate, and the student's case conference committee has
- 31 determined that promotion to another grade is appropriate.
- 32 (3) The student is an English learner who has received services
- 33 for fewer than two (2) years and a committee consisting of:
- 34 (A) the student's parent;
- 35 (B) a building level administrator or designee;
- 36 (C) a classroom teacher of service;
- 37 (D) an English learner teacher of record, if one exists; and
- 38 (E) an English learner district administrator, if one exists;
- 39 determines that promotion is appropriate based on the
- 40 implementation of research based instructional practices outlined
- 41 in the student's individual learning plan.
- 42 (4) The student received a score of proficient or above proficient
- 43 in grade 3 math on the statewide summative assessment.
- 44 (5) The student:
- 45 (A) has received intensive intervention as determined by the
- 46 department in reading for two (2) or more years; and
- 47 (B) was retained more than one (1) time throughout
- 48 kindergarten, grade 1, or grade 2.
- 49 (d) A student who is not subject to the retention requirement as
- 50 provided under subsection (c) must be provided with additional reading

1 instruction that is aligned with the science of reading until the student
2 achieves a passing score on the determinant evaluation of reading skills
3 approved by the state board.

4 (e) Before October 1 of each school year, the department shall:

5 (1) identify each incoming student (as defined in section 0.7 of
6 this chapter) enrolled in kindergarten in a school in Indiana; and

7 (2) notify the parent or guardian of the student of the retention
8 requirement under this chapter for grade 3 students who do not
9 achieve a passing score on the Indiana reading evaluation and
10 determination (IRead3).

11 (f) The department shall establish a standard reporting process and
12 reporting window for schools to report students who qualify for an
13 exemption under subsection (c).

14 (g) The department shall establish a registration process for schools
15 to exempt an English language learner who:

16 (1) does not achieve a passing score on the determinant
17 evaluation of reading skills approved by the state board; and

18 (2) attends a school that has a student population comprised of at
19 least fifty percent (50%) of English language learners in grade 3,
20 as determined by the department;

21 from compliance with the requirements under subsection (a)(2)(A)
22 until the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year. This subsection
23 expires July 1, 2028.

24 SECTION 7. IC 20-32-8.5-5, AS ADDED BY P.L.199-2025,
25 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
26 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) As used in this section, "Indiana literacy
27 cadre" refers to the department's collaborative professional
28 development initiative for educators that is aligned with the science of
29 reading.

30 (b) Subject to available funding, a school in which, **over the course**
31 **of three (3) consecutive years**, fewer than ~~seventy percent (70%)~~ **an**
32 **average of seventy-five percent (75%)** of students of the school
33 achieved a valid passing score on the determinant evaluation of reading
34 approved by the state board must participate in the Indiana literacy
35 cadre.

36 SECTION 8. IC 21-18-6-10 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
37 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
38 1, 2026]: **Sec. 10. (a) Not later than December 1, 2026, the**
39 **commission shall do the following:**

40 **(1) Evaluate accrediting agencies or associations that**
41 **currently accredit:**

42 **(A) state educational institutions; or**

43 **(B) degree programs offered by state educational**
44 **institutions.**

45 **(2) Identify and evaluate innovative accrediting agencies or**
46 **associations, including those not yet recognized by the United**
47 **States Department of Education, that do not currently**
48 **accredit state educational institutions.**

49 **(3) Identify potential alternative agencies, associations, or**
50 **methods to accredit degree programs offered by state**
51 **educational institutions.**

1 **(4) Provide a report in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6**
 2 **to the general assembly that includes:**

3 **(A) the commission's findings under subdivisions (1)**
 4 **through (3); and**

5 **(B) recommendations concerning accrediting agencies or**
 6 **associations identified in subdivisions (2) and (3) that may**
 7 **be best suited to serve as an accreditor for state**
 8 **educational institutions or degree programs.**

9 **(b) This section expires July 1, 2027.**

10 SECTION 9. IC 21-18-9-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.213-2025,
 11 SECTION 248, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 12 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.7. (a) For each state educational
 13 institution degree program, if: ~~the:~~

14 (1) ~~the:~~

15 **(A)** average number of students who graduate over the
 16 immediately preceding three (3) years is fewer than:

17 ~~(A)~~ **(i)** ten (10) students for a particular associate degree
 18 program;

19 ~~(B)~~ **(ii)** fifteen (15) students for a particular bachelor's
 20 degree program;

21 ~~(C)~~ **(iii)** seven (7) students for a particular master's degree
 22 program;

23 ~~(D)~~ **(iv)** three (3) students for a particular education
 24 specialist program; or

25 ~~(E)~~ **(v)** three (3) students for a particular doctorate degree
 26 program; ~~and or~~

27 **(B) degree program meets the definition of a low earning**
 28 **outcome program under the Higher Education Act (20**
 29 **U.S.C. 1087d); and**

30 (2) ~~the~~ state educational institution would like to continue a
 31 degree program described in subdivision (1);

32 the state educational institution must request approval from the
 33 commission to continue the degree program.

34 (b) If the commission does not grant approval under subsection (a),
 35 the state educational institution must eliminate:

36 (1) the degree program; and

37 (2) any costs associated with the degree program.

38 SECTION 10. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] **(a) 511**
 39 **IAC 13-1-1(b)(6) is void. The publisher of the Indiana**
 40 **Administrative Code and Indiana Register shall remove this**
 41 **provision from the Indiana Administrative Code.**

42 **(b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2027.**

43 SECTION 11. **An emergency is declared for this act.**

(Reference is to ESB 199 as reprinted February 17, 2026.)

Conference Committee Report
on
Engrossed Senate Bill 199

Signed by:

Senator Raatz
Chairperson

Representative Behning

Senator Walker K.

Representative Teshka

Senate Conferees

House Conferees