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SENATE BILL No. 199

Proposed Changes to January 29, 2026 printing by AM019908

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Alternative accrediting agencies. Removes a provision that requires the commission for higher education, 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.

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

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- 1 qualification under subdivision (3) ceases to be a member
2 of the panel.
- 3 (B) The secretary of education shall appoint fifty percent
4 (50%) of the initial appointees under each clause in
5 subdivision (3) for terms of two (2) years, so that terms of
6 the panel are staggered.
- 7 (6) The panel must meet monthly, unless there are no cases
8 before the panel. The panel may meet more frequently at the call
9 of the chairperson. However, the chairperson must call a meeting
10 within five (5) business days, or as soon thereafter as a quorum
11 can be assembled, after the panel receives a case in which time
12 is a factor in relation to the scheduling of an athletic competition.
- 13 (7) A quorum of the panel is five (5) members. The affirmative
14 vote of the greater of the majority present or four (4) members of
15 the panel is required for the panel to take action.
- 16 (b) A student's parent who disagrees with a decision of the
17 association concerning the application or interpretation of a rule of the
18 association to the student shall have the right to do one (1) of the
19 following:
- 20 (1) Accept the decision.
- 21 (2) Refer the case to the panel. The parent must refer the case to
22 the panel not later than thirty (30) days after the date of the
23 association's decision.
- 24 (c) After a case is referred under subsection (b)(2), the panel must
25 do the following:
- 26 (1) Collect testimony and information on the case, including
27 testimony and information from both the association and the
28 parent.
- 29 (2) Place the case on the panel's agenda and consider the case at
30 a meeting of the panel.
- 31 (3) Not later than ten (10) business days after the meeting at
32 which the panel considers the case, issue a written decision that
33 does one (1) of the following:
- 34 (A) Upholds the association's decision on the case.
- 35 (B) Modifies the association's decision on the case.
- 36 (C) Nullifies the association's decision on the case.
- 37 (d) Subject to section 7 of this chapter, the association must
38 implement the decision of the panel on each case. However, a decision
39 of the panel:
- 40 (1) applies only to the case before the panel; and
41 (2) does not affect any rule of the association or decision under
42 any rule concerning any student other than the student whose

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1 parent referred the case to the panel.
 2 (e) The association shall pay all costs attributable to the operation
 3 of the panel, including travel and a stipend of at least fifty dollars (\$50)
 4 for each meeting for panel members.
 5 SECTION 2. IC 20-28-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.190-2025,
 6 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 7 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this section, "teacher
 8 candidate" means an individual recommended for an initial teaching
 9 license from a teacher preparation program located in Indiana.
 10 (b) As used in this section, "teacher preparation program"
 11 includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 12 (1) A teacher education school or department.
 13 (2) A transition to teaching program under IC 20-28-4.
 14 (3) Any other entity approved by the department to offer a course
 15 of study leading to an initial teaching license.
 16 (c) The department shall:
 17 (1) arrange a statewide system of professional instruction for
 18 teacher education;
 19 (2) accredit and review teacher preparation programs that
 20 comply with the rules of the department;
 21 (3) approve content area licensure programs for particular kinds
 22 of teachers in accredited teacher preparation programs; and
 23 (4) specify the types of licenses for individuals who complete
 24 programs of approved courses.
 25 (d) The department shall work with teacher preparation programs
 26 to develop a system of teacher education that ensures individuals who
 27 complete teacher preparation programs are able to meet the highest
 28 professional standards.
 29 (e) Before July 1, 2015, the department shall establish standards
 30 for the continuous improvement of program processes and the
 31 performance of individuals who complete teacher preparation
 32 programs. The state board shall adopt rules containing the standards
 33 not later than two hundred seventy (270) days after the department
 34 finishes the standards.
 35 (f) The standards established under subsection (e) must include
 36 benchmarks for performance, including test score data for each teacher
 37 preparation entity on content area licensure tests and test score data for
 38 each teacher preparation entity on pedagogy licensure tests.
 39 (g) Each teacher preparation program shall annually report the
 40 program's performance on the standards and benchmarks established
 41 under this section to the department. The department shall make the
 42 information reported under this subsection available to the public on

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1 the department's website. Each teacher preparation program shall make
 2 the information reported under this subsection available to the public
 3 on the teacher preparation program's website. In addition to reporting
 4 performance, each teacher preparation program must report to the
 5 department the following:

6 (1) The attrition, retention, and completion rates of teacher
 7 candidates for the previous three (3) calendar years. The teacher
 8 preparation program must also provide underlying data, as
 9 determined by the department, used as part of calculating the
 10 teacher preparation program's retention rates.

11 (2) The number of teacher candidates in each content area who
 12 complete the teacher preparation program during the year,
 13 disaggregated by ranges of cumulative grade point averages.

14 (3) The number of teacher candidates in each content area who,
 15 during the year:

16 (A) do not pass a content area licensure examination; and

17 (B) do not retake the content area licensure examination.

18 (h) In making information available to the public on the
 19 department's website, the department shall include in the report under
 20 subsection (g), in addition to the matrix ratings described in subsection
 21 (i), the following information:

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

25 (2) The average number of times teacher candidates who
 26 complete a teacher preparation program take each licensing test
 27 before receiving a passing score and the percentage of teacher
 28 candidates who receive a passing score on each licensing test on
 29 the teacher candidates' first attempts.

30 (i) Not later than July 30, 2016, the department and the
 31 commission for higher education, in conjunction with the state board,
 32 the Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc., and teacher preparation
 33 programs, shall establish a matrix rating system for teacher preparation
 34 programs based on the performance of the programs as demonstrated
 35 by the data collected under subsections (g) and (h). The matrix rating
 36 system must be based on data collected for teachers who initially
 37 receive their teaching license during the previous three (3) years. The
 38 department shall make the matrix ratings available to the public on the
 39 department's website.

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

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- 1 (1) the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
- 2 standards, for teacher preparation programs accredited by the
- 3 Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation;
- 4 (2) rigorous academic entry requirements for admission into a
- 5 teacher preparatory program that are equivalent to the minimum
- 6 academic requirements determined by the Council for the
- 7 Accreditation of Educator Preparation, for teacher preparation
- 8 programs that are not accredited by the Council for the
- 9 Accreditation of Educator Preparation; ~~or~~
- 10 (3) the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator
- 11 Preparation standards, for teacher preparation programs
- 12 accredited by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator
- 13 Preparation; **or**
- 14 **(4) the department's admission standards for teacher**
- 15 **preparation programs accredited by the department.**

16 The department shall include information reported to the department
 17 on the department's website.

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

24 (l) Not later than July 1 of each year, the department shall submit
 25 a list of teacher preparation programs that do not meet the minimum
 26 rating established under subsection (k) or the requirements of section
 27 3.1 or 3.2 of this chapter to the commission for higher education and
 28 the Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. for one (1) of the following
 29 actions:

30 (1) In the case of a state educational institution, the commission
 31 for higher education shall place the teacher preparation program
 32 on an improvement plan with clear performance goals and a
 33 designated period in which the performance goals must be
 34 achieved.

35 (2) In the case of a proprietary postsecondary educational
 36 institution, the commission for higher education shall
 37 recommend to the teacher preparation program an improvement
 38 plan with clear performance goals and a designated period in
 39 which the performance goals should be achieved.

40 (3) In the case of a nonprofit college or university, the
 41 Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc., shall coordinate a peer
 42 review process to make recommendations to the peer institution

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1 in achieving the department's performance metrics.
 2 (m) The department shall approve at least two (2) accreditors that:
 3 (1) accredit teacher preparation programs; and
 4 (2) are recognized by the Council for Higher Education
 5 Accreditation;
 6 to accredit teacher preparation programs for use in Indiana. **The**
 7 **department may also serve as an accreditor in addition to the two**
 8 **(2) accreditors approved under this subsection.**

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

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

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

- 22 (1) **Identify school corporations that provide employees paid**
- 23 **leave upon any of the following events:**
 - 24 (A) **The birth of an employee's child.**
 - 25 (B) **The birth of a child to an employee's spouse.**
 - 26 (C) **The placement of a child for adoption with an**
 - 27 **employee.**
 - 28 (D) **The stillbirth of an employee's child.**
- 29 (2) **Identify the length of paid leave school corporations**
- 30 **provide for each event under subdivision (1).**
- 31 (3) **Make recommendations concerning paid leave for**
- 32 **employees for each event under subdivision (1).**
- 33 (4) **Submit the findings and recommendations under this**
- 34 **subsection to the general assembly in an electronic format**
- 35 **under IC 5-14-6.**

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

37 SECTION 4. IC 20-30-5-7.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 38 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 39 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 7.4. (a) Not later than December**
 40 **1, 2026, the secretary of education shall do the following:**

- 41 (1) **Identify key metrics and activities to be used to measure**
- 42 **civic literacy and engagement in kindergarten through grade**

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- 1 **12 and postsecondary education.**
 2 **(2) Submit the metrics identified under subdivision (1) to the**
 3 **general assembly in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.**
 4 **(b) This section expires July 1, 2027.**
 5 SECTION 5. IC 20-32-8.5-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025,
 6 SECTION 291, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 7 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) Except as provided in
 8 subsection (b), the plan required by this chapter must include the
 9 following:
 10 (1) Reading skill standards for grade 1 through grade 3.
 11 (2) A method for making determinant evaluations by grade 3 that
 12 remedial action is required for a student, including:
 13 (A) except as provided in subsections (c) and (g), beginning
 14 with evaluations administered during the 2024-2025 school
 15 year, retention of the student in grade 3 if the student has
 16 not achieved a passing score on the determinant evaluation
 17 of reading skills approved by the state board after the
 18 student has had an opportunity to retake the determinant
 19 evaluation at least twice in the summer; and
 20 (B) the use of curricular materials and supplemental
 21 materials aligned to the science of reading that are designed
 22 to address deficiencies in reading;
 23 after other methods of remediation have been evaluated or used,
 24 or both, if reading skills are below the standard. Appropriate
 25 consultation with parents or guardians must be part of the plan.
 26 (3) A requirement that schools notify a student's parent of the
 27 following:
 28 (A) The student's assessment results regarding skill level in:
 29 (i) phonemic awareness;
 30 (ii) phonics;
 31 (iii) fluency;
 32 (iv) vocabulary; and
 33 (v) comprehension.
 34 (B) The student's assessment results on the determinant
 35 evaluation of reading skills approved by the state board.
 36 (C) Any intervention provided to the student or any
 37 remedial action taken.
 38 (4) A requirement that schools monitor the progress of students
 39 who failed to achieve a valid passing score on the:
 40 (A) determinant evaluation of reading skills approved by
 41 the state board; or
 42 (B) statewide assessment program test.

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

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(iii) approved by the department.

(B) Employment of the following:

(i) Before July 1, 2025, an instructional coach who is trained in the science of reading, as determined by the department. This item expires January 1, 2026.

(ii) After June 30, 2025, an instructional coach with a literacy related endorsement who is trained in the science of reading.

(C) Use of only benchmark, formative, interim, or similar assessments that:

(i) show alignment with Indiana's academic standards; and

(ii) are approved by the department.

(D) Use of a screener procured under IC 20-32-5.1-17(j).

(10) The fiscal impact of each component of the plan, if any. In determining whether a component has a fiscal impact, consideration shall be given to whether the component will increase costs to the state or a school corporation or require the state or school corporation to reallocate resources.

(b) A school may receive a waiver of the requirements provided in 511 IAC 6.2-3.1-4(a)(2) if the state board approves an alternative reading plan provided by the school.

(c) Except as approved by the department under subsection (g), a student who would otherwise be subject to retention in grade 3 under the plan is not subject to the retention requirement only if the student meets one (1) of the following criteria:

(1) The student was subject to retention and has been retained in grade 3 for one (1) school year.

(2) The student has an intellectual disability or the student's individualized education program specifies that retention is not appropriate, and the student's case conference committee has determined that promotion to another grade is appropriate.

(3) The student is an English learner who has received services for fewer than two (2) years and a committee consisting of:

(A) the student's parent;

(B) a building level administrator or designee;

(C) a classroom teacher of service;

(D) an English learner teacher of record, if one exists; and

(E) an English learner district administrator, if one exists;

determines that promotion is appropriate based on the implementation of research based instructional practices outlined in the student's individual learning plan.

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- 1 (4) The student received a score of proficient or above proficient
- 2 in grade 3 math on the statewide summative assessment.
- 3 (5) The student:
- 4 (A) has received intensive intervention as determined by the
- 5 department in reading for two (2) or more years; and
- 6 (B) was retained more than one (1) time throughout
- 7 kindergarten, grade 1, or grade 2.
- 8 (d) A student who is not subject to the retention requirement as
- 9 provided under subsection (c) must be provided with additional reading
- 10 instruction that is aligned with the science of reading until the student
- 11 achieves a passing score on the determinant evaluation of reading skills
- 12 approved by the state board.
- 13 (e) Before October 1 of each school year, the department shall:
- 14 (1) identify each incoming student (as defined in section 0.7 of
- 15 this chapter) enrolled in kindergarten in a school in Indiana; and
- 16 (2) notify the parent or guardian of the student of the retention
- 17 requirement under this chapter for grade 3 students who do not
- 18 achieve a passing score on the Indiana reading evaluation and
- 19 determination (IRead3).
- 20 (f) The department shall establish a standard reporting process and
- 21 reporting window for schools to report students who qualify for an
- 22 exemption under subsection (c).
- 23 (g) The department shall establish a registration process for
- 24 schools to exempt an English language learner who:
- 25 (1) does not achieve a passing score on the determinant
- 26 evaluation of reading skills approved by the state board; and
- 27 (2) attends a school that has a student population comprised of
- 28 at least fifty percent (50%) of English language learners in grade
- 29 3, as determined by the department;
- 30 from compliance with the requirements under subsection (a)(2)(A)
- 31 until the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year. This subsection
- 32 expires July 1, 2028.
- 33 ~~SECTION 6. IC 21-18-6-10 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA~~
- 34 ~~CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS~~
- 35 ~~[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) Not later than December~~
- 36 ~~1, 2026, the commission shall do the following:~~
- 37 ~~(1) Evaluate accrediting agencies or associations that~~
- 38 ~~currently accredit:~~
- 39 ~~(A) state educational institutions; or~~
- 40 ~~(B) degree programs offered by state educational~~
- 41 ~~institutions.~~
- 42 ~~(2) Identify and evaluate innovative accrediting agencies or~~

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- 1 ~~associations, including those not yet recognized by the United~~
- 2 ~~States Department of Education, that do not currently~~
- 3 ~~accredit state educational institutions:~~
- 4 ~~(3) Identify potential alternative agencies, associations, or~~
- 5 ~~methods to accredit degree programs offered by state~~
- 6 ~~educational institutions:~~
- 7 ~~(4) Provide a report in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6~~
- 8 ~~to the general assembly that includes:~~
- 9 ~~(A) the commission's findings under subdivisions (1)~~
- 10 ~~through (3); and~~
- 11 ~~(B) recommendations concerning accrediting agencies~~
- 12 ~~or associations identified in subdivisions (2) and (3) that~~
- 13 ~~may be best suited to serve as an accreditor for state~~
- 14 ~~educational institutions or degree programs:~~
- 15 ~~(b) This section expires July 1, 2027.~~

16 > SECTION ~~<7>~~[6]. IC 21-18-9-10.7, AS ADDED BY
 17 P.L.213-2025, SECTION 248, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 18 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.7. (a) For each state
 19 educational institution degree program, if ~~the:~~

- 20 (1) ~~the:~~
- 21 (A) average number of students who graduate over the
- 22 immediately preceding three (3) years is fewer than:
- 23 (A) (i) ten (10) students for a particular associate
- 24 degree program;
- 25 (B) (ii) fifteen (15) students for a particular bachelor's
- 26 degree program;
- 27 (C) (iii) seven (7) students for a particular master's
- 28 degree program;
- 29 (D) (iv) three (3) students for a particular education
- 30 specialist program; or
- 31 (E) (v) three (3) students for a particular doctorate
- 32 degree program; ~~and or~~
- 33 (B) degree program meets the definition of a low
- 34 earning outcome program under the Higher Education
- 35 Act (20 U.S.C. 1087d); and
- 36 (2) ~~the~~ state educational institution would like to continue a
- 37 degree program described in subdivision (1);
- 38 the state educational institution must request approval from the
- 39 commission to continue the degree program.
- 40 (b) If the commission does not grant approval under subsection
- 41 (a), the state educational institution must eliminate:
- 42 (1) the degree program; and

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1 (2) any costs associated with the degree program.
2 SECTION ~~8~~[7]. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) 511
3 IAC 13-1-1(b)(6) is void. The publisher of the Indiana
4 Administrative Code and Indiana Register shall remove this
5 provision from the Indiana Administrative Code.
6 (b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2027.
7 SECTION ~~9~~[8]. An emergency is declared for this act.

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