

## SENATE BILL No. 204

AM020402 has been incorporated into introduced printing.

---

**Synopsis:** Various education matters.

---

M  
e  
r  
g  
e  
d

2026

IN 204—LS 6843/DI 143



DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN CHECKED FOR ACCURACY

Introduced

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

## SENATE BILL No. 204

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 20-28-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.190-2025,  
2        SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3        JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this section, "teacher candidate"  
4        means an individual recommended for an initial teaching license from  
5        a teacher preparation program located in Indiana.  
6        (b) As used in this section, "teacher preparation program"  
7        includes, but is not limited to, the following:  
8                (1) A teacher education school or department.  
9                (2) A transition to teaching program under IC 20-28-4.  
10               (3) Any other entity approved by the department to offer a course  
11               of study leading to an initial teaching license.  
12        (c) The department shall:  
13               (1) arrange a statewide system of professional instruction for  
14               teacher education;  
15               (2) accredit and review teacher preparation programs that

2026

IN 204—LS 6843/DI 143



DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN CHECKED FOR ACCURACY

1 comply with the rules of the department;

2 (3) approve content area licensure programs for particular kinds

3 of teachers in accredited teacher preparation programs; and

4 (4) specify the types of licenses for individuals who complete

5 programs of approved courses.

6 (d) The department shall work with teacher preparation programs  
7 to develop a system of teacher education that ensures individuals who  
8 complete teacher preparation programs are able to meet the highest  
9 professional standards.

16 (f) The standards established under subsection (e) must include  
17 benchmarks for performance, including test score data for each teacher  
18 preparation entity on content area licensure tests and test score data for  
19 each teacher preparation entity on pedagogy licensure tests.

20 (g) Each teacher preparation program shall annually report the  
21 program's performance on the standards and benchmarks established  
22 under this section to the department. The department shall make the  
23 information reported under this subsection available to the public on  
24 the department's website. Each teacher preparation program shall make  
25 the information reported under this subsection available to the public  
26 on the teacher preparation program's website. In addition to reporting  
27 performance, each teacher preparation program must report to the  
28 department the following:

29 (1) The attrition, retention, and completion rates of teacher  
30 candidates for the previous three (3) calendar years. The teacher  
31 preparation program must also provide underlying data, as  
32 determined by the department, used as part of calculating the  
33 teacher preparation program's retention rates.

34 (2) The number of teacher candidates in each content area who  
35 complete the teacher preparation program during the year,  
36 disaggregated by ranges of cumulative grade point averages

36 disaggregated by ranges of cumulative grade point averages.  
37 (3) The number of teacher candidates in each content area who,  
38 during the year:

41 (h) In making information available to the public on the

2026

IN 204—LS 6843/DI 143



**DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN CHECKED FOR ACCURACY**

1 department's website, the department shall include in the report under  
2 subsection (g), in addition to the matrix ratings described in subsection  
3 (i), the following information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (3) rigorous academic entry requirements for admission into a  
39 teacher preparatory program that are comparable to the  
40 minimum academic requirements determined by the:

41 (A) Council for the Accreditation of Educator



**Preparation; or  
(B) Association for Advancing Quality in Educator  
Preparation;**

4 for teacher preparation programs that are accredited by  
5 another accrediting agency approved by the department.

6 The department shall include information reported to the department  
7 on the department's website.

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

25 (2) In the case of a proprietary postsecondary educational  
26 institution, the commission for higher education shall  
27 recommend to the teacher preparation program an improvement  
28 plan with clear performance goals and a designated period in  
29 which the performance goals should be achieved.

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

34 (m) The department shall approve at least two (2) accreditors that  
35 (1) accredit teacher preparation programs and  
36 (2) are recognized by the Council for Higher Education  
37 Accreditation:

38 to accredit teacher preparation programs for use in Indiana.



1 organization that leverages evidence based approaches on the science  
 2 of reading to evaluate teacher preparation reading instruction programs.

3 SECTION 2. IC 20-28-5-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.205-2013,  
 4 SECTION 253, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 5 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) The department shall  
 6 establish a program under which an individual may obtain a license  
 7 that allows the individual to teach in a charter school if the individual:

8 (1) wishes to teach in a charter school in Indiana; and

9 (2) satisfies either of the following requirements:

10 (A) The individual holds at least a bachelor's degree with a  
 11 grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 point scale from  
 12 an accredited postsecondary institution in the content or a  
 13 related area in which the individual wishes to teach.

14 (B) The individual holds at least a bachelor's degree and  
 15 proof that the individual has passed the state approved  
 16 content area examination in the subject area that the  
 17 individual intends to teach.

18 (b) The program established under subsection (a) must allow the  
 19 individual to teach in a charter school while the individual is in the  
 20 process of obtaining the license.

21 (c) **Subject to subsection (d), if an individual who has obtained  
 22 a license under this section receives an annual evaluation of  
 23 effective or highly effective under IC 20-25-13 for not less than two  
 24 (2) consecutive years, the individual shall be eligible to obtain an  
 25 initial practitioner license for the content area in which the  
 26 individual has taught.**

27 (d) **An individual eligible to obtain an initial practitioner  
 28 license under subsection (c) must:**

29 (1) **demonstrate proficiency through a written examination,  
 30 as described in section 12(b)(2) of this chapter, in the  
 31 knowledge area in which the individual has taught and is  
 32 seeking an initial practitioner license; and**

33 (2) **complete the training described in section 12.3 of this  
 34 chapter.**

35 SECTION 3. IC 20-28-9-1.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.214-2025,  
 36 SECTION 123, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 37 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1.5. (a) This subsection governs  
 38 salary increases for a teacher employed by a school corporation.  
 39 Compensation attributable to additional degrees or graduate credits  
 40 earned before the effective date of a local compensation plan created  
 41 under this chapter before July 1, 2015, shall continue for school years  
 42 beginning after June 30, 2015. Compensation attributable to additional



1 degrees for which a teacher has started course work before July 1,  
 2 2011, and completed course work before September 2, 2014, shall also  
 3 continue for school years beginning after June 30, 2015. For school  
 4 years beginning after June 30, 2022, a school corporation may provide  
 5 a supplemental payment to a teacher in excess of the salary specified  
 6 in the school corporation's compensation plan when doing so is in the  
 7 best interest of students. A supplement provided under this subsection  
 8 is not subject to collective bargaining and, under IC 20-29-6-3(d), a  
 9 school corporation may exclude, for this purpose, a portion of the  
 10 revenue available for bargaining from education fund revenues  
 11 included in IC 20-29-2-6. Such a supplement is in addition to any  
 12 increase permitted under subsection (b).

13 (b) Subject to subsection (e), increases or increments in a local  
 14 salary range must be based upon a combination of the following  
 15 factors:

16 (1) A combination of the following factors taken together may  
 17 account for not more than fifty percent (50%) of the calculation  
 18 used to determine a teacher's increase or increment:

19 (A) The number of years of a teacher's experience.

20 (B) The possession of either:

21 (i) additional content area degrees beyond the  
 22 requirements for employment; or  
 23 (ii) additional content area degrees and credit hours  
 24 beyond the requirements for employment, if required  
 25 under an agreement bargained under IC 20-29.

26 (2) The results of an evaluation conducted under IC 20-28-11.5.

27 (3) The assignment of instructional leadership roles, including  
 28 the responsibility for conducting evaluations under  
 29 IC 20-28-11.5.

30 (4) The academic needs of students in the school corporation,  
 31 including employment in a high need area such as those  
 32 identified under IC 20-29-3-15(b)(27). This factor may not:

33 (A) account for less than ten percent (10%) of the  
 34 calculation used to determine a teacher's increase or  
 35 increment;

36 (B) **apply to all eligible teachers in a bargaining unit  
 37 uniformly; or**

38 (C) **be based on any other factor under this subsection.**

39 (c) To provide greater flexibility and options, a school corporation  
 40 may further differentiate the amount of salary increases or increments  
 41 determined for teachers. A school corporation shall base a



1 differentiated amount under this subsection on reasons the school  
2 corporation determines are appropriate, which may include the:

- (1) subject or subjects taught by a given teacher;
- (2) importance of retaining a given teacher at the school corporation;
- (3) need to attract an individual with specific qualifications to fill a teaching vacancy; and
- (4) offering of a new program or class.

- (1) reduce the gap between the school corporation's minimum teacher salary and the average of the school corporation's minimum and maximum teacher salaries; or
- (2) allow teachers currently employed by the school corporation to receive a salary adjusted in comparison to starting base salaries of new teachers.

18 (e) A school corporation shall differentiate the amount of salary  
19 increases or increments for teachers who possess a required literacy  
20 endorsement under IC 20-28-5-19.7.

21 (f) The Indiana education employment relations board established  
22 in IC 20-29-3-1 shall publish a model compensation plan with a model  
23 salary range that a school corporation may adopt.

(h) The Indiana education employment relations board shall review a compensation plan for compliance with this section as part of its review under IC 20-29-6-6.1. The Indiana education employment relations board has jurisdiction to determine compliance of a compensation plan submitted under this section.



4 SECTION 4. IC 21-15-2-4 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
5 2026]. See. 4. (a) Each state educational institution shall submit a  
6 report annually to the legislative council and the commission for higher  
7 education that includes the amount of need based financial aid and  
8 merit based financial aid available to students from all sources.

(b) A report submitted to the legislative council under this section must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

11 SECTION 5. IC 21-18-6-9.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.213-2025,  
12 SECTION 246, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
13 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9.5. (a) As used in this section,  
14 "physical facilities" refers to space assigned to departments and  
15 organizational units of a state educational institution, including space  
16 assigned to departments and organizational units that have functions  
17 related to instruction, research, public service, academic support,  
18 student services, institutional support, operation and maintenance of  
19 physical facilities, auxiliary enterprises, independent operations or  
20 noninstitutional activities, hospitals, and residential activities.

26 (1) number of classroom instructional spaces, instructional  
27 laboratory spaces, and combined classroom and instructional  
28 laboratory spaces in each physical facility; and  
29 (2) utilization of classroom instructional spaces, instructional  
30 laboratory spaces, and combined classroom and instructional  
31 laboratory spaces in each physical facility;  
32 as defined by the commission.

33 (c) In compiling the information for the report required by this  
34 section, the commission shall consider:

35 (1) characteristics of the student body of a state educational  
36 institution, such as serving part-time students, commuter  
37 students, and working adults;  
38 (2) the types of programs provided, and associated necessary  
39 instructional space, by a state educational institution; and  
40 (3) information about physical facilities that is collected by the  
41 commission in support of the commission's recommendations

2026

IN 204—LS 6843/DI 143



**DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN CHECKED FOR ACCURACY**

concerning capital as described in IC 21-18-9-1.

(d) A state educational institution shall provide any information required by the commission that is necessary to complete the report required by this section in the form and manner required by the commission.

(e) A report submitted to the legislative council under this section must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

**(f) This section expires June 30, 2029.**

SECTION 6. IC 21-18-9-9 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 9. (a) In collaboration with each state educational institution's institutional research or strategic planning department, the commission shall develop an annual report to the general assembly that includes the following information:

(1) Faculty activities related to the mission of the state educational institution, including teaching, course grading practices, research, scholarship, outreach, and professional services.

(2) Average and median faculty and administrator salaries.

(3) Median grade point averages for all students for the fall and spring semesters.

(4) Median grade point averages for all graduating seniors.  
(5) Other information the commission considers necessary.

The information in the report must include undergraduate student information and faculty data by academic department, college, or university.

(b) A state educational institution shall provide the information set forth in subsection (a) in the form required by the commission.

(c) The report to the general assembly under subsection (a) must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

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

(1) average number of students who graduate over the immediately preceding three (3) years is fewer than:

(A) ten (10) students for a particular associate degree program;

(B) fifteen (15) students for a particular bachelor's degree program;

(C) seven (7) students for a particular master's degree program;



(D) three (3) students for a particular education specialist program; or

(E) three (3) students for a particular doctorate degree program; and

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

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

(b) If the commission does not grant approval under subsection the state educational institution must **do the following:**

(1) **Not later than six (6) months after the issuance of the commission's decision, end enrollment of new students into the degree program.**

**(2) Provide students enrolled in the degree program with the opportunity to finish their degree prior to the degree program's closure.**

**(3) Subject to subdivision (2), eliminate:**

(+) (A) the degree program; and

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

SECTION 8. IC 21-18-9-11 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 11. (a) The commission shall do the following:

(1) Annually determine for each state educational institution:

(A) the percentage of students enrolled in the state educational institution who are charged tuition based on the resident tuition rate; and

(B) the percentage of students enrolled in the state educational institution who are charged tuition based on the nonresident tuition rate.

(2) Report the information determined for each state educational institution under subdivision (1) to the budget committee and the legislative council before December 1 of each year. The report to the legislative council must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

(b) A state educational institution must submit to the commission any information needed by the commission to determine the percentages under subsection (a).

SECTION 9. IC 21-18-13 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. (Student Athletes: Sudden Cardiac Arrest).

SECTION 10. IC 21-30-7-10, AS ADDED BY P.L.142-2024, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) A state educational institution shall



1 disclose to the commission any gift of any value received directly or  
 2 indirectly from any foreign source located in a foreign adversary as  
 3 follows:

4                   (1) For a disclosable gift received after December 31, 2020, and  
 5 before July 1, 2024, not later than September 1, 2024.

6                   (2) For a disclosable gift received after June 30, 2024, biannually  
 7 on ~~January 1~~ and **January 31 and July 1 July 31** of each subsequent  
 8 year.

9                   (b) A gift received from a foreign source through an intermediary  
 10 or affiliate organization is considered an indirect gift to a state  
 11 educational institution and is subject to the disclosure required by  
 12 subsection (a).

13                   SECTION 11. IC 21-33-3-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.143-2014,  
 14 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 15 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. **(a) As used in this section, "adjusted for  
 16 inflation" refers to an amount that may be adjusted annually by a  
 17 percentage equal to the annual percentage change in the Consumer  
 18 Price Index, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor  
 19 Statistics.**

20                   **(a) (b)** Subject to this section, in addition to projects authorized by  
 21 the general assembly, the board of trustees of a state educational  
 22 institution may engage in a project to:

23                   (1) construct buildings or facilities of a cost greater than ~~two~~  
 24 ~~three~~ million dollars ~~(\$2,000,000); (\$3,000,000), adjusted for  
 25 inflation;~~ or

26                   (2) purchase or lease-purchase land, buildings, or facilities the  
 27 principal value of which exceeds ~~two~~ ~~three~~ million dollars  
 28 ~~(\$2,000,000); (\$3,000,000), adjusted for inflation;~~

29 only if there are funds available for the project, the project meets any  
 30 of the applicable conditions, and the project is reviewed by the  
 31 commission for higher education and approved by the governor upon  
 32 recommendation of the budget agency. The review by the commission  
 33 for higher education must be completed not later than ninety (90) days  
 34 after the project is submitted for review.

35                   **(b) (c)** If:

36                   (1) any part of the cost of a project described in subsection **(a)**  
 37 **(b)** is paid by state appropriated funds or by mandatory student  
 38 fees assessed all students for the project; and

39                   (2) the project is to:

40                   (A) construct new buildings or facilities of a cost greater  
 41 than ~~two~~ ~~three~~ million dollars ~~(\$2,000,000); (\$3,000,000),~~



13 (1) construct buildings or facilities; or

14 (2) purchase or lease-purchase land, buildings, or facilities;

15 if the project involves the expansion or improvement of housing for  
16 students undertaken entirely by a fraternity or sorority at the state  
17 educational institution.

18 SECTION 12. IC 21-33-3-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.143-2014,  
19 SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
20 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. **(a)** As used in this section, "adjusted for  
21 inflation" refers to an amount that may be adjusted annually by a  
22 percentage equal to the annual percentage change in the Consumer  
23 Price Index, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor  
24 Statistics.

29 (1) the cost of the project exceeds ~~two~~ three million dollars  
30 (~~\$2,000,000~~) (\$3,000,000), adjusted for inflation; and

31 (2) any part of the cost of the project is paid by state  
32 appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees assessed all  
33 students for the project;

34 only if the project is reviewed by the commission for higher education  
35 and approved by the governor, on recommendation of the budget  
36 agency. The review by the commission for higher education must be  
37 completed not later than ninety (90) days after the project is submitted  
38 for review.

39           **(b) (c)** If no part of the cost of a repair and rehabilitation project  
40           is paid by state appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees  
41           assessed all students for the project, the review and approval

2026

JN 204—LS 6843/DI 143



DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN CHECKED FOR ACCURACY

1 requirements of this section apply only if the project exceeds ~~two~~ **three**  
 2 million dollars (\$2,000,000). (\$3,000,000), **adjusted for inflation.**

3 SECTION 13. IC 21-41-5-15 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 4 1, 2026]. See: ~~15~~. Before November 1, 2016, and each November 1  
 5 thereafter, Ivy Tech Community College shall provide the budget  
 6 committee the following information for each of Ivy Tech Community  
 7 College's owned or operated campus locations or sites that offer  
 8 ongoing academic programs and services:

9 (1) The number of students enrolled;  
 10 (2) The amount of square feet of each building;  
 11 (3) The operating or overhead costs associated with the campus  
 12 location or site.

13 SECTION 14. IC 21-49-4-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.113-2024,  
 14 SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 15 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. Not later than September 1, 2024, and  
 16 September 1 of each year thereafter, a state educational institution shall  
 17 submit to the state budget committee a report with the following  
 18 information for the preceding state fiscal year:

19 (1) The total number of state educational institution:  
 20 (A) full-time and tenured professors;  
 21 (B) adjunct instructors;  
 22 (C) other contingent faculty; and  
 23 (D) nonacademic support or administrative employees.  
 24 (2) (1) The total number of employees at the state educational  
 25 institution whose primary or secondary job duties or job titles  
 26 include diversity, equity, and inclusion.  
 27 (3) (2) The total number of state educational institution  
 28 adjudications or proceedings regarding violations of policies  
 29 regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion or harassment.  
 30 (4) (3) A list and description of what the state educational  
 31 institution did to ensure free speech rights of students.  
 32 (5) (4) A list and description of what the state educational  
 33 institution did to ensure intellectual freedom for professors.  
 34 (6) (5) A list and description of what the state educational  
 35 institution did to ensure intellectual and ideological diversity of  
 36 professors.  
 37 (7) (6) The institution's budget allocations for diversity, equity,  
 38 and inclusion initiatives.

39 SECTION 15. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026] (a) **25 IAC 5-6-3(b)**  
 40 **is void. The publisher of the Indiana Administrative Code and**  
 41 **Indiana Register shall remove this subsection from the Indiana**



1       **Administrative Code.**  
2       **(b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2027.**

M  
e  
r  
g  
e  
d

2026

IN 204—LS 6843/DI 143



**DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN CHECKED FOR ACCURACY**