
SENATE BILL No. 204

AM020402 has been incorporated into introduced printing.

Synopsis: Various education matters.

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2026

IN 204—LS 6843/DI 143



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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

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- 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.
 10 (e) Before July 1, 2015, the department shall establish standards
 11 for the continuous improvement of program processes and the
 12 performance of individuals who complete teacher preparation
 13 programs. The state board shall adopt rules containing the standards
 14 not later than two hundred seventy (270) days after the department
 15 finishes the 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.
 37 (3) The number of teacher candidates in each content area who,
 38 during the year:
 39 (A) do not pass a content area licensure examination; and
 40 (B) do not retake the content area licensure examination.
 41 (h) In making information available to the public on the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(3) (2) the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation standards, for teacher preparation programs accredited by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation; or~~

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

(A) Council for the Accreditation of Educator



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1 **Preparation; or**

2 **(B) Association for Advancing Quality in Educator**
3 **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.

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

14 (l) Not later than July 1 of each year, the department shall submit
15 a list of teacher preparation programs that do not meet the minimum
16 rating established under subsection (k) or the requirements of section
17 3.1 or 3.2 of this chapter to the commission for higher education and
18 the Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. for one (1) of the following
19 actions:

20 (1) In the case of a state educational institution, the commission
21 for higher education shall place the teacher preparation program
22 on an improvement plan with clear performance goals and a
23 designated period in which the performance goals must be
24 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.

39 (n) Not later than December 31, 2024, the department and the
40 commission for higher education, in conjunction with the state board,
41 shall partner with teacher preparation programs to receive an outside
42 evaluation by a nationally recognized nonprofit, nonpartisan



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

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

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

(2) satisfies either of the following requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

(B) The possession of either:

(i) additional content area degrees beyond the requirements for employment; or

(ii) additional content area degrees and credit hours beyond the requirements for employment, if required under an agreement bargained under IC 20-29.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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differentiated amount under this subsection on reasons the school 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.

(d) A school corporation may provide differentiated increases or increments under subsection (b), and in excess of the percentage specified in subsection (b)(1), in order to:

- (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.

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

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

(g) Each school corporation shall submit its local compensation plan to the Indiana education employment relations board. A local compensation plan must specify the range for teacher salaries. The Indiana education employment relations board shall publish the local compensation plans on the Indiana education employment relations board's website.

(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.

(i) This chapter may not be construed to require or allow a school corporation to decrease the salary of any teacher below the salary the teacher was earning on or before July 1, 2015, if that decrease would be made solely to conform to the new compensation plan.

(j) After June 30, 2011, all rights, duties, or obligations established under IC 20-28-9-1 before its repeal are considered rights, duties, or obligations under this section.

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(k) An employment agreement described in IC 20-28-6-7.3 between an adjunct teacher and a school corporation is not subject to this section.

SECTION 4. IC 21-15-2-4 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 4: (a) Each state educational institution shall submit a report annually to the legislative council and the commission for higher education that includes the amount of need based financial aid and 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.~~

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

(b) Not later than July 1, 2026, and not later than each July 1 thereafter, the commission shall prepare and submit to the legislative council and to the budget committee a report that examines the utilization of physical facilities primarily used for instruction at each state educational institution. The report must include at least the:

(1) number of classroom instructional spaces, instructional laboratory spaces, and combined classroom and instructional laboratory spaces in each physical facility; and

(2) utilization of classroom instructional spaces, instructional laboratory spaces, and combined classroom and instructional laboratory spaces in each physical facility;

as defined by the commission.

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

(1) characteristics of the student body of a state educational institution, such as serving part-time students, commuter students, and working adults;

(2) the types of programs provided, and associated necessary instructional space, by a state educational institution; and

(3) information about physical facilities that is collected by the commission in support of the commission's recommendations

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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;



- 1 (D) three (3) students for a particular education specialist
 2 program; or
 3 (E) three (3) students for a particular doctorate degree
 4 program; and
 5 (2) state educational institution would like to continue a degree
 6 program described in subdivision (1);
 7 the state educational institution must request approval from the
 8 commission to continue the degree program.
 9 (b) If the commission does not grant approval under subsection
 10 (a), the state educational institution must **do the following:**
 11 **(1) Not later than six (6) months after the issuance of the**
 12 **commission's decision, end enrollment of new students into**
 13 **the degree program.**
 14 **(2) Provide students enrolled in the degree program with the**
 15 **opportunity to finish their degree prior to the degree**
 16 **program's closure.**
 17 **(3) Subject to subdivision (2), eliminate:**
 18 **(+) (A) the degree program; and**
 19 **(-) (B) any costs associated with the degree program.**
 20 SECTION 8. IC 21-18-9-11 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 21 1, 2026]. Sec. 11: (a) The commission shall do the following:
 22 (1) Annually determine for each state educational institution:
 23 (A) the percentage of students enrolled in the state
 24 educational institution who are charged tuition based on the
 25 resident tuition rate; and
 26 (B) the percentage of students enrolled in the state
 27 educational institution who are charged tuition based on the
 28 nonresident tuition rate;
 29 (2) Report the information determined for each state educational
 30 institution under subdivision (1) to the budget committee and the
 31 legislative council before December 1 of each year. The report
 32 to the legislative council must be in an electronic format under
 33 IC 5-14-6.
 34 (b) A state educational institution must submit to the commission
 35 any information needed by the commission to determine the
 36 percentages under subsection (a).
 37 SECTION 9. IC 21-18-13 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
 38 2026]. (Student Athletes: Sudden Cardiac Arrest).
 39 SECTION 10. IC 21-30-7-10, AS ADDED BY P.L.142-2024,
 40 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 41 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) A state educational institution shall

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(b)~~ **(c)** If:

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

(2) the project is to:

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

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1 **adjusted for inflation; or**
 2 (B) purchase or lease-purchase land, buildings, or facilities
 3 the principal value of which exceeds ~~two~~ **three** million
 4 dollars ~~(\$2,000,000); (\$3,000,000), adjusted for inflation;~~
 5 the project must also be approved by the general assembly.

6 ~~(c)~~ **(d)** This section does not limit the board of trustees in
 7 supplementing a project approved by the general assembly from gifts
 8 or other available funds so long as approval for the expansion of the
 9 project is given by the governor on review by the commission for
 10 higher education and recommendation of the budget agency.

11 ~~(d)~~ **(e)** The review and approval requirements of this section do not
 12 apply to a project to:

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.**

25 ~~(a)~~ **(b)** Subject to subsection ~~(b); (c)~~, in addition to projects
 26 authorized by the general assembly, the board of trustees of a state
 27 educational institution may engage in a repair and rehabilitation project
 28 for which:

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



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

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

~~(1) The number of students enrolled;~~

~~(2) The amount of square feet of each building;~~

~~(3) The operating or overhead costs associated with the campus location or site;~~

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

~~(1) The total number of state educational institution:~~

~~(A) full-time and tenured professors;~~

~~(B) adjunct instructors;~~

~~(C) other contingent faculty; and~~

~~(D) nonacademic support or administrative employees;~~

~~(2) (1) The total number of employees at the state educational institution whose primary or secondary job duties or job titles include diversity, equity, and inclusion.~~

~~(3) (2) The total number of state educational institution adjudications or proceedings regarding violations of policies regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion or harassment.~~

~~(4) (3) A list and description of what the state educational institution did to ensure free speech rights of students.~~

~~(5) (4) A list and description of what the state educational institution did to ensure intellectual freedom for professors.~~

~~(6) (5) A list and description of what the state educational institution did to ensure intellectual and ideological diversity of professors.~~

~~(7) (6) The institution's budget allocations for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.~~

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

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

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