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## SENATE BILL No. 204

AM020406 has been incorporated into January 16, 2026 printing.

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**Synopsis:** Various education matters.

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SB 204—LS 6843/DI 143



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January 16, 2026

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        UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this section, "teacher  
4        candidate" means an individual recommended for an initial teaching  
5        license from 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.

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:

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

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



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

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

22 which the performance goals should be achieved.  
23 (3) In the case of a nonprofit college or university, the  
24 Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc., shall coordinate a peer  
25 review process to make recommendations to the peer institution  
26 in achieving the department's performance metrics.

27 (m) The department shall approve at least two (2) accreditors that:  
28 (1) accredit teacher preparation programs; and  
29 (2) are recognized by the Council for Higher Education  
30 Accreditation;

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

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

40 SECTION 2. IC 20-28-5-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.205-2013,  
41 SECTION 253, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS

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1 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) The department shall  
2 establish a program under which an individual may obtain a license  
3 that allows the individual to teach in a charter school if the individual:  
4 (1) wishes to teach in a charter school in Indiana; and  
5 (2) satisfies either of the following requirements:  
6 (A) The individual holds at least a bachelor's degree with a  
7 grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 point scale from  
8 an accredited postsecondary institution in the content or a  
9 related area in which the individual wishes to teach.  
10 (B) The individual holds at least a bachelor's degree and  
11 proof that the individual has passed the state approved  
12 content area examination in the subject area that the  
13 individual intends to teach.  
14 (b) The program established under subsection (a) must allow the  
15 individual to teach in a charter school while the individual is in the  
16 process of obtaining the license.  
17 (c) **Subject to subsection (d), if an individual who has obtained  
18 a license under this section receives an annual evaluation of  
19 effective or highly effective under IC 20-25-13 for not less than two  
20 (2) consecutive years, the individual shall be eligible to obtain an  
21 initial practitioner license for the content area in which the  
22 individual has taught.**  
23 (d) **An individual eligible to obtain an initial practitioner  
24 license under subsection (c) must:**  
25 (1) demonstrate proficiency through a written examination,  
26 as described in section 12(b)(2) of this chapter, in the  
27 knowledge area in which the individual has taught and is  
28 seeking an initial practitioner license; and  
29 (2) complete the training described in section 12.3 of this  
30 chapter.  
31 SECTION 3. IC 20-28-5-16.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.194-2025,  
32 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
33 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16.5. (a) The department shall grant an initial  
34 practitioner license to an individual who meets the following  
35 requirements:  
36 (1) The individual holds a bachelor's degree with a grade point  
37 average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale from an accredited  
38 postsecondary educational institution. ~~with a major in any  
39 combination of the following:~~  
40 (A) Science.  
41 (B) Technology.  
42 (C) Engineering.

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(D) Mathematics.

(2) The individual successfully completes a total of at least nine (9) academic credits in courses that include instruction on the following:

#### (A) High impact practices in:

- (i) lesson planning;
- (ii) instructional design;
- (iii) instructional activities;
- (iv) integrating learning;
- (v) developing laboratories;

(B) The use of:

- (i) digital media;
- (ii) learning management software; and
- (iii) technology to maximize learning.

(C) Teaching:

- (i) inductive and deductive reasoning;
- (ii) metacognition;
- (iii) problem framing;
- (iv) interpreting results; and
- (v) data based decision making.

(D) Best practices to evaluate student learning through:

- (i) diagnostic assessment;
- (ii) direct and indirect assessment; and
- (iii) formative and summative assessment

(E) Creating feedback loops.

(F) Fostering engagement and using peer to peer learning and other small group strategies.

(G) Providing constructive feedback for disruptive behavior.

(H) Early intervention strategies and professional standards.

**(I) Teaching students with disabilities.**

(3) The individual demonstrates proficiency through a written examination in the knowledge of the areas in which the individual is required to have a license to teach, as described in section 12(b)(2) of this chapter.

(4) The individual has completed the training described in section 12.3 of this chapter.

(5) The individual participates in one (1) or more of the following, as determined by the department:

(A) Job shadowing.

### (B) Field experiences.

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15 SECTION 4. IC 21-15-2-4 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
16 2026]. See. 4. (a) Each state educational institution shall submit a  
17 report annually to the legislative council and the commission for higher  
18 education that includes the amount of need based financial aid and  
19 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.

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

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

37 (1) number of classroom instructional spaces, instructional  
38 laboratory spaces, and combined classroom and instructional  
39 laboratory spaces in each physical facility; and  
40 (2) utilization of classroom instructional spaces, instructional  
41 laboratory spaces, and combined classroom and instructional

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1 laboratory spaces in each physical facility;  
2 as defined by the commission.

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

10 (3) information about physical facilities that is collected by the  
11 commission in support of the commission's recommendations  
12 concerning capital as described in IC 21-18-9-1.

(d) A state educational institution shall provide any information

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

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

28 SERVICES.  
29 (2) Average and median faculty and administrator salaries.

(3) Average and median faculty and administrator salaries.  
(3) Median grade point averages for all students for the fall and  
spring semesters.

32 (4) Median grade point averages for all graduating seniors.

(5) Other information the commission considers necessary.

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

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

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

41 SECTION 7. IC 21-18-9-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.213-2025,

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41 SECTION 7. IC 21-18-9-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.213-2025,

SECTION 7. IC 21-18-9-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.213-2025,

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1 SECTION 248, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 2 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027]: Sec. 10.7. (a) For each state educational  
 3 institution degree program, if the:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (b) **Subject to subsection (c)**, if the commission does not grant  
 21 approval under subsection (a), the state educational institution must  
 22 eliminate:

23 (1) the degree program; and

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

25 (c) **A state educational institution that has been denied  
 26 approval under subsection (a) may:**

27 (1) permit students to enroll in the degree program until  
 28 June 1 of the year following the commission's denial; and

29 (2) provide students enrolled in the degree program with the  
 30 opportunity to finish their degree prior to the degree  
 31 program's closure under subsection (b).

32 (d) The commission shall prepare an annual report concerning  
 33 the number of degree programs that were denied approval under  
 34 subsection (a). The report described in this subsection must be  
 35 submitted, in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6, to the general  
 36 assembly not later than December 1 of each year.

37 SECTION 8. IC 21-18-9-11 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 38 1, 2026]. See: 11. (a) The commission shall do the following:

39 (1) Annually determine for each state educational institution:

40 (A) the percentage of students enrolled in the state  
 41 educational institution who are charged tuition based on the  
 42 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 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



10 after the project

(3) (c) II.

(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:

14 (2) the project is to:  
15 (A) construct n

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

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

21 the project must also be approved by the general assembly.

22       (e) (d) This section does not limit the board of trustees in  
23 supplementing a project approved by the general assembly from gifts  
24 or other available funds so long as approval for the expansion of the  
25 project is given by the governor on review by the commission for  
26 higher education and recommendation of the budget agency.

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

29 (1) construct buildings or facilities; or

30 (2) purchase or lease-purchase land, buildings, or facilities;  
31 if the project involves the expansion or improvement of housing for  
32 students undertaken entirely by a fraternity or sorority at the state  
33 educational institution.

41 (a) (b) Subject to subsection (b), (c), in addition to projects

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1       authorized by the general assembly, the board of trustees of a state  
 2       educational institution may engage in a repair and rehabilitation project  
 3       for which:

4               (1) the cost of the project exceeds ~~two~~ **three** million dollars  
 5               (\$2,000,000); **(\$3,000,000), adjusted for inflation;** and  
 6               (2) any part of the cost of the project is paid by state  
 7               appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees assessed all  
 8               students for the project;

9       only if the project is reviewed by the commission for higher education  
 10      and approved by the governor, on recommendation of the budget  
 11      agency. The review by the commission for higher education must be  
 12      completed not later than ninety (90) days after the project is submitted  
 13      for review.

14       ~~(b)~~ **(c)** If no part of the cost of a repair and rehabilitation project  
 15      is paid by state appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees  
 16      assessed all students for the project, the review and approval  
 17      requirements of this section apply only if the project exceeds ~~two~~ **three**  
 18      million dollars ~~(\$2,000,000)~~; **(\$3,000,000), adjusted for inflation.**

19       SECTION 13. IC 21-41-5-15 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 20      1, 2026]. ~~See: 15. Before November 1, 2016; and each November 1  
 21      thereafter, Ivy Tech Community College shall provide the budget  
 22      committee the following information for each of Ivy Tech Community  
 23      College's owned or operated campus locations or sites that offer  
 24      ongoing academic programs and services:~~

25               (1) The number of students enrolled;  
 26               (2) The amount of square feet of each building;  
 27               (3) The operating or overhead costs associated with the campus  
 28               location or site.

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

35               (1) The total number of state educational institution:  
 36                       (A) full-time and tenured professors;  
 37                       (B) adjunct instructors;  
 38                       (C) other contingent faculty; and  
 39                       (D) nonacademic support or administrative employees;  
 40               (2) (1) The total number of employees at the state educational  
 41               institution whose primary or secondary job duties or job titles



1                   include diversity, equity, and inclusion.  
2                   **(2)** The total number of state educational institution  
3                   adjudications or proceedings regarding violations of policies  
4                   regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion or harassment.  
5                   **(3)** A list and description of what the state educational  
6                   institution did to ensure free speech rights of students.  
7                   **(4)** A list and description of what the state educational  
8                   institution did to ensure intellectual freedom for professors.  
9                   **(5)** A list and description of what the state educational  
10                  institution did to ensure intellectual and ideological diversity of  
11                  professors.  
12                  **(6)** The institution's budget allocations for diversity, equity,  
13                  and inclusion initiatives.  
14                  SECTION 15. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026] **(a) 25 IAC 5-6-3(b)**  
15                  **is void. The publisher of the Indiana Administrative Code and**  
16                  **Indiana Register shall remove this subsection from the Indiana**  
17                  **Administrative Code.**  
18                  **(b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2027.**  
19                  SECTION 16. **An emergency is declared for this act.**

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