
SENATE BILL No. 204

AM020406 has been incorporated into January 16, 2026 printing.

Synopsis: Various education matters.

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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.
- 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) the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation standards, for teacher preparation programs accredited by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation; ~~or~~

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

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

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(k) 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 minimum rating under the matrix rating system established under subsection (i) that teacher preparation programs must achieve to avoid referral under subsection (l).

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

(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.

(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.

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

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

- (1) accredit teacher preparation programs; and
- (2) are recognized by the Council for Higher Education 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.

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

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[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 20-28-5-16.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.194-2025, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16.5. (a) The department shall grant an initial practitioner license to an individual who meets the following requirements:

(1) The individual holds a bachelor's degree with a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale from an accredited postsecondary educational institution. ~~with a major in any combination of the following:~~

~~(A) Science.~~

~~(B) Technology.~~

~~(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 modalities; and
- (v) developing laboratory experiments.

(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 and preventing
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.



(C) Teaching cooperatives.

(D) Full-term student teaching.

(b) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under this section:

(1) may only teach in any combination of grades 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12, as determined by the department;

(2) shall be treated in the same manner as an individual who receives an initial practitioner license after completing a traditional teacher preparation program; and

(3) must be treated in the same manner as a traditional teacher preparation program graduate during the transition from an initial practitioner license to a practitioner license.

(c) The state board may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to administer 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

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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 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]. See: 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,

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SECTION 248, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027]: 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) **Subject to subsection (c)**, if the commission does not grant
approval under subsection (a), the state educational institution must
eliminate:

(1) the degree program; and

(2) any costs associated with the degree program.

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

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

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

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

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

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(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



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(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), adjusted for inflation;~~ or

(B) 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;~~

the project must also be approved by the general assembly.

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

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

(1) construct buildings or facilities; or

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

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

SECTION 12. IC 21-33-3-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.143-2014, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (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 subsection ~~(b)~~; (c), in addition to projects



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

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

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

only if the project is reviewed by the commission for higher education and approved by the governor, on 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 no part of the cost of a repair and rehabilitation project is paid by state appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees assessed all students for the project, the review and approval 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

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1 include diversity, equity, and inclusion.

2 ~~(3)~~ (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 ~~(4)~~ (3) A list and description of what the state educational
6 institution did to ensure free speech rights of students.

7 ~~(5)~~ (4) A list and description of what the state educational
8 institution did to ensure intellectual freedom for professors.

9 ~~(6)~~ (5) A list and description of what the state educational
10 institution did to ensure intellectual and ideological diversity of
11 professors.

12 ~~(7)~~ (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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