

First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

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 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE ENROLLED ACT No. 1515

AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 20-19-3-40 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 40. (a) Not later than December 1, 2025, the department shall submit a report to the general assembly in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 on the academic readiness of students who enroll in a virtual school or program. To the extent possible, the report must include course completion data and student performance data on the statewide assessment.**

(b) This section expires June 30, 2026.

SECTION 2. IC 20-19-9-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.216-2021, SECTION 10, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 4. (a) If the lesser of at least:

- (1) one hundred (100) students of a school corporation; or
- (2) thirty percent (30%) of the total number of students enrolled in the school corporation;

receive at least fifty percent (50%) of instruction through a school corporation's virtual education program, the school corporation shall establish a dedicated virtual education school.

(b) The department shall assign a separate school identification number for the dedicated virtual education school.

(c) Before ~~July 1, 2022~~, **December 31, 2026**, the state board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish financial reporting and oversight required by a school corporation and a vendor who enter into

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or renew a contract relating to the operation of a dedicated virtual education school.

SECTION 3. IC 20-19-9-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.250-2023, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 5. A school corporation that operates a virtual education program must require that if a student who attends a school corporation's virtual education program accumulates ~~the number of ten~~ **(10) consecutive or eighteen (18) cumulative** unexcused absences, ~~sufficient to result in the student's classification as a habitual truant;~~ the student must be withdrawn from enrollment in the school corporation's virtual education program.

SECTION 4. IC 20-20-52 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]:

Chapter 52. Centralized School Facilities Pilot Program and Local Boards

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "local board" refers to a:

- (1) local centralized school facilities board established under section 6(a) of this chapter; or
- (2) if applicable, local centralized school facilities and transportation board established under section 6(e) of this chapter.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "pilot program" means the centralized school facilities pilot program established by section 4 of this chapter.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "school" means a:

- (1) charter school; or
- (2) nonpublic school with at least one (1) employee.

Sec. 4. (a) The centralized school facilities pilot program is established to provide innovative approaches concerning the use, operation, and management of school facilities to promote:

- (1) enhanced learning environments;
- (2) unique learning opportunities; and
- (3) improved student academic and health outcomes;

in accordance with the plan submitted to the general assembly by the secretary of education under IC 20-19-3-32.

(b) The pilot program is established for a three (3) year period consisting of the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029 school years.

Sec. 5. (a) A school corporation or school, in partnership with other school corporations, schools, or both other school corporations and schools, may apply to the department to



participate in the pilot program.

(b) The department:

- (1) may approve not more than a total of three (3) applications under this section to participate in the pilot program; and
- (2) shall establish the application process and criteria to participate in the pilot program.

(c) The criteria established under subsection (b)(2) must require that school corporations and schools include information concerning the geographic boundaries of the area to which the application to participate in the pilot program applies.

Sec. 6. (a) Except as provided under subsection (e), not later than October 31, 2025, a local centralized school facilities board is established for participating school corporations and schools.

(b) Each local board must be independent from any school corporation and school.

(c) The local board consists of seven (7) members who:

- (1) are proportionately appointed as either representatives of participating school corporations, charter schools, or nonpublic schools described in section 3(2) of this chapter based on:

- (A) the total pupil enrollment of the participating school corporations;
- (B) the total pupil enrollment of participating charter schools; and
- (C) the total pupil enrollment of participating nonpublic schools;

that are partnering under the pilot program; and

(2) are members of the:

- (A) governing body of a participating school corporation;
- (B) charter school board of a participating charter school;
- or
- (C) equivalent of a governing body for a participating nonpublic school;

described in subdivision (1).

(d) Each local board must collaborate with individuals or entities that have expertise in the following:

- (1) Facility management, construction, or real estate.
- (2) Public finance or public debt issuance.
- (3) Demographic analysis and urban planning.
- (4) Organizational effectiveness, operations management, and implementing best practices.



(5) Government contracts.

(6) Budget development and oversight.

(e) If a school corporation or school, in partnership with other school corporations, schools, or both other school corporations and schools, receives approval to participate in the:

(1) pilot program; and

(2) student transportation pilot program under IC 20-20-53; the school corporation or schools may elect to establish, not later than October 31, 2025, one (1) local centralized school facilities and transportation board consisting of the members described in subsection (c) that has the powers and duties and is subject to the requirements of a local centralized school facilities board under this chapter and local student transportation board under IC 20-20-53.

Sec. 7. Notwithstanding any other state law or rule, each local board shall, during the pilot program, provide oversight and management of school facilities with a focus on best use and upkeep of assets funded by taxpayers.

Sec. 8. (a) Each local board shall create and implement a pilot program plan that includes measures to:

(1) determine the:

(A) term lengths of the members; and

(B) member replacement processes;

for the local board;

(2) conduct school facility assessments for all applicable school facilities;

(3) establish a process for the transfer to and receipt of funds, as applicable, by the local board from the participating school corporations and schools;

(4) accept and use donations, gifts, or bequests for the purposes of this chapter;

(5) improve the health and safety of students and teachers;

(6) allow for additional flexibility and creativity in terms of what is considered a school facility, including considerations surrounding colocation with other schools, governmental entities, or community organizations;

(7) enter into revenue sharing agreements and asset use agreements for all school facilities within the geographic boundaries described in the application under section 5(c) of this chapter for the three (3) year period of the pilot program;

(8) address any existing excess capacity in school facilities;

(9) inspire opportunities for partnership with other



governmental entities or local nonprofit organizations to transform school facilities into broader community assets for residents;

(10) implement best practices in facilities management and operations;

(11) track qualitative and quantitative data to gauge the success of the pilot program;

(12) collect and report data in a manner prescribed by the department regarding school facilities included in the pilot program; and

(13) implement a maintenance plan and contract with vendors, as needed, for the duration of the pilot program.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2028, each local board shall develop and submit to the department an implementation plan that includes the following:

(1) Whether at the conclusion of the pilot program the:

(A) participating school corporations and schools, as applicable, elect to continue operating with a local board; and

(B) local board established under section 6 of this chapter should be maintained or a new local board should be established.

(2) If a new local board should be established, the following components:

(A) The appointment of members to the new local board, including the appointing authority for the members.

(B) The term lengths of the members.

(C) The member replacement process.

(3) A process to ensure that the powers and duties under this chapter are maintained by the local board or transferred to the new local board after completion of the pilot program.

(4) The transfer of all assets and related funding regarding school facilities to the local board or new local board.

(5) The development and implementation of a long term asset management and sustainability plan.

Sec. 9. Notwithstanding any other state law or rule, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each local board established under section 6 of this chapter:

(1) shall exercise the full powers and duties provided under the pilot program plan created under section 8(a) of this chapter; and

(2) shall make recommendations regarding property tax levies



approved by the governing bodies of the applicable participating school corporations.

Sec. 10. Each local board may contract with outside individuals and entities to create and implement the pilot program plan described in section 8(a) of this chapter.

Sec. 11. Subject to any agreement entered into by a school corporation or school, a school corporation or school may at any time opt out of participating in the pilot program if the school corporation or school provides notice to all school corporations and schools that the school corporation or school partnered with under this chapter at least one (1) year before the school corporation or school intends to terminate the partnership and its participation under this chapter.

Sec. 12. Not later than November 1, 2027, the department of local government finance, in consultation with the department, shall do the following:

- (1) Prepare a report that includes recommendations regarding legislation and procedures to transfer the duties and powers of a participating school corporation to a local board or new local board as described in section 8(b) of this chapter.
- (2) Submit the report to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

Sec. 13. Not later than November 1, 2028, the department shall do the following:

- (1) Prepare a report that includes the following:
 - (A) A summary regarding the:
 - (i) school corporations and schools participating in the pilot program;
 - (ii) implementation of the pilot program by each local board;
 - (iii) results and outcomes regarding the pilot program; and
 - (iv) implementation plans submitted by the local boards under section 8(b) of this chapter.
 - (B) Any recommendations regarding:
 - (i) legislation or procedures to further carry out the purposes of this chapter and an implementation plan submitted under section 8(b) of this chapter; and
 - (ii) whether to extend the pilot program to additional applicants.
 - (C) A plan to adopt best practices from the pilot program



statewide.

(2) Submit the report to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

Sec. 14. The department shall waive any state law or rule requirement necessary to exempt participating school corporations and schools from requirements for purposes of participation in the pilot program under this chapter.

Sec. 15. This chapter shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 16. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, to the extent the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with the provisions of any other general, special, or local law, the provisions of this chapter are controlling, and compliance with this chapter shall be treated as compliance with the conflicting law.

SECTION 5. IC 20-20-53 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]:

Chapter 53. Student Transportation Pilot Program and Local Boards

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "local board" refers to a:

- (1) local student transportation board established under section 6(a) of this chapter; or
- (2) if applicable, local centralized school facilities and transportation board established under section 6(e) of this chapter.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "pilot program" refers to the student transportation pilot program established by section 4 of this chapter.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "school" means a:

- (1) charter school; or
- (2) nonpublic school with at least one (1) employee.

Sec. 4. (a) The student transportation pilot program is established to provide transportation to all students attending:

- (1) school corporations;
- (2) charter schools; and
- (3) nonpublic schools with at least one (1) employee;

within the geographic boundaries described in the application under section 5(c) of this chapter.

(b) The pilot program is established for a three (3) year period consisting of the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029 school years.

Sec. 5. (a) A school corporation or school, in partnership with



other school corporations, schools, or both school corporations and schools, may apply to the department to participate in the pilot program.

(b) The department:

(1) may approve not more than a total of three (3) applications under this section to participate in the pilot program; and

(2) shall establish the application process and criteria to participate in the pilot program.

(c) The criteria established under subsection (b)(2) must require that school corporations and schools include information concerning the geographic boundaries of the area to which the application to participate in the pilot program applies.

Sec. 6. (a) Except as provided under subsection (e), not later than October 31, 2025, a local student transportation board is established for participating school corporations and schools.

(b) Each local board must be independent from any school corporation and school.

(c) The local board consists of seven (7) members who:

(1) are proportionately appointed as either representatives of participating school corporations, charter schools, or nonpublic schools described in section 3(2) of this chapter based on:

(A) the total pupil enrollment of the participating school corporations;

(B) the total pupil enrollment of participating charter schools; and

(C) the total pupil enrollment of participating nonpublic schools;

that are partnering under the pilot program; and

(2) are members of the:

(A) governing body of a participating school corporation;

(B) charter school board of a participating charter school; or

(C) equivalent of a governing body for a participating nonpublic school;

described in subdivision (1).

(d) Each local board must collaborate with individuals or entities that have expertise in the following:

(1) Transportation logistics, particularly involving movement of passengers.

(2) Finance and business.



(3) Organizational effectiveness, operations management, and implementing best practices.

(4) Government contracts.

(5) Budget development and oversight.

(e) If a school corporation or school, in partnership with other school corporations, schools, or both other school corporations and schools, receives approval to participate in the:

(1) pilot program; and

(2) centralized school facilities pilot program under IC 20-20-52;

the school corporation or schools may elect to establish, not later than October 31, 2025, one (1) local centralized school facilities and transportation board that has the powers and duties and is subject to the requirements of a local centralized school facilities board under IC 20-20-52 and local student transportation board under this chapter.

Sec. 7. Notwithstanding any other state law or rule, each local board shall be responsible for the oversight and management of the transportation of students described in section 4 of this chapter in a safe and efficient manner in accordance with the plan submitted to the general assembly by the secretary of education under IC 20-19-3-33.

Sec. 8. (a) Each local board shall create and implement a pilot program plan that includes measures to:

(1) determine the:

(A) term lengths of the members; and

(B) member replacement processes;

for the local board;

(2) allow for additional flexibility and creativity to accommodate student needs throughout the school day, including transportation:

(A) to and from school;

(B) for before and after school opportunities;

(C) for work based learning experiences;

(D) for extracurricular activities; and

(E) for specialized educational opportunities;

(3) improve safety and efficiency for students;

(4) increase collaboration between school corporations, schools, governmental entities, and community organizations;

(5) track qualitative and quantitative data to gauge the success of the pilot program;

(6) collect and report data in a manner prescribed by the



department regarding the pilot program;

(7) provide uninterrupted transportation services for homeless students or students in foster care as provided by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.);

(8) inspire opportunities for public-private partnerships or partnerships with other governmental entities or local nonprofit organizations;

(9) enter into revenue sharing agreements and asset use agreements with participating school corporations and schools for the duration of the three (3) year period of the pilot program;

(10) establish a process for the transfer to and receipt of funds, as applicable, by the local board from the participating school corporations and schools;

(11) accept and use donations, gifts, or bequests for the purposes of this chapter; and

(12) implement purchasing and maintenance plans and contracts with vendors, as needed, for the three (3) year period of the pilot program.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2028, each local board shall develop and submit to the department an implementation plan that includes the following:

(1) Whether at the conclusion of the pilot program the:

(A) participating school corporations and schools, as applicable, elect to continue operating with a local board; and

(B) local board established under section 6 of this chapter should be maintained or a new local board should be established.

(2) If a new local board should be established, the following components:

(A) The appointment of members to the new local board, including the appointing authority for the members.

(B) The term lengths of the members.

(C) The member replacement process.

(3) A process to ensure that the powers and duties under this chapter are maintained by the local board or transferred to the new local board after completion of the pilot program.

(4) The transfer of all assets and related funding regarding school transportation to the local board or new local board.

(5) The development and implementation of a long term asset



management and sustainability plan.

Sec. 9. Notwithstanding any other state law or rule, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each local board established under section 6 of this chapter:

- (1) shall exercise the full powers and duties provided under the pilot program plan created under section 8(a) of this chapter; and
- (2) shall make recommendations regarding property tax levies approved by the governing bodies of the applicable participating school corporations.

Sec. 10. Each local board may contract with outside entities to create and implement the pilot program plan described in section 8(a) of this chapter.

Sec. 11. Subject to any agreement entered into by a school corporation or school, a school corporation or school may at any time opt out of participating in the pilot program if the school corporation or school provides notice to all school corporations and schools that the school corporation or school partnered with under this chapter at least one (1) year before the school corporation or school intends to terminate the partnership and its participation under this chapter.

Sec. 12. Not later than November 1, 2027, the department of local government finance, in consultation with the department, shall do the following:

- (1) Prepare a report that includes recommendations regarding legislation and procedures to transfer the duties and powers of a participating school corporation to a local board or new local board as described in section 8(b) of this chapter.
- (2) Submit the report to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

Sec. 13. Not later than November 1, 2028, the department shall do the following:

- (1) Prepare a report that includes the following:
 - (A) A summary regarding the:
 - (i) school corporations and schools participating in the pilot program;
 - (ii) implementation of the pilot program by each local board;
 - (iii) results and outcomes regarding the pilot program; and
 - (iv) implementation plans submitted by the local boards



under section 8(b) of this chapter.

(B) Any recommendations regarding:

- (i) legislation or procedures to further carry out the purposes of this chapter and an implementation plan submitted under section 8(b) of this chapter; and**
- (ii) whether to extend the pilot program to additional applicants.**

(C) A plan to adopt best practices from the pilot program statewide.

(2) Submit the report to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

Sec. 14. The department shall waive any state law or rule requirement necessary to exempt participating school corporations and schools from requirements for purposes of participation in the pilot program under this chapter.

Sec. 15. This chapter shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 16. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, to the extent the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with the provisions of any other general, special, or local law, the provisions of this chapter are controlling, and compliance with this chapter shall be treated as compliance with the conflicting law.

SECTION 6. IC 20-20-54 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]:

Chapter 54. Mastery Based Education Pilot Program

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "mastery" means evidenced attainment of predefined, rigorous learning objectives that:

- (1) are transferable; and**
- (2) qualify a student for advancement to subsequent educational levels or competencies.**

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "mastery based education" means an innovative, learner centered approach to teaching and learning that focuses on the mastery of specific skills or knowledge areas rather than the amount of time spent in a classroom.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "pilot program" refers to the mastery based education pilot program established by section 4 of this chapter.

Sec. 4. (a) The mastery based education pilot program is established to support a school corporation or charter school that is selected by the department under subsection (b) in implementing mastery based education.



(b) The department:

- (1) shall administer the pilot program; and**
- (2) may select school corporations and charter schools that meet the requirements under this chapter to participate in the pilot program.**

Sec. 5. (a) To apply for participation in the pilot program, a school corporation or charter school shall do the following:

- (1) Apply on a form and in a manner established by the department.**
- (2) Develop and submit a plan to the department that includes the following:**

(A) A description of the following:

- (i) The educational programming the school corporation or charter school intends to offer, including specific goals and the measurable student outcomes to be obtained by the school corporation or charter school.**
- (ii) How mastery based student performance will be used, measured, evaluated, and reported by the school corporation or charter school.**
- (iii) Any business, postsecondary educational institutions, or community partners with which the school corporation or charter school intends to work.**

(B) If the school corporation or charter school intends to suspend any requirements under IC 20-28 as listed in section 8(a)(2) of this chapter, the school corporation's or charter school's criteria and goals for teacher quality, training, and compensation.

(b) The department shall do the following:

- (1) Subject to subdivision (2), approve or deny an application and plan submitted by a school corporation or charter school under this section.**
- (2) Approve an application and plan only if the department determines that the plan:**
 - (A) will promote innovative educational approaches to student learning; and**
 - (B) is likely to improve student performance and outcomes.**

Sec. 6. If a school corporation or charter school participates in the pilot program, the school corporation or charter school shall post the school corporation's or charter school's plan approved by the department under section 5 of this chapter on the school corporation's or charter school's website.

Sec. 7. (a) The department may make reasonable requests for



information from a school corporation or charter school participating in the pilot program for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of the plan.

(b) A school corporation or charter school shall respond to a request for information under subsection (a) in a form, manner, and frequency determined by the department.

Sec. 8. (a) Any of the following may be suspended for a school corporation or charter school in accordance with the school corporation's or charter school's plan approved under section 5 of this chapter:

(1) Any statute or rule that may be suspended under IC 20-26.5-2-3.

(2) Any provision under the following:

(A) IC 20-28-4.

(B) IC 20-28-11.5.

(C) IC 20-30-2-2.

(D) IC 20-30-4.

(3) Subject to subsection (b), any provisions under the statewide assessment program under IC 20-32-5.1.

(b) A statewide assessment program test requirement may not be suspended under subsection (a)(3) unless a school corporation or charter school agrees to administer an assessment that can be used to compare the performance of students who attend the school corporation or charter with the performance of students who take the statewide summative assessment.

(c) After a school corporation or charter school has participated for at least three (3) years in the pilot program, the department may:

(1) revoke the suspension of any statute or rule under subsection (a) for the school corporation or charter school; or

(2) terminate the participation of the school corporation or charter school in the pilot program;

if the department determines that the school corporation or charter school has not met the specific goals and the measurable student outcomes in the school corporation's or charter school's plan approved under section 5 of this chapter.

Sec. 9. This chapter expires June 30, 2035.

SECTION 7. IC 20-25-17 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]:

Chapter 17. Indianapolis Local Education Alliance

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "alliance" refers to the



Indianapolis local education alliance established by section 2 of this chapter.

Sec. 2. (a) The Indianapolis local education alliance is established.

(b) The alliance consists of the following nine (9) members:

(1) The superintendent of the school city or the superintendent's designee.

(2) The mayor of a consolidated city or the mayor's designee.

(3) One (1) member appointed by the president of the board who is not a member of the board.

(4) Four (4) members appointed by the mayor described in subdivision (2), one (1) of whom is a representative of business.

(5) Two (2) members appointed by the superintendent of the school city as follows:

(A) A representative of parents who:

(i) reside; and

(ii) have students attending an innovation network charter school (as defined in IC 20-25.7-3-6) located; within the geographic boundaries of the school city.

(B) A representative of parents who:

(i) reside within the geographic boundaries of the school city; and

(ii) have students who are enrolled in and attend a school maintained and operated by the school city.

(c) The mayor or the mayor's designee under subsection (b)(2) serves as the chairperson of the alliance. A quorum of the members must be present for the alliance to take any action. A quorum consists of a majority of the members of the alliance. An affirmative vote by a majority of the members present is needed for the alliance to make a recommendation or take any action.

(d) The first meeting of the alliance must be held not later than July 1, 2025.

(e) The alliance operates independently from the school city.

(f) The alliance is not subject to IC 5-14-1.5. However, the meeting at which the members of the alliance vote on the adoption of the facilities and transportation implementation plan described in section 3(a)(2) of this chapter must be open to the public.

Sec. 3. (a) The alliance shall do the following:

(1) Conduct school facility assessments for all applicable public school, including charter school, facilities located within the geographic boundaries of the school city.



(2) Develop a facilities and transportation implementation plan that includes the following components:

- (A) A long term asset management and sustainability plan, including a seat capacity target formula.**
- (B) Recommendations regarding additional school facility structural changes necessary to achieve the desired result for a collaborative system of schools that can serve all students within the geographic boundaries of the school city fairly.**
- (C) A process to approve or deny any levy requests related to capital expenditures.**
- (D) A standardized template for revenue sharing agreements and asset use agreements for all school facilities and transportation assets within the geographic boundaries of the school city.**
- (E) A method or way to address existing excess capacity in school facilities.**
- (F) A method or way to increase collaboration between schools, governmental entities, and community organizations, including facilitating opportunities for partnership with other governmental entities or local nonprofit organizations to transform school facilities into broader community assets for residents.**
- (G) Ensures the provision of uninterrupted transportation services for homeless students or students in foster care as provided by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.).**
- (H) Best practices in facilities management and operations.**
- (I) A system to track qualitative and quantitative data to gauge the success of the plan.**
- (J) A system to manage any school facility or transportation related debt.**
- (K) Recommendations regarding purchasing and maintenance plans and contracts with vendors, as needed.**
- (L) A summary of the school facility assessments for all applicable school facilities and recommendations based on the assessments.**
- (M) An approach in which schools located within the geographic boundaries of the school city will participate or opt into participation in the implementation plan and at what service level the schools may participate or opt in.**
- (N) The participation of all students in a single enrollment**



system.

(b) In developing the plan under subsection (a)(2), the alliance shall consider additional flexibility and creativity regarding:

- (1) what is considered a school facility, including considerations surrounding colocation with other schools, governmental entities, or community organizations; and
- (2) ways to accommodate student needs throughout the school day, including transportation:
 - (A) to and from school;
 - (B) for before and after school opportunities;
 - (C) for work based learning experiences;
 - (D) for extracurricular activities; and
 - (E) for specialized educational opportunities.

Sec. 4. The alliance may:

- (1) contract with outside entities in developing the plan under section 3 of this chapter; and
- (2) include the following recommendations in the implementation plan developed under section 3(a)(2) of this chapter:
 - (A) The governance structure for a collaborative school system.
 - (B) Opportunities for increased efficiency for the central office of the school city.
 - (C) Future referendum planning.
 - (D) School consolidation.
 - (E) The expansion of high quality academic programming.
 - (F) Uniform school performance frameworks for all schools within the collaborative school system.
 - (G) Special education policies.

Sec. 5. (a) This section does not apply to a proposed new charter school if the organizer of the proposed new charter school submitted to an authorizer on or before April 1, 2025, the proposal to establish the new charter school.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, a charter may not be granted by an authorizer for a new charter school located within the geographic boundaries of the school city except for a charter that is:

- (1) approved by the Indianapolis charter school board established by IC 20-24-2.3-3; and
- (2) granted by the executive (as defined in IC 36-1-2-5) of a consolidated city.

Sec. 6. Not later than December 31, 2025, the alliance shall



submit the school facilities and transportation implementation plan to the following:

- (1) The secretary of education.
- (2) The board.
- (3) The mayor described in section 2(b)(2) of this chapter.
- (4) The legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

Sec. 7. This chapter expires March 30, 2026.

SECTION 8. IC 20-26-4-4.5, AS AMENDED BY SEA 80-2025, SECTION 115, AND AS AMENDED BY SEA 287-2025, SECTION 40, AND AS AMENDED BY SEA 366-2025, SECTION 4, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 4.5. (a) The definitions in ~~IC 3-5-2~~ IC 3-5-2.1 apply to this section.

(b) If a vacancy in a school board office exists because of the death of a school board member, the *remaining members of the governing body shall meet and select an individual to fill the vacancy must be filled under IC 20-23-4-30. after the secretary of the governing body receives notice of the death under IC 5-8-6 and in accordance with section 4 of this chapter. IC 20-23-4-30. If IC 20-23-4-30(c)(2) applies to the vacancy, the vacancy must be filled after the secretary of the governing body receives notice of the death under IC 5-8-6.*

SECTION 9. IC 20-26-5-47 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 47. (a) As used in this section, "public school" means the following:

- (1) A school maintained by a school corporation.
 - (2) A charter school.
- (b) If:
- (1) a student enrolled in a public school makes an allegation that an employee of the public school engaged in misconduct with, or pertaining to, the student; and
 - (2) the public school determines that the allegation is unsubstantiated or otherwise dismissed;

the public school shall, not later than fourteen (14) days after the date the public school makes the determination, provide written notification by mail, personal delivery, or electronic mail to the employee of the public school and a parent of the student that the allegation has been determined to be unsubstantiated or otherwise dismissed.

SECTION 10. IC 20-26-16-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.270-2019, SECTION 14, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE



JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. This chapter applies to **the following**:

- (1) A school corporation, including a school city (as defined in IC 20-25-2-12). ~~and~~
- (2) A charter school.
- (3) **An accredited nonpublic school.**

SECTION 11. IC 20-26-16-1.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 1.5. As used in this chapter, "accredited nonpublic school" means a nonpublic school that:**

- (1) **has voluntarily become accredited under IC 20-31-4.1; or**
- (2) **is accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency that is recognized by the state board.**

SECTION 12. IC 20-26-16-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.270-2019, SECTION 15, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 2. The governing body of a school corporation or **the equivalent for a charter school or accredited nonpublic school** may establish a school corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school** police department under this chapter.

SECTION 13. IC 20-26-16-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.270-2019, SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 3. The governing body of a school corporation or the equivalent for a charter school **or accredited nonpublic school** may do the following for the school corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school** police department:

- (1) Appoint school corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school** police officers.
- (2) Prescribe the duties and direct the conduct of school corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school** police officers.
- (3) Prescribe distinctive uniforms.
- (4) Provide emergency vehicles.

SECTION 14. IC 20-26-16-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.270-2019, SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 4. An individual appointed as a school corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school** police officer must successfully complete at least:

- (1) the pre-basic training course established under IC 5-2-1-9(f); and
- (2) the minimum basic training and educational requirements adopted by the law enforcement training board under IC 5-2-1-9 as necessary for employment as a law enforcement officer.

SECTION 15. IC 20-26-16-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.270-2019,



SECTION 18, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 5. (a) Notwithstanding section 4 of this chapter and IC 5-2-1-9, an individual appointed as a school corporation police officer before July 1, 2007, must complete, not later than July 1, 2010, at least:

- (1) the pre-basic training course established under IC 5-2-1-9(f); and
- (2) the minimum basic training and educational requirements adopted by the law enforcement training board under IC 5-2-1-9 as necessary for employment as a law enforcement officer.

(b) As set forth in IC 5-2-1-9, an individual appointed as a school corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school** police officer may not:

- (1) make an arrest;
- (2) conduct a search or a seizure of a person or property; or
- (3) carry a firearm;

unless the school corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school** police officer successfully completes a pre-basic training course under IC 5-2-1-9(f).

SECTION 16. IC 20-26-16-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.156-2020, SECTION 76, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 6. (a) A school corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school** police officer appointed under this chapter:

- (1) is a law enforcement officer (as defined in IC 5-2-1-2(1));
- (2) must take an appropriate oath of office in a form and manner prescribed by the governing body or the equivalent for a charter school **or accredited nonpublic school**;
- (3) serves at the governing body's (or the equivalent for a charter school **or accredited nonpublic school**) pleasure; and
- (4) performs the duties that the governing body or the equivalent for a charter school **or accredited nonpublic school** assigns.

(b) School corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school** police officers appointed under this chapter have general police powers, including the power to arrest, without process, all persons who within their view commit any offense. They have the same common law and statutory powers, privileges, and immunities as sheriffs and constables, except that they are empowered to serve civil process only to the extent authorized by the employing governing body or the equivalent for a charter school **or accredited nonpublic school**; however, any powers may be expressly forbidden them by the governing body (or the equivalent for a charter school **or accredited**



nonpublic school) employing them. In addition to any other powers or duties, such police officers shall enforce and assist the educators and administrators of their school corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school** in the enforcement of the rules and regulations of the school corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school** and assist and cooperate with other law enforcement agencies and officers.

(c) Such police officers may exercise the powers granted under this section only upon any property owned, leased, or occupied by the school corporation, ~~or~~ charter school, **or accredited nonpublic school**, including the streets passing through and adjacent to the property. Additional jurisdiction may be established by agreement with the chief of police of the municipality or sheriff of the county or the appropriate law enforcement agency where the property is located, dependent upon the jurisdiction involved.

SECTION 17. IC 20-34-8-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.9-2024, SECTION 396, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 9. (a) This section applies to:

- (1) a head coach or assistant coach who coaches an athletic activity;
- (2) a marching band leader;
- (3) a drama or musical leader; or
- (4) a leader of an extracurricular activity in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest activity as determined by the department in consultation with an organization that specializes in the prevention of sudden cardiac arrest.

(b) An individual described in subsection (a) shall complete the sudden cardiac arrest training course offered by a provider approved by the department in a manner specified by the state board under IC 20-28-5.5-1 or IC 20-28-5.5-1.5. ~~The sudden cardiac arrest training course described in this subsection must include training in the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). An individual described in subsection (a) may not coach or lead the event in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest until the individual completes the training course required under this subsection. The provider shall provide the school with a certificate of completion to the school corporation, charter school, or state accredited nonpublic school for each individual who completes a course under this subsection.~~

(c) Each school corporation, charter school, or state accredited nonpublic school shall maintain all certificates of completion awarded under subsection (b) for each individual described in subsection (a):

- ~~(d)~~ (c) An individual described in subsection (a) who complies with



this section and provides coaching or leadership services in good faith is not personally liable for damages in a civil action as a result of a sudden cardiac arrest incurred by an applicable student participating in an event in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest for which the head coach, assistant coach, marching band leader, drama or musical leader, or other applicable leader provided coaching or leadership services, except for an act or omission by the individual described in subsection (a) that constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

~~(e)~~ **(d)** An individual described in subsection (a) ~~may~~ **shall** ensure that an operational automated external defibrillator (AED) is present at each event in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest for which the individual described in subsection (a) is providing coaching or leadership.

~~(f)~~ An automated external defibrillator (AED) described in subsection ~~(e)~~ may be:

- ~~(1)~~ deployed in accordance with the venue specific emergency action plan for sudden cardiac arrest developed under subsection ~~(i)~~;
- ~~(2)~~ except as provided in subsection ~~(g)~~; located on the premises where the event in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest occurs; and
- ~~(3)~~ present for the duration of the event in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest.

~~(g)~~ One ~~(1)~~ automated external defibrillator (AED) may be shared by two ~~(2)~~ or more events in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest if the following conditions are met:

- ~~(1)~~ The events in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest occur at the same time;
- ~~(2)~~ The events in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest occur in locations that are in close proximity to each other; as determined by the department;
- ~~(3)~~ The automated external defibrillator (AED) is placed in a designated location that is between the events in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest and meets the requirement of subsection ~~(f)~~~~(3)~~;
- ~~(4)~~ Each individual described in subsection (a) who conducts an event in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest described in this subsection is aware of the designated location of the automated external defibrillator (AED);

~~(h)~~ **(e)** At each event in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest, an individual described in subsection (a) ~~may~~



shall inform all individuals who are coaching or providing leadership at the event in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest of the location of the automated external defibrillator (AED).

(i) **(f)** A school corporation, charter school, and state accredited nonpublic school ~~may~~ **shall** do the following:

(1) ~~Ensure that an automated external defibrillator (AED) described in subsection (e) is properly maintained.~~

(2) **(1)** Develop a venue specific emergency action plan for sudden cardiac arrest that

(A) ~~establishes a goal of responding within three (3) minutes to a sudden cardiac arrest occurring within the venue; and~~

(B) ~~requires the performance of periodic drills at times and locations determined by the governing body.~~

(3) ~~Distribute the plan described in subdivision (2) to the school board.~~

includes elements recommended by the American Heart Association, Heart Safe Schools Program, or another similar nationally recognized evidence based program.

(4) **(2)** Share the plan described in subdivision (2) **(1)** with each individual described in subsection (a).

(5) ~~Post the plan described in subdivision (2) in a conspicuous place so that it is visible by any participants of an activity at the venue.~~

(6) **(3)** Before the beginning of the season of each event in which students have an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest, share the plan described in subdivision (2) **(1)** with all applicable students.

(j) **(g)** A school corporation, a charter school, a state accredited nonpublic school ~~(as defined in IC 20-18-2-18.7);~~ or an accredited nonpublic school (as defined in IC 10-21-1-1) may apply for a grant under IC 10-21-1-2(a)(1)(C)(viii) to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED) if the school corporation, charter school, state accredited nonpublic school or accredited nonpublic school develops a venue specific emergency action plan for sudden cardiac arrest.

SECTION 18. IC 20-51-4-5.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 5.5. (a) A parent of an eligible choice scholarship student or an eligible school on behalf of a parent of an eligible choice scholarship student may petition the department to reconsider the eligibility of a choice scholarship student enrolled in the eligible school if the parent has reason to believe that the student was determined ineligible due to enrollment data inaccuracies reported by a school.**



(b) If the department determines that a student described in subsection (a) is eligible for a choice scholarship under this chapter, the department may adjust the enrollment count of choice scholarship students for the applicable eligible school.

(c) If the department adjusts a count used for a distribution under this chapter, the department shall adjust subsequent distributions to the eligible school that is affected by the adjusted count, on the schedule determined by the department, to reflect the differences between the distribution that the eligible school received and the distribution that the eligible school would have received if the adjusted count had been used.

SECTION 19. IC 21-12-8-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.92-2020, SECTION 100, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 9. (a) This section applies to an applicant who attends or has attended any of the following:

- (1) An approved secondary school.
- (2) A state accredited nonpublic school.
- (3) A nonaccredited nonpublic school.

(b) An applicant is eligible to receive a high value workforce ready credit-bearing grant if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The applicant is domiciled in Indiana, as defined by the commission.
- (2) The applicant:
 - (A) has received a diploma of graduation from a school described in subsection (a);
 - (B) has been granted a:
 - (i) high school equivalency certificate before July 1, 1995; or
 - (ii) state of Indiana general educational development (GED) diploma under IC 20-10.1-12.1 (before its repeal), IC 20-20-6 (before its repeal), or IC 22-4.1-18; or
 - (C) is a student in good standing who is completing a final year of study at a school described in subsection (a) and will be eligible upon graduation to attend an approved institution of higher learning.
- (3) The applicant is enrolled in an eligible certificate program, as determined under section 2(4) of this chapter, at Ivy Tech Community College, Vincennes University, or a program approved by the commission.
- (4) The applicant enrolls at least half-time for purposes of federal financial aid.
- (5) The applicant has not received any grant for the maximum



number of academic terms specified for the grant in IC 21-12-13-1 or IC 21-12-13-2.

(6) The applicant is not eligible for any state financial aid program described in IC 21-12-13-1(a) or IC 21-12-13-2(a).

(7) The applicant is identified as financially independent from the applicant's parents as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

(8) The applicant has correctly filed the FAFSA and, if eligible for aid, accepts all offered federal scholarships and grants.

(9) Except as provided under subsection (c), the applicant maintains satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the eligible institution.

(10) The applicant has not previously received a baccalaureate degree ~~or an associate degree. or an eligible certificate.~~

(11) The applicant meets any other minimum criteria established by the commission.

(c) This subsection applies to an applicant who does not maintain satisfactory academic progress under subsection (b)(9) but meets all the other conditions required under subsection (b). An applicant is eligible to receive a high value workforce ready credit-bearing grant if the applicant meets one (1) of the following:

(1) The applicant has not attended an eligible institution for the immediately preceding two (2) academic years.

(2) The applicant:

(A) attended an eligible institution at any time during the immediately preceding two (2) academic years; and

(B) maintained satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the eligible institution, during the period described in clause (A) in which the applicant attended the eligible institution.

(d) If an applicant is identified as dependent as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the applicant must:

(1) meet the criteria specified in subsection (b), except for subsection (b)(4), (b)(7), and (b)(9);

(2) enroll full time for purposes of federal financial aid;

(3) maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the eligible institution; and

(4) complete a workforce ready grant success program, as determined by the commission, if the applicant graduates from high school after December 31, 2018.

(e) If the demand for high value workforce ready credit-bearing grants exceeds the available appropriation, as determined by the



commission, the commission shall prioritize the applicants identified as independent as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

SECTION 20. IC 21-13-1-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.148-2016, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 5. "Fund":

- (1) for purposes of IC 21-13-2, refers to the William A. Crawford minority teacher scholarship fund established by IC 21-13-2-1;
- (2) for purposes of IC 21-13-4, refers to the National Guard tuition supplement program fund established by IC 21-13-4-1;
- (3) for purposes of IC 21-13-5, refers to the National Guard scholarship extension fund established by IC 21-13-5-1;
- (4) for purposes of IC 21-13-6, refers to the primary care physician loan forgiveness fund established by IC 21-13-6-3; ~~and~~
- (5) for purposes of IC 21-13-6.5, refers to the medical residency education fund established by IC 21-13-6.5-1; **and**
- (6) for purposes of IC 21-13-12, refers to the county deputy prosecuting attorney and public defender scholarship fund established by IC 21-13-12-6.**

SECTION 21. IC 21-13-11-1.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 1.5. As used in this chapter, "accredited nonpublic school" means a nonpublic school that:**

- (1) has voluntarily become accredited under IC 20-31-4.1; or**
- (2) is accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency that is recognized by the Indiana state board of education.**

SECTION 22. IC 21-13-11-8, AS ADDED BY P.L.118-2016, SECTION 23, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 8. The commission may use money in the fund to provide grants to Indiana organizations that recruit science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers for employment by ~~Indiana~~ school corporations, **charter schools, or accredited nonpublic schools in Indiana.**

SECTION 23. IC 21-13-11-10, AS ADDED BY P.L.118-2016, SECTION 23, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 10. The commission shall develop an application process for grants under this chapter that identifies recruiting organizations and programs:

- (1) that produce high student achievement and effective and highly effective teachers; and
- (2) that match science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers with ~~Indiana~~ school corporations, **charter schools, or**



accredited nonpublic schools in Indiana that would otherwise encounter a shortage of qualified teachers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

SECTION 24. IC 21-13-12 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]:

Chapter 12. County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and Public Defender Scholarship Program and Fund

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "accredited law school" means an Indiana based law school that is approved by the American Bar Association and, for purposes of Rule 13 of the Rules for Admission to the Bar and the Discipline of Attorneys adopted by the Indiana supreme court, has not been disapproved by the Indiana supreme court.

Sec. 2. (a) As used in this chapter, "full-time deputy prosecuting attorney" means an individual who is employed full time as a deputy prosecuting attorney.

(b) The term does not include a:

- (1)** prosecuting attorney;
- (2)** chief deputy prosecuting attorney; or
- (3)** deputy prosecuting attorney appointed under IC 33-39-6-2(b) through IC 33-39-6-2(e).

Sec. 3. (a) As used in this chapter, "full-time public defender" means an individual who:

- (1)** is employed full time by a county as a public defender; or
- (2)** maintains a full-time equivalent caseload, as certified by the Indiana commission on court appointed attorneys under section 16 of this chapter, as a contractual or hourly public defender.

(b) The term does not include any of the following:

- (1)** The state public defender.
- (2)** A deputy of the state public defender.
- (3)** A chief public defender.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "scholarship program" means the county deputy prosecuting attorney and public defender scholarship program established by section 5 of this chapter.

Sec. 5. (a) The county deputy prosecuting attorney and public defender scholarship program is established.

(b) The commission shall receive and consider applications for a county deputy prosecuting attorney and public defender scholarship under this chapter.

(c) Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, the commission



may award a county deputy prosecuting attorney and public defender scholarship to an eligible applicant under this chapter.

Sec. 6. (a) The county deputy prosecuting attorney and public defender scholarship fund is established for the purpose of providing scholarships to attract and retain eligible applicants to full-time deputy prosecuting attorney and full-time public defender positions.

(b) The fund consists of gifts, grants, devises, or bequests made to the commission to achieve the purposes of the fund.

(c) The commission shall administer the fund.

(d) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

(f) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund but remains available to be used for the purposes of this chapter.

(g) No state funds may be:

- (1) appropriated or transferred to the fund; or
- (2) used to award scholarships under the scholarship program.

Any gifts, grants, devises or bequests made to the commission to achieve the purposes of the fund may be used to award scholarships under the scholarship program.

Sec. 7. The commission shall do the following:

- (1) Develop a promotional program to inform and attract students to participate in the scholarship program.
- (2) Establish protocols and procedures concerning the application process for the scholarship program.
- (3) Develop protocols, in consultation with accredited law schools, to ensure successful completion of the scholarship program and assist graduates in completing the requirements of the scholarship program.
- (4) Establish, in coordination with the governor's office, a guide for the management of the scholarship program by commission personnel.
- (5) Designate personnel or contract with a third party vendor to manage the scholarship program.

Sec. 8. (a) An applicant who is enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited law school after June 30, 2026,



may qualify for a scholarship under this chapter.

(b) To qualify for a scholarship under this chapter, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Apply for a scholarship on a form supplied by the commission.
- (2) Have applied and been accepted for enrollment as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited law school.
- (3) Agree in writing to:
 - (A) work as a full-time:
 - (i) deputy prosecuting attorney; or
 - (ii) public defender;
 in Indiana for at least five (5) consecutive years immediately following the date the applicant is admitted to practice law in Indiana; and
 - (B) repay all or a prorated amount of the scholarship, as determined by the commission, if the applicant fails to meet the requirements under clause (A).
- (4) Submit a written essay, as determined by the commission.
- (5) Complete a curriculum path established for the practice of law in Indiana that must include the study of the rules of evidence, criminal and civil rules of procedure, substantive criminal law, and constitutional law that is specific to Indiana. The curriculum path must also include opportunities for experiential learning.
- (6) Meet any other criteria established by the commission.

Sec. 9. The commission shall consider each application under section 8 of this chapter and determine the eligibility of the applicant for the scholarship.

Sec. 10. Before receiving a scholarship under this chapter, the applicant must enter into a contract with the commission agreeing to:

- (1) the terms and conditions described in section 8(b)(3) of this chapter; and
- (2) any other terms and conditions established by the commission.

Sec. 11. (a) Subject to subsections (b) and (c), if an applicant meets the requirements under section 8 of this chapter, the commission may award the following:

- (1) For an applicant who is enrolled full-time in an accredited law school, a scholarship to the applicant in an amount of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for:
 - (A) each academic year that the applicant attends the



accredited law school; and

(B) not more than a total of three (3) academic years.

(2) For an applicant who is enrolled part-time in an accredited law school, a scholarship to the applicant in an amount of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for:

(A) each academic year that the applicant attends the accredited law school; and

(B) not more than a total of four (4) academic years.

(b) The commission may not award a scholarship under this chapter in an amount of more than a total of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to an individual applicant.

(c) If the total amount to be distributed from the fund in a state fiscal year exceeds the amount available for distribution, the amount to be distributed to each eligible applicant shall be proportionately reduced so that the total reductions equal the amount of the excess.

Sec. 12. To maintain eligibility for a scholarship under this chapter, a student who receives a scholarship under this chapter must remain in good standing with the applicable accredited law school.

Sec. 13. An individual shall repay the amount of the scholarship awarded to the individual under this chapter in a timely fashion, as determined by the commission, if the following apply:

(1) The individual received a scholarship under this chapter.

(2) The individual is no longer enrolled in an accredited law school.

(3) The individual either:

(A) did not graduate with a law degree from an accredited law school; or

(B) was not admitted to practice law in Indiana within two (2) years from the date the individual graduated with a law degree from an accredited law school.

Sec. 14. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), if an individual:

(1) receives a scholarship under this chapter; and

(2) fails to work as a full-time:

(A) deputy prosecuting attorney; or

(B) public defender;

in Indiana for at least five (5) consecutive years immediately following the date the applicant is admitted to practice law in Indiana as described in section 8(b)(3) of this chapter;

the individual shall repay the total amount of the scholarship



awarded to the individual under this chapter in a timely fashion. However, an individual shall repay a prorated amount of the scholarship, as determined by the commission, based on the number of consecutive years the individual worked full time as described in section 8(b)(3)(A) of this chapter.

(b) The commission may extend the length of time in which an individual must complete the requirements of an agreement described in section 8(b)(3) of this chapter if the:

- (1) individual submits a petition to the commission in a manner prescribed by the commission; and
- (2) commission determines that extenuating circumstances prevented the individual from timely meeting the requirements described in section 8(b)(3) of this chapter.

(c) The commission may waive repayment under subsection (a) and section 13 of this chapter if the individual has been declared to be totally and permanently disabled under 34 CFR 685.213.

(d) The commission may enter into an agreement with the department of state revenue established by IC 6-8.1-2-1 or another third party vendor to assist in the enforcement of subsection (a) and section 13 of this chapter.

Sec. 15. An individual who receives a scholarship under this chapter:

- (1) may work part of the five (5) consecutive year period as a full-time deputy prosecuting attorney and part of the five (5) consecutive year period as a full-time public defender as long as the individual works a total of five (5) consecutive years as described in section 8(b)(3) of this chapter; and
- (2) is not required to work in the same full-time deputy prosecuting attorney or full-time public defender position in Indiana for the five (5) consecutive years.

Sec. 16. The Indiana commission on court appointed attorneys shall annually certify to the commission whether a full-time public defender described in section 3(a)(2) of this chapter is maintaining a full-time equivalent caseload for meeting eligibility requirements of the scholarship program.

Sec. 17. The commission shall administer the scholarship awarded under this chapter as a financial aid award.

Sec. 18. (a) Subject to subsection (c), the amount of a scholarship awarded under this chapter may not be reduced because the student receives other scholarships or forms of financial aid.

(b) Except as otherwise provided under law and subject to



subsection (c), the amount of any other state financial aid received by a student may not be reduced because the student receives a scholarship under this chapter.

(c) The total amount of scholarships or other financial aid a student receives may not exceed the total amount of the cost of tuition to attend the accredited law school.

Sec. 19. An applicant is eligible to receive a scholarship under this chapter only if an appropriation has been made to carry out the specific purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 20. (a) The commission shall maintain complete and accurate records in implementing the fund, including records of the following:

- (1) The receipt, disbursement, and uses of money from the fund.
- (2) The number of applications for the county deputy prosecuting attorney and public defender scholarship.
- (3) The number and amount of county deputy prosecuting attorney and public defender scholarships that have been awarded by the commission.
- (4) Any other information collected concerning the fund or county deputy prosecuting attorney and public defender scholarships awarded under this chapter.

(b) Not later than November 1, 2026, and each November 1 thereafter, the commission shall submit a report that summarizes the records described in subsection (a) to the:

- (1) governor; and
- (2) general assembly in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

Sec. 21. The commission may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 necessary to carry out this chapter.

SECTION 25. IC 21-41-11-0.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 0.5.** As used in this chapter, "accredited nonpublic school" means a nonpublic school that:

- (1) has voluntarily become accredited under IC 20-31-4.1; or
- (2) is accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency that is recognized by the Indiana state board of education.

SECTION 26. IC 21-41-11-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2014, SECTION 99, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 4.** The principal institute is established within the university to achieve excellence in teacher and student performance by strengthening leadership and management skills of practicing Indiana public and accredited nonpublic school principals.



SECTION 27. IC 21-41-11-7, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2014, SECTION 99, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 7. (a) The director of the institute shall, with staff support, develop a plan to accomplish the goals of the institute. The plan must be approved by the advisory board and must include procedures to teach principals the following:

- (1) How to develop the leadership skills and management techniques necessary for providing quality education in Indiana schools.
- (2) How to improve teacher and student performance, including how to conduct meaningful and relevant staff evaluations.
- (3) How to strengthen communication and leadership skills required for the establishment of a broad based support for public education.
- (4) Management skills for use in improving curriculum and instruction.
- (5) How to improve the school environment.

(b) The director of the institute shall, with staff support, and subject to approval by the advisory board, develop a plan for continuing education by the institute of public **and accredited nonpublic** school principals who have completed initial training at the institute.

SECTION 28. IC 21-41-11-8, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2014, SECTION 99, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 8. To be eligible for admission to the institute, a participant must be a practicing public **or accredited nonpublic** school principal for a public **or accredited nonpublic** school located in Indiana. Admission preference must be given to those school principals who have at least three (3) years of administrative experience in Indiana public **or accredited nonpublic** schools and intend to continue as public **or accredited nonpublic** school principals.

SECTION 29. IC 21-44-1-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.126-2009, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 10. "Eligible institution", for purposes of:

- (1) sections 2 and 11 of this chapter and IC 21-44-2, means a university, college, or other educational institution that:
 - (A) operates in the United States; and
 - (B) offers a health education program leading to a baccalaureate, graduate, or postgraduate degree in a health related field including:
 - (i) medicine;
 - (ii) dentistry;
 - (iii) optometry;



- (iv) nursing;
- (v) physical therapy;
- (vi) occupational therapy; or
- (vii) other allied health fields; ~~and~~

(2) IC 21-44-3, refers to a postsecondary educational institution that qualifies as an eligible institution under IC 21-44-3-1(4); **and**

(3) IC 21-44-3.5, means a state educational institution that offers a health education program leading to a graduate or postgraduate degree in a health related field, including:

- (A) medicine;**
- (B) dentistry;**
- (C) optometry;**
- (D) nursing;**
- (E) physical therapy;**
- (F) occupational therapy; or**
- (G) other allied health fields.**

SECTION 30. IC 21-44-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]:

Chapter 3.5. Eligible Institution Requirements

Sec. 1. If an eligible institution requires a standardized admissions test for admission to a graduate or postgraduate health education program, the standardized test shall be:

- (1) required of all students seeking admission to the graduate or postgraduate health education program; and**
- (2) focused on knowledge and critical thinking.**

Sec. 2. All eligible institutions that are not open enrollment eligible institutions shall require:

- (1) "A" through "F" grade based assessments for each course required to graduate; or**
- (2) another merit based system that:**
 - (A) assesses a student based on the quality of the student's academic work; and**
 - (B) is applied uniformly and equally to all students.**

SECTION 31. IC 36-2-6.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]:

Chapter 6.5. Local Board Regarding County Transfers or Gifts to a School Corporation

Sec. 1. This chapter applies to a county having a population of more than one hundred thousand (100,000) and less than one hundred ten thousand (110,000) and that has not more than one (1)



school corporation.

Sec. 2. Notwithstanding any other state law or rule, if a county transfers or gifts any unencumbered funds to a school corporation located in the county, the county executive may establish a local board to exercise oversight and manage the use of the funds.

Sec. 3. (a) A local board established in accordance with section 2 of this chapter consists of the following members:

- (1) One (1) member appointed by the county executive.**
- (2) One (1) member appointed by the county fiscal body.**
- (3) One (1) member appointed by the mayor of the city or executive of the town having the largest population within the county.**
- (4) One (1) member who is a representative of the county's business community, appointed by the county executive.**
- (5) The president of the governing body of the school corporation located within the county.**

(b) The term of a member appointed under subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), or (a)(4) is two (2) years. A member serves until a successor is appointed and qualified. A member may be reappointed after the member's term has expired.

(c) If a vacancy of a member appointed under subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), or (a)(4) occurs on the local board, the appointing authority shall appoint a new member. That member serves for the remainder of the vacated term.

(d) A local board member appointed under subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), or (a)(4) may be removed for cause by the appointing authority who appointed the member.

(e) Each member, before entering upon the member's duties, shall take and subscribe an oath of office in the usual form. The oath shall be endorsed upon the member's certificate of appointment. The certificate shall be promptly filed with the records of the local board.

(f) A member may not receive a salary, but is entitled to reimbursement for any expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of the member's duties.

(g) The expenses of the local board shall be paid by the county.

Sec. 4. (a) The members may adopt the bylaws and rules that the members consider necessary for the proper conduct of their duties and the safeguarding of the funds entrusted to their care. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to the board is necessary to authorize any action.



(b) The members of the local board shall elect one (1) of the members as president and one (1) member as treasurer to perform the duties of those offices.

Sec. 5. A local board established in accordance with section 2 of this chapter shall have oversight and management of any funds described in section 2 of this chapter to use for projects for the applicable school corporation.

Sec. 6. This chapter shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 7. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, to the extent the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with the provisions of any other general, special, or local law, the provisions of this chapter are controlling, and compliance with this chapter shall be treated as compliance with the conflicting law.

SECTION 32. IC 36-7-2.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]:

Chapter 2.4. School Corporations and Charter Schools

Sec. 1. This chapter only applies to planning and zoning ordinances or regulations under IC 36-7-4.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "charter school" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-24-1-4.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "nonpublic school" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-18-2-12.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "public school" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-18-2-15(1).

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "unit" means a county, city, or town.

Sec. 6. A public school, charter school, or nonpublic school shall be considered a permitted use in all zoning districts of a unit.

Sec. 7. A land use application for any approval that is required by a unit for a public school, charter school, or nonpublic school may not be denied for the sole reason that the requesting entity is seeking to establish a public school, charter school, or nonpublic school.

SECTION 33. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) The general assembly recognizes that SEA 366-2025 repeals IC 20-26-4-4 effective July 1, 2025, and that SEA 287-2025 amends IC 20-26-4-4 effective July 1, 2025. The general assembly intends to repeal IC 20-26-4-4 effective July 1, 2025.

(b) This SECTION expires January 1, 2026.

SECTION 34. An emergency is declared for this act.



Speaker of the House of Representatives

President of the Senate

President Pro Tempore

Governor of the State of Indiana

Date: _____ Time: _____

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