

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.

## SENATE ENROLLED ACT No. 373

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AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

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

SECTION 1. IC 20-19-2-16, AS ADDED BY P.L.1-2005, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 16. (a) The state accepts the provisions and benefits of laws enacted by the Congress of the United States that provide for aid to children with disabilities.

(b) The ~~state board~~ **department** is designated as the proper authority and may accept any federal funds appropriated to aid in the education of children with disabilities. The ~~state board~~ **department** shall comply with all the requirements of:

- (1) federal law concerning any federal funds relating to special educational activities; and
- (2) any amendments to those laws or rules and regulations issued under and in conformity with those laws and not inconsistent with this chapter.

SECTION 2. IC 20-27-3-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.43-2021, SECTION 82, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 2. (a) The following nonvoting members shall advise the voting members of the committee:

- (1) A member of the Indiana Association of School Bus Distributors selected by the executive committee of that association.
- (2) A member of the state police department selected by the state police superintendent.



~~(3) A member of the Indiana Transportation Association selected by the executive committee of that association.~~

~~(4)~~ (3) A member of the Indiana Township Association selected by the executive committee of that association.

~~(5)~~ (4) A school business official appointed by the secretary of education upon the recommendation of the Indiana Association of School Business Officials.

(b) An individual is not qualified to serve as a nonvoting member of the committee until proper credentials of the individual's appointment have been filed with the chairperson of the committee. Each nonvoting member shall be notified of all committee meetings and may attend each meeting and offer advice to the voting members of the committee.

SECTION 3. IC 20-28-5-12.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.243-2023, SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 12.5. (a) The department shall grant an initial practitioner license to an individual who:

(1) possesses a bachelor's degree from an accredited postsecondary four (4) year institution;

(2) successfully completes an alternative teacher certification program that includes:

(A) the required content training in the area in which the individual seeks to be licensed;

(B) pedagogy training and an examination that is in substantive alignment with nationally recognized pedagogical standards and teaches effective:

(i) instructional delivery;

(ii) classroom management and organization;

(iii) assessment;

(iv) instructional design; and

(v) professional learning and leadership;

(C) successful demonstration of content area proficiency in an examination that includes content area material in substantive alignment with nationally recognized content area standards in the areas that the individual is required to have a license to teach;

(D) verification from a third party that regularly reviews educational and professional examinations that the alternative certification examination is equal to or greater in rigor than the written examination under section 12 of this chapter;

(E) content within the curriculum that prepares teacher candidates to use evidence based trauma informed classroom



instruction, including instruction in evidence based social emotional learning classroom practices that are conducive to supporting students who have experienced trauma that may interfere with a student's academic functioning; and

(F) content within the curriculum that:

(i) beginning July 1, 2024, is aligned to the science of reading; and

(ii) beginning July 1, 2024, prepares teacher candidates or program participants who seek to obtain an elementary generalist license that is valid for teaching in kindergarten through grade 5 or an early childhood license that is valid for teaching prekindergarten through grade 3 to obtain the literacy endorsement required under section 19.7 of this chapter;

(3) successfully completes a **Praxis Subject Assessment; an applicable teacher licensing exam as approved by the state board;**

(4) holds a valid cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification from a provider approved by the department; and

(5) has attended youth suicide awareness and prevention training.

(b) The individual must complete a one (1) year practical experience program during the individual's first year in the classroom when the individual is employed as a full-time teacher. The provider must:

(1) provide the practical experience program at no cost to the state or to the school corporation, charter school, or state accredited nonpublic school; and

(2) as part of the practical instruction program, provide instruction in:

(A) instructional design and planning;

(B) effective instructional delivery;

(C) classroom management and organization;

(D) effective use of assessment data;

(E) content in federal and Indiana special education laws; and

(F) required awareness, preparation, and understanding of:

(i) individualized education programs;

(ii) service plans developed under 511 IAC 7-34;

(iii) choice special education plans developed under 511 IAC 7-49; and

(iv) plans developed under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.

(c) An in-state alternative teacher certification program under subsection (a)(2) must operate in accordance with the procedures and



program approval standards and requirements set by the department and the state board for teacher education programs for the licensure of teachers.

(d) An out-of-state alternative teacher certification program under subsection (a)(2) must:

- (1) currently operate in at least five (5) states; and
- (2) have operated an alternative teacher certification program for at least ten (10) years.

(e) An individual who receives an alternative teacher certification under subsection (a)(2) is authorized to teach the subject and educational level that the individual has successfully completed.

(f) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under this section shall be treated in the same manner as an individual who receives an initial practitioner license after completing a traditional teacher preparation program.

(g) An individual who graduates from an alternative teacher certification program 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.

(h) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under this section may not teach a special education course for a special education student for the period the individual maintains a license under this section unless the individual is at least twenty-six (26) years of age and employed in a school setting or with another community organization, including a for-profit or nonprofit organization, to provide care or instruction for a student with a physical, intellectual, or developmental disability. However, an individual who receives an initial practitioner license under this section may not be a teacher of record for a special education student for the period the individual maintains the initial practitioner license.

(i) A school corporation, charter school, or state accredited nonpublic school shall submit a plan to the department if the school corporation, charter school, or state accredited nonpublic school hires one (1) or more individuals who have received an initial practitioner license under this section. The plan must be submitted in a manner prescribed by the department and must include a description of how the school corporation, charter school, or state accredited nonpublic school will, excluding the practical experience program described in subsection (b), provide an individual who receives an initial practitioner license under this section opportunities to obtain exposure to classroom management and instructional techniques, including meaningful exposure to special education. The plan is a public record.



(j) Not later than July 1, 2024, the department shall prepare a report that shall be submitted to the general assembly in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6. The report must contain the following information:

- (1) Data showing how many teachers obtained an initial practitioner license under this section.
- (2) A description of the number of teachers who received an initial practitioner license under this section who are currently employed as a teacher by each:
  - (A) school corporation;
  - (B) charter school; or
  - (C) state accredited nonpublic school.

The description must include a breakdown of the subjects taught by teachers who receive an initial practitioner license under this section.

- (3) A comparison of the Praxis Subject Assessment pass rates for individuals who receive an initial practitioner license under this section in comparison with the Praxis Subject Assessment pass rates for teachers who obtained an initial practitioner license using a different pathway to licensure.

- (4) A description of how many teachers who received an initial practitioner license under this section are rated as effective or highly effective.

SECTION 4. IC 20-30-7-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.5-2024, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. (a) Except as provided in subsection (c), the state board may prescribe a program of summer school education for public schools. Subject to subsection (b), the state board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to provide for:

- (1) summer school programs; and
- (2) the state distribution formula for any money appropriated by the general assembly for summer school education to allow for **the reimbursement funding for approved summer school programs on a per student basis, which may include differentiated funding based on the course the student is enrolled in and the length of time of the summer school program.**

(A) instructional costs; and

(B) costs of tuition for an applicable online summer school course.

(b) The state board shall give priority reimbursement ~~which must be exempt from the distribution formula adopted by the state board under subsection (a);~~ for all eligible costs for summer school courses that



include curriculum aligned with the science of reading designated by the department to support students in:

- (1) grade 2 who are at risk of not being reading proficient; and
- (2) grade 3 who are not reading proficient;

as indicated on the determinant evaluation of reading skills approved by the state board under IC 20-32-8.5-2.

(c) A state accredited nonpublic school and an eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) shall be eligible for summer school funding for courses that include curriculum aligned with the science of reading designated by the department to support students in:

- (1) grade 2 who are at risk of not being reading proficient; and
- (2) grade 3 who are not reading proficient;

as indicated on the determinant evaluation of reading skills approved by the state board under IC 20-32-8.5-2.

SECTION 5. IC 20-35-2-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.162-2024, SECTION 22, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. (a) There is established under the ~~state board~~ **department** a division of special education. The division shall exercise all the power and duties set out in this chapter, IC 20-35-3 through IC 20-35-6, and IC 20-35-8.

(b) The ~~governor~~ **secretary of education** shall appoint ~~upon the recommendation of the secretary of education;~~ a director of special education who serves at the pleasure of the ~~governor;~~ **secretary of education**. ~~The amount of compensation of the director shall be determined by the budget agency with the approval of the governor.~~ The director has the following duties:

(+) ~~To~~ **shall** do the following:

- (A) ~~(1)~~ **(1)** Have general supervision of special education programs and services, including those conducted by school corporations, charter schools, the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Indiana School for the Deaf, the department of correction, and the division of mental health and addiction to ensure compliance with federal and state special education laws and rules.
- (B) ~~(2)~~ **(2)** Take appropriate action to ensure school corporations, charter schools, and the department remain eligible for federal special education funds.
- (C) ~~(3)~~ **(3)** Oversee the training of hearing officers and establish guidelines as described in IC 20-35-14-5.
- (2) ~~With the consent of the secretary of education and the budget agency;~~ to appoint and determine salaries for any assistants and other personnel needed to enable the director to accomplish the



~~duties of the director's office:~~

SECTION 6. IC 20-51-3-8, AS ADDED BY P.L.182-2009(ss), SECTION 364, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 8. The department may, in a proceeding under IC 4-21.5, suspend or terminate the certification of an organization as a scholarship granting organization if the department establishes that the scholarship granting organization:

**(1)** has intentionally and substantially failed to comply with the requirements of this article or an agreement entered into under this article; **or**

**(2) has not granted a school scholarship, as defined in IC 20-51-1-8, for either three (3) consecutive years or within the first two (2) years of operation as a certified scholarship granting organization.**



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President of the Senate

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President Pro Tempore

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Governor of the State of Indiana

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

