

**Indiana General Assembly 2026 Session**  
**Digest of New Laws Relevant to K-12 School Governance**  
Prepared by: Indiana School Boards Association  
April 1, 2026

[HEA 1004](#) **VARIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS (BEHNING R) Makes changes to various education provisions concerning the following:** (1) Certain school corporation accounting requirements. (2) The "nonpublic school" definition. (3) Recodification and state board of education (state board) transition provisions. (4) The state board's duties. **(5) Powers of the governing bodies of school corporations.\*** (6) Public-private agreements by charter schools for the construction or renovation of schools. (7) Adoption of certain rules by the state board. (8) Provisions that apply to a qualified district or qualified high school. (9) Department of Education's (department) duties regarding initiatives for teacher recruitment and retention of certain educators. (10) Internet use policy. (11) Graduation plan requirements. (12) Instruction on alcoholic beverages, tobacco, prescription drugs, and controlled substances. (13) Recognition program criteria application. (14) Reporting on certain student expenditure information. (15) Excused absences. (16) Automated external defibrillator (AED) requirements. (17) Grant awards from the Indiana Secured School Fund. **(18) Joint meetings of governing bodies of school corporations.** (19) The borrowing of money by school corporations for certain hardware. Relocates a provision regarding certain possession and storage of a firearm educational materials from IDOE to the Department of Homeland Security. Allows use of temporary teacher contracts for teachers who have been issued an emergency permit. **(19) Regular teacher's contract requirement for principals, assistant principals, and directors of special education. Removes or repeals various education and higher education provisions concerning the following:** (1) Expired and expiring provisions. (2) Duties, discretionary actions, and restrictions regarding the Department of Education. (3) Posting of certain information by schools. (4) Discretionary display of certain words by qualified districts. (5) Academic receivership. (6) Staff performance evaluations regarding Indianapolis Public Schools. **(7) Certain powers of governing bodies of school corporations.\*** (8) Certain student teaching agreement requirements with postsecondary educational institutions. (9) Certain discretionary authority of school corporations regarding joining regional school study councils, distributing payroll based on contractual and compensation plans, and establishing and using funds for nursery schools. (10) Spending restrictions for remediation programs. (11) Certain website posting requirements for school corporations and charter schools. (12) Reporting regarding students who meet certain requirements during their expected graduation year. (13) Discretion regarding certain feasibility studies. (14) Certain rights and privileges of teachers employed in a joint program or special education cooperatives or with regard to certain interlocal cooperation agreements. (15) Joint investment funds. (16) Application of certain laws to joint programs. (17) Establishment of certain students as transfer students. (18) Discretion regarding employee health coverage for certain individuals. (19) Notification to the Secretary of Education by a superintendent regarding a conviction or certain final actions. (20) References to an online platform for training. (21) Reports regarding adjunct teachers. **(22) Teacher contract requirements regarding the number of work hours per day.** (23) Voiding of contracts with teachers if certain conditions apply. (24) The provision of certain individual test scores regarding examinations required for teacher licensure. (25) The definition of "secondary school" regarding the federal teacher loan forgiveness program. (26) The definition of "deficit financing" regarding the Gary Community School Corporation and the Muncie Community school corporation. (27) Allowing instruction on bullying prevention and child abuse by certain individuals. (28) Timing of statewide assessment requirements for state accredited nonpublic schools and eligible schools. (29) Requirement that the department make available certain diagnostic tools. (30) Discretionary portfolio programs by governing bodies of school corporations. (31) Allowing expulsion if a student's legal settlement is not in an attendance area. (32) Report requirement by the education commission of the states. (33) Duty of a school corporation to preserve instructional programs.

Repeals and relocates education provisions regarding programs administered by the state with the following changes: (1) Removes or repeals the following: (A) Dissemination of certain information regarding the teacher referral system. (B) Expired provisions. (C) Certain uses of the Senator David C. Ford educational technology fund. (D) The technology plan grant program and requirements. (E)

School social worker qualification requirements. (F) An annual report regarding system of teacher and student advancement grants. (G) The Indiana education residency pilot program. (H) A biannual progress report regarding the next level computer science program and fund. (I) A noncompliance and transfer of responsibility provision regarding the next level computer science program and fund. (2) Amends certain requirements regarding the process for evaluating curricular materials. Makes conforming changes.

**Current Status: Public Law 74**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

Note: \*See supplemental guidance from ISBA in the Appendix of this Digest regarding changes to the powers of governing bodies as referenced in the synopsis of this law.

SECTION 98 amends IC 20-28-6-2 to eliminate the requirement that the teacher contract specify the number of hours per day that a teacher is expected to work.

SECTION 103 amends IC 20-28-8-2 to require the basic contract for a principal, assistant principal, or director of special education, to be the regular teacher's contract **unless the parties agree to an alternative employment contract.**

[HEA 1018](#) **SCHOOL AGE CHILDCARE** (DEVON D) Removes certain transportation requirements in the approval criteria for the school age childcare project fund. Requires the Division of Family Resources to adopt rules specifying cost and expense standards for transporting a child to a facility where the child does not attend school.

**Current Status: Public Law 17**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

[HEA 1035](#) **PERMISSIBLE UNSUPERVISED ACTIVITY** (TESKA J) Defines "independent activity." Provides that a child is not a child in need of services solely because a parent, guardian, or custodian allows the child to engage in an independent activity unless the parent, guardian, or custodian is so reckless in allowing the child to engage in the independent activity that it endangers the child's health or safety given the child's maturity, condition, and ability. Provides a defense for neglect of a dependent that the accused person reasonably believed that an independent activity was not dangerous.

**Current Status: Public Law 20**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

[HEA 1036](#) **CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES** (GARCIA WILBURN V) Requires the Department of Child Services, subject to certain procedural safeguards, to have in-person contact with an alleged victim of child abuse or neglect: (1) before concluding an assessment; and (2) before dismissing or terminating a pending child in need of services case with the juvenile court.

**Current Status: Public Law 37**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

[HEA 1098](#) **WORK-BASED LEARNING LIABILITY** (COMMONS M) Requires an intermediary and an employer to enter into an agreement that sets forth the duties and responsibilities of the intermediary and the employer when participating in a work-based learning program. Repeals provisions relating to the federal School to Work Opportunities Act under the worker's compensation and worker's occupational diseases compensation laws. Provides that, subject to certain limitations, a student who performs services for an employer as part of a work-based learning program is entitled to benefits under the worker's compensation and worker's occupational diseases compensation laws. Provides that any underwriting decision made by an insurer or rating factor applied to a participant must be based on objective risk-based criteria that are applied uniformly and without regard to the age of the student to be covered under the policy.

**Current Status: Public Law 51**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

[HEA 1195](#) **HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAMS** (DAVIS M) Amends Indiana high school equivalency diploma program eligibility requirements for individuals under 18 years of age. Changes the expiration date of the high school equivalency pilot program from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2028. Makes conforming changes.

**Current Status:** **Public Law 27**

**Comments:** SECTIONS 1-3 effective 6/29/2026; SECTION 4 effective 7/1/2026

[HEA 1210](#) **DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE** (SNOW C) Among other provisions of this law, HEA 1210 requires a municipal entity that hires or retains a municipal advisor to publish a contract in a prominent location on the municipal entity's website. **Establishes an alternative procedure for certain school corporations to issue refunding bonds.** Allows a person to satisfy any notice statute by publishing notice in specified forms of media and modifies related provisions regarding notice by publication. Provides that in assessing or reassessing land, the land shall be assessed as agricultural land regardless of who owns the property or who is liable for the property taxes. Modifies procedures as to the reporting of assessment values of real and personal property and parcel level data. Changes the deadline for a county to submit to the DLGF data regarding real property, personal property, and geographic information system information. Provides that certain local property tax credits result in a reduction of property tax collections in a political subdivision in which such a credit is applied. Specifies the procedures for the submission of certain forms and related allocation amounts regarding various allocation areas. Amends various tax increment financing allocation area provisions, including provisions to redefine "residential property" and to require the original owner of certain nonowner-occupied residential property in an allocation area to enter into a written agreement with the appropriate entity to pay the property taxes for the portion of outstanding bonds until the bonds are retired. **Changes reporting requirements by governing bodies to the DLGF regarding guaranteed savings contracts and energy efficient programs used by school corporations.** Extends a temporary increase in the capitalization rate percentage under the statewide agricultural land base rate determination. Requires the DLGF to annually publish on the Indiana Register the adjusted cost estimate threshold for certain local public work projects. Provides a real and personal property tax exemption for Indiana nonprofit senior living communities beginning with property taxes that are first due and payable in 2027. Allows certain taxpayers to retroactively file a property tax exemption application. Increases the amount of the property tax deduction for a model residence and a residence in inventory to 100% of the assessed value of the property for each deduction. Increases the number of model residences and residences in inventory from three to ten that may be claimed for purposes of those property tax deductions. Requires an individual to reside on the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home to be eligible for the over 65 property tax credit. Increases the property tax deduction for a veteran who is totally disabled to 100% of the assessed value of the individual's real property (instead of \$14,000). Expires property tax deductions for certain veterans, and instead provides a property tax liability credit. Restores the property tax deduction available to a surviving spouse of a World War I veteran that was limited by SEA 1-2025. Provides, if a taxpayer claims the homestead deduction for property that is not eligible for the deduction, that the taxpayer shall (instead of may) be liable for any additional taxes that would have been due on homestead property plus a civil penalty. Requires the county auditor to include in a notice of tax due a 10% fine as a penalty for claiming the homestead deduction falsely, which is in addition to all other penalties for which the taxpayer is liable. Provides that for purposes of fixing and reviewing budgets, tax rates, and tax levies, before a county auditor makes an amendment, the county auditor must provide written notice to the county fiscal body, the DLGF, and the fiscal officers of the affected taxing units. Provides that the DLGF may not approve the budget for a political subdivision until an attestation statement concerning the uploading of contracts is submitted. **Allows a school corporation to allocate the effects of supplemental homestead credits granted for property taxes first due and payable in 2026 proportionately among all the school corporation's property tax funds.** Requires certain qualified data center users to enter into an agreement with local officials before the qualified data center user may use a specific transaction award certificate. Moves the effective date for the local income tax changes enacted in SEA 1-2025 from 2028 to 2029. Specifies

procedures for the imposition of local income taxes and distribution of local income tax revenue. Removes provisions enacted in SEA 1-2025 providing for the expiration of local income tax expenditure rates for counties or municipalities that fail to adopt an ordinance to renew an existing expenditure tax rate. Provides that the county may determine an allocation method for revenue raised from a tax rate for fire protection or emergency medical services. Provides that the county and certain township fire departments must receive an allocation of revenue raised from a tax rate for fire protection or emergency medical services. Provides a formula for the distribution of revenue from the local income tax rate imposed by a county for certain small cities and towns.

**Current Status:** Public Law 157

**Comments:** Various effective dates by section refer [here](#)

Note: The “protected taxes” provision of this law regarding the Debt Service Fund of school corporations is delayed until CY 2027. When effective, the levy losses of the supplemental homestead credits will come from the Operations Fund.

[HEA 1242](#) **EDUCATION REPORTS** (YOCUM T) Requires the department of education to: (1) prepare a report compiling certain statewide data on school corporations and charter schools; and (2) submit the report to the legislative council and the interim study committee on education. Requires the department of local government finance, in consultation with the department of education, to conduct a study of the disparities in per student operational funding amounts in school corporations, and submit the report to the legislative council and the state budget committee.

**Current Status:** Public Law 55

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

[HEA 1249](#) **VARIOUS CRIMINAL LAW MATTERS** (ZIMMERMAN A) Among other provisions of this law, HEA 1249 **increases the penalty for battery on certain health care employees and school employees.** Specifies that the enhancement for battery committed against a department of child services (DCS) employee applies only to those DCS employees whose responsibilities include personally supervising a child or parent, personally providing services to a child or parent, or personally interviewing a child or parent as part of an investigation. **Requires the employer of a health care or school employee who is the victim of battery to make a semiannual report to the Department of Labor concerning workplace batteries.** Provides that certain uses of a drone constitute remote aerial harassment. Specifies that a child charged with dangerous possession of a firearm may be tried by a juvenile court under certain circumstances. **Makes dangerous possession of a firearm a Level 5 felony if the child:** (1) has a prior conviction for unlawful carrying of a handgun; or (2) **possesses the firearm on school property, within 500 feet of a school, or on a school bus. Repeals provisions that require:** (1) the Department of Education to maintain a public data base concerning public school employees who were physically injured on the job by students; and (2) each public school to provide to the Department of Education information concerning certain public school employees physically injured on the job by a student.

**Current Status:** Public Law 158

**Comments:** SECTION 48 effective 3/12/2026; SECTIONS 1-46 effective 7/1/2026

[HEA 1266](#) **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EDUCATION MATTERS** (BEHNING R) Among other provisions of this law, HEA 1266 makes various changes to education provisions concerning the following: (1) Creating a teaching and learning framework for the implementation of mathematics academic standards. (2) Development of a data science math pathway. (3) Submission of a report to the General Assembly concerning recommendations on strategies to support academically and fiscally underperforming schools, and interventions as necessary. (4) Evaluating, approving, and publishing high quality curricular materials timelines. (5) Local board membership for a local centralized school facilities board and local student transportation board. (6) **Salary differentiation regarding teachers who possess a literacy endorsement.** (7) Amounts expended in participating in an interlocal agreement included in determining amounts school corporations expend on full-time teacher salaries for purposes of teacher salary minimum funding requirements. (8) Summer school program and reimbursement administration. (9) Criteria required for eligibility of a waiver for conducting four-day

school weeks. (10) Oversight of career and technical education program designation. (11) **Uses of the Teacher Appreciation Grants.** (12) The calculation of operating referendum distributions and school safety referendum distributions to charter schools regarding virtual instruction. (13) Petitions regarding reconsidering payments of choice scholarships. (14) Membership of the board for proprietary education. (15) The effective date regarding the changes to the definition of "eligible choice scholarship student." (16) Career specialist permit eligibility. Provides that an emergency permit may be renewed up to two times to an individual enrolled in an alternative teacher certification program if the program provides documentation verifying the individual's good standing in the program to the Department of Education. Creates a new qualification option for a transition to teaching program participant who seeks to obtain a license to teach in grades 5 through 12. Removes a provision that provides that the department may not release less than 10 items per subject matter level per grade level regarding the statewide summative assessment. Removes a requirement that for a parent or student to use a Career Scholarship Account (CSA) annual grant amount for costs related to transportation a CSA participating entity must pay a matching amount for the transportation costs. Requires each state educational institution that offers a two-year graduate degree program in mental or behavioral health to evaluate the graduate degree program to determine the feasibility of providing the program in a specifically structured manner to allow full-time students to complete the program within: (1) one year; or (2) five years if the program is combined with a baccalaureate degree program. Requires the Indiana Department of Education to elect to participate as a covered state in the federal tax credit scholarship program for elementary and secondary education under Section 25F of the Internal Revenue Code (enacted in Public Law 119-21, commonly known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025). Makes conforming changes to the school scholarship tax credit in current law.

**Current Status:** **Public Law 159**

**Comments:** SECTIONS 12-13, 21-22, 26, and 31 effective 3/12/2026; SECTIONS 2-11, 14-20, 23-25, and 27-30 effective 7/1/2026; SECTION 1 effective 1/1/2027

Note: SECTION 14 provides guidance on the eligibility of a school corporation to offer a four-day school week through waiver approval under IC 20-30-2-3 from the State Board of Education. HEA 1266 amends IC 20-31-4.1-4 to require a school to meet the following requirements:

(1) Provide transportation to a school that conducts a five (5) day school week that serves the same grade level for any student who would otherwise be assigned to a school that conducts a four (4) day school week.

(2) Be placed in the highest performance and improvement category or designation by IDOE under IC 20-31-8.

(3) Meet the minimum teacher salary threshold under IC 20-28-9-26.

(4) Provide enrichment and remediation opportunities on the day that a regular school day is not conducted at no cost to a parent of a student or student.

SECTION 21 authorizes use of the Teacher Appreciation Grant to pay withholdings from a teacher stipend an amount to make the FICA and Indiana state teachers' retirement fund contributions.

[HEA 1302](#) **VARIOUS LABOR AND SAFETY MATTERS (TESHKA J)** Repeals various provisions concerning the Indiana Department of Labor employer database for youth employment. Removes provisions relating to a belt examiner certificate. Makes corresponding changes.

**Current Status:** **Public Law 91**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

Note: Among other provisions, this law repeals IC 22-2-18.1-26, which previously required employers with five or more minors aged 14 to 17 to register with the Department and regularly report specified employment information, including employer details and the number and location of minor employees.

[HEA 1303](#) **SEX CRIMES AND CHILD SAFETY (MCNAMARA W)** Specifies the sex offender reporting requirements for persons who are sex offenders or required to register in other jurisdictions. Adds "high risk missing

person" to the definition of "missing child." Specifies that the silver alert program applies to missing children. Removes provisions concerning possession of child sex abuse material (CSAM) from the statute containing the offense of child exploitation, and makes a new section for CSAM offenses. Creates a new crime for distribution of CSAM, and generally conforms the sentencing enhancements for possession of CSAM, distribution of CSAM, and child exploitation. Specifies that certain restrictions on CSAM in discovery also apply in civil proceedings (under current law, they only apply in criminal proceedings). Provides a defense in specified circumstances. Removes certain duplicative provisions and makes conforming amendments and technical corrections.

**Current Status: Public Law 92**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026 except for SECTIONS 3-7, which became effective 3/4/2026

Note: Among other provisions, Section 31 specifies that the statute does not apply to a bona fide school or to a school employee acting within the scope of employment when possession of such materials is for legitimate scientific or educational purposes, and further provides a defense to prosecution when a school employee's actions are performed solely within the course of their professional duties.

[HEA 1325](#) **SPECIAL EDUCATION** (PFAFF T) Requires the Indiana Department of Education, in collaboration with the Indiana Department of Health, the Department of Child Services, and the Office of the Secretary of Family and Social Services, to report and make recommendations concerning certain data regarding residential placement, developmental preschool, and special education.

**Current Status: Public Law 34**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026 (This section of law expires January 1, 2027)

[HEA 1360](#) **ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS** (LEHMAN M) Allows a public agency to establish and maintain an electronic portal for submission of public records requests that: (1) **incorporates CAPTCHA** or an equivalent mechanism for ensuring that a requestor is a human; (2) **requires verification of a requestor's physical address**; (3) indicates to the public agency **whether the requestor is a resident of Indiana**; and (4) **automatically tracks and reports** submissions suspected to be automated or to have originated from known sources of phishing or data scraping. Provides that **a public agency may deny a public record request if the request: (1) is made by a person that is a party to pending or ongoing litigation; and (2) is duplicative of a discovery request made by the person in the pending or ongoing litigation.** Provides that: (1) **a public agency may decline to respond to a public records request if the public agency suspects: (A) the request to be data scraping or phishing activity; or (B) that responding to the request electronically may: (i) expose the public agency's electronic systems or data to unauthorized access or alteration; or (ii) otherwise jeopardize the security of the public agency's electronic systems or data; and (2) if the public agency declines to respond to the request, the public agency must report: (A) the request; and (B) the public agency's reason for declining to respond to the request; to the public access counselor.** Allows a public agency to collect a supplemental fee for processing public records requests submitted by non-Indiana residents or out-of-state entities. Allows a public agency to give priority in fulfilling public records requests to: (1) Indiana residents; and (2) requests submitted for civic, journalistic, academic, or personal use. Requires public agencies to report to the public access counselor regarding public records requests suspected of being automated, data scraping activity, or phishing activity (suspect public records requests). Provides that the general assembly may establish reasonable and narrowly tailored procedural safeguards to preserve the integrity and availability of public agency resources. Requires the public access counselor to: (1) take specified actions with regard to identifying excessive and suspect public records requests; and (2) include in the public access counselor's annual report: (A) information regarding the volume and nature of public records requests received by public agencies, including information regarding suspect public records requests reported by public agencies; and (B) recommendations to the general assembly regarding statutory or administrative remedies to excessive and suspect public records requests.

**Current Status: Public Law 97**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

[HEA 1408](#) **EDUCATION MATTERS** (BEHNING R) Includes the general assembly in the list of state entities to which the management performance hub (MPH) must make available certain government information. Provides that the MPH's annual data product: (1) must include certain sources of information; and (2) must be made available to the general assembly. Amends the definition of "workforce focused agency" to include the state workforce development board. Provides that certain workforce related programs include apprenticeship programs, unless the apprenticeship program receives certain funding. Requires a regional representative appointed to the Ivy Tech Community College (college) state board of trustees (state board of trustees) to serve as a nonvoting member of the college campus board (campus board) for the region the member represents. Requires each college campus to review building utilization data prior to approving capital requests or requests for proposals. Requires the state board of trustees to create and approve evaluation tools for campus boards to provide annual feedback on the performance of the campus chancellors. Requires the college to annually provide: (1) certain program and student metrics information; and (2) an analysis of market labor outcomes; to each campus board. Requires each college campus to: (1) prepare a campus strategic plan that connects to the college's strategic plan; and (2) submit the campus strategic plan to the state board of trustees for approval. Provides that, when a vacancy occurs in the position of a campus chancellor, a member of the campus board, selected by the campus board, shall serve on the search committee appointed by the president of the college. Establishes requirements and restrictions regarding adolescent use of social media. Makes a violation of the requirements and restrictions a deceptive act.

**Current Status:** Public Law 100

**Comments:** SECTIONS 1-12 effective 7/1/2026; SECTIONS 13-14 effective 1/1/2027

[HEA 1423](#) **INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC EDUCATION CORPORATION** (BEHNING R) Establishes the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation (corporation) and board (corporation board). Establishes the duties and powers of the corporation and the corporation board. Provides that the Indianapolis public schools school corporation (school city) is not subject to building closure or certain transfer of school building laws. Allows only certain authorizers to grant or renew charters for charter schools located within the geographic boundaries of the school city. Specifies the authority and duties of the corporation related to the imposition of property taxes. Provides that the corporation is authorized to pursue a controlled project, operating referendum, or school safety referendum (instead of the school city). Requires the county auditor to transfer to the corporation a percentage of the amount of revenue collected from the operations fund property tax levy that would otherwise be distributed to the school city and applicable charter schools. Establishes the corporation operations fund and corporation debt service fund. Provides that the corporation may issue bonds, enter leases, or otherwise incur indebtedness after March 31, 2026, and before July 1, 2027, only if the board of school commissioners of the school city first adopts a resolution approving the issuance of the bonds, entering into the lease, or incurring of indebtedness. Provides, beginning April 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, the reduction of distributions to pay for debt service obligations issued by the corporation must be made from reductions of distributions to the school city for failure to pay debt service obligations.

**Current Status:** Public Law 101

**Comments:** SECTIONS 1-20, 22-66 effective 3/4/2026; SECTION 21 effective 7/1/2026

[SEA 4](#) **VARIOUS FISCAL MATTERS** (MISHLER R) Requires the legislative services agency to perform a fiscal impact analysis for all executive orders issued by the governor within seven days of an order's issuance. (Under current law, this requirement only applies to a governor's declaration of a disaster emergency by executive order.) Provides that if the implementation and compliance costs of a proposed rule are expected to exceed \$500,000 (instead of \$1,000,000) over a two-year period, the publisher may not publish the proposed rule until the budget committee has reviewed the rule. Amends the Pokagon Indiana Education Fund to allow payments to be made to both public and private Indiana institutions of higher learning for the purposes of the fund. Makes the following changes (effective July 1, 2028) regarding Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC): (1) Allows a county to meet CMHC funding requirements from any funding source in lieu of or in combination with property taxes but excluding federal funds. (2) Adds provisions concerning the location where certain CMHC

services may be provided. (3) Specifies additional items that are required to be reported by a CMHC in its annual report. Urges the legislative council to assign to the interim study committee on courts and the judiciary the task of undertaking a comprehensive study of all court fees and fines. Allows the budget agency, subject to budget committee review, to use the appropriation to the financial responsibility and opportunity growth fund (fund) in HEA 1001-2025 or augment the fund for the purpose of providing funding to the Child Care and Development Fund voucher program in addition to the uses for the appropriation as authorized in HEA 1001-2025.

**Current Status:** Public Law 102

**Comments:** SECTION 8 retroactive 3/5/2025; SECTIONS 1, 3, 4, 7 effective 3/5/2026; SECTIONS 2, 5, 6, 9 effective 7/1/2026

#### [SEA 25](#)

**SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES (BYRNE G)** Provides that when more than one candidate qualifies for a school board office within designated candidate groupings, the candidates must be listed in a prescribed order, with names arranged alphabetically by surname within each grouping.

**Current Status:** Public Law 7

**Comments:** Effective 2/24/2026

Note: School board candidates are grouped by political party and ordered based on each party's performance in the most recent Secretary of State election in the county, with candidates listed alphabetically by surname within each group. Minor party and independent candidates follow, generally in filing order unless more than one candidate files under the same designation, in which case they are grouped and listed alphabetically by surname, and candidates who do not disclose a political affiliation are listed last in alphabetical order by surname.

#### [SEA 76](#)

**IMMIGRATION MATTERS (BROWN L)** Provides that if a law enforcement officer, governmental body, or postsecondary educational institution is made a party to a civil suit and the attorney general determines that the suit has arisen out of certain immigration matters, the attorney general may defend the law enforcement officer, the governmental body, or the postsecondary educational institution if representation is requested and the actions subject to the suit do not violate federal or state law. Provides that the prohibition on governmental bodies or postsecondary educational institutions limiting or restricting the enforcement of federal immigration law applies regardless of whether the enforcement related activity is carried out by a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency. **Removes the mens rea standard** in the statute concerning governmental bodies or postsecondary institutions violating the citizenship and immigration status information and enforcement of federal laws chapter. **Provides that if the attorney general determines that probable cause exists that a governmental entity has not complied with certain requests, the attorney general may bring a court action to: (1) enjoin an act or practice constituting a violation; (2) impose a civil penalty for noncompliance; and (3) and obtain other such relief as is necessary.** Provides that before bringing an action against a county jail for certain violations, the attorney general shall consult with the Department of correction concerning the most recent inspection report and provide the county jail with notice of the attorney general's probable cause determination. Provides that a governmental body that has the custody of an individual who is the subject of an immigration detainer request shall: (1) provide the judge authorized to grant or deny the individual's release on bail notice that the individual is subject to an immigration detainer request; (2) record in the individual's case file that the individual is subject to an immigration detainer request; (3) comply with the immigration detainer request; and (4) inform the individual that the individual is being held pursuant to an immigration detainer request. **Provides immunity to a governmental body or an employee of a governmental body for any action taken concerning an immigration detainer request as long as the action does not violate federal or civil law.** Requires a judge who receives notice that an individual is subject to an immigration detainer request to ensure that the notice of the immigration detainer request is recorded in the court's record. Provides that the Department of Corrections shall, in consultation with the Attorney General, identify options for training on minimum standards for county jails. Provides that compliance with certain standards and the results of an inspection do not preclude and are not a defense to the attorney general bringing an action under IC 5-2-18.2. Provides

that the department shall submit to the state budget committee status update reports. Requires the office of the secretary to submit a report to the legislative council concerning certain immigration matters. Provides that each hospital shall, not more than one hundred twenty (120) days after the end of each calendar quarter, file with the state department beginning January 1, 2027, in cases where Medicaid is the patient's payor, the form of identification, if any, used by the patient when the patient was admitted. Specifies that it is unlawful for an employer to knowingly or intentionally recruit, hire, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien in Indiana. Allows the Attorney General to bring an enforcement action against an employer if the Attorney General determines that probable cause exists that the employer has violated certain recruitment and hiring restrictions concerning an unauthorized alien. Prohibits an employer from discharging or discriminating against an employee because the employee communicated or cooperated with the attorney general. Provides that indecent nuisance means a place in which human trafficking is conducted and is not limited to a public place. Provides that a governmental entity that employs a prosecuting official is entitled to investigative costs, court costs, and reasonable attorney fees incurred in an indecent nuisance action if the existence of an indecent nuisance is admitted or established in the action. Makes technical changes.

**Current Status:** Public Law 106

**Comments:** SECTIONS 5-7, 11, 17 effective 3/5/2026; SECTIONS 1-4, 8-10,12-14, 16, 18, 19 effective 7/1/2026; SECTION 15 effective 1/1/2027

[SEA 78](#)

**WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE POLICY** (RAATZ J) Amends definitions, requirements, restrictions, and exceptions regarding wireless communication device policies adopted and implemented by school corporations and charter schools. **Requires the Department of Education to publish model policy language and implementation guidance.** Provides that, with exceptions, a school corporation, a school maintained by a school corporation, and a charter school, including school personnel, are immune from civil liability for any actions taken in good faith to comply with the school's wireless communication device policy.

**Current Status:** Public Law 107

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

Note: School boards must adopt a “bell-to-bell” policy that either prohibits students from possessing wireless communication devices, including cell phones and smartwatches, on school property or requires the devices to be stored, powered off, and inaccessible throughout the school day. Specific exceptions are identified.

[SEA 88](#)

**EDUCATION MATTERS** (BYRNE G) Amends good citizenship instruction requirements. Includes the Classic Learning Test in certain references to nationally recognized college entrance examinations. Requires a state educational institution (SEI) to accept the Classic Learning Test examination to the same extent the SEI accepts the ACT or SAT examination with respect to admission criteria. Requires the Department of Education to identify schools that allow students who are not enrolled in the school to take certain examinations at the school and present the information in a manner that can be conveniently and easily accessed from the department's website.

**Current Status:** Public Law 108

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

Note: The good citizenship instruction must include the importance of: (1) obtaining a high school diploma; (2) securing full-time employment; and (3) waiting until marriage to have children as relevant to attaining economic prosperity.

[SEA 119](#)

**GROOMING** (DERNULC D) Adds a facility or event that provides entertainment or programming primarily directed toward a child less than 18 years of age to the list of facilities at which a sexually violent predator or an offender against children may not work or volunteer. Adds entering a facility or location holding an event that provides entertainment or programming primarily directed toward a child less than 18 years of age by a serious sex offender to the crime of unlawful entry by a serious sex

offender. Renames the offense of "inappropriate communication with a child" to "sexual grooming", and provides (in addition to the current elements of the offense) that a person commits the offense if the person engages in a pattern of repeated or continuous contact with an individual whom the person believes to be a child less than 14 years of age, with the intent to condition the individual to be less resistant to future sexual conduct or sexual activity. Specifies that "computer network" includes cellular telephones.

**Current Status: Public Law 111**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

[SEA 140](#) **PUBLIC SAFETY (BECKER V)** Amends the definition of "threat" in the intimidation statute to include posting a person's personal information on a social media platform with the intent to cause: (1) bodily injury to the person; (2) damage to the person's property; or (3) the commission of a crime against the person. Increases the penalty for intimidation if committed against a legislator.

**Current Status: Public Law 146**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

[SEA 144](#) **TOBACCO, E-LIQUID, AND VAPOR DEVICES (ALEXANDER S)** Increases the penalty for a person who: (1) makes a delivery sale of an e-liquid to an individual less than 21 years of age; (2) sells or distributes a tobacco product to a person less than 21 years of age; and (3) purchases a tobacco product for a person less than 21 years of age from a Class C infraction to a Class B infraction. Makes it a Class B infraction for a person to make a delivery sale of a vapor device to an individual less than 21 years of age. Makes it a Class B infraction for a person to: (1) sell or distribute a vapor device to a person less than 21 years of age; and (2) purchase a vapor device for a person less than 21 years of age. Makes it a Class C infraction for a person less than 21 years of age to purchase, accept, or possess a vapor device. **Prohibits a person from advertising an e-liquid or a vapor product, by any medium, within 1,000 feet of school property.**

**Current Status: Public Law 141**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

[SEA 199](#) **VARIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS (RAATZ J)** Makes changes to the composition of the case review panel established by an interscholastic athletic association. Requires the Secretary of Education, not later than December 1, 2026, to identify key metrics and activities concerning civic literacy and to submit the information to the general assembly. Requires the Secretary of Education, not later than December 1, 2026, to identify and make certain recommendations concerning paid leave for employees following certain events and to submit the findings to the general assembly. Provides that certain requirements apply to schools in which, over the course of three consecutive years, fewer than 75% of students achieved a valid passing score on the determinant evaluation of reading skills.

**Current Status: Public Law 120**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

Note: This bill also included provisions pertaining to the Commission for Higher Education. Those provisions were removed from the summary above.

[SB200](#) **PUBLIC SCHOOL MATTERS (RAATZ J)** Provides that certain: (1) indemnity; (2) choice of law; and (3) automatic renewal provisions contained in contracts entered into, amended, or renewed after June 30, 2026, between the governing body of a school corporation or the equivalent authority for a charter school and a vendor are against public policy and are void and unenforceable. Provides that certain youth organizations may submit a grievance to the Department of Education if a public school refuses to allow the organization to provide information to students under certain conditions. Provides that, if a public school allows a postsecondary educational institution to provide certain information to students, the public school shall allow military personnel to provide certain information to students.

**Current Status: Public Law 149**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026

[SEA 204](#) **VARIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS (DEERY S)** Provides that an individual who has obtained a license to teach in a charter school may be eligible to obtain an initial practitioner professional educator license under certain conditions. Removes a requirement that an individual must hold a bachelor's degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics as a component of certain pathways to receive an initial practitioner license. Provides that academic needs-based salary increases may not: (1) apply to all eligible teachers in a bargaining unit uniformly; or (2) be based on certain other factors.

**Current Status:** **Public Law 150**

**Comments:** Effective 7/1/2026 except for SECTION 3, which takes effect 7/1/2027

Note: SECTION 3 changes how the academic needs factor in the teacher compensation model may be used. Provisions pertaining to state educational institutions were removed from the summary above.

[SEA 239](#) **VARIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS (ROGERS L)** Requires the Department of Education to: (1) compile a list of business and industry partners that provide guaranteed incentives to high school students who earn the honors employment plus seal; and (2) publish the list on the Department's website. Provides that, in addition to conditions established in current law to convert an existing public elementary or secondary school, an existing public elementary or secondary school may be converted into a charter school if certain other conditions apply. Allows, if the conditions are met, the governing body of a school corporation to: (1) convert more than one existing public elementary or secondary school within the school corporation; and (2) operate two or more conversion charter schools under a single charter. Allows participating innovation network charter schools to enter into an agreement with more than one school corporation. Establishes the following for or regarding participating innovation network charter schools that entered into an agreement with more than one school corporation: (1) requirements regarding the location of a participating innovation network charter school; (2) terms of a participating innovation network charter school agreement; and (3) duties of the Department of Education. Amends certain requirements and procedures that apply to the closure and transfer of covered school buildings. Provides that a lease or sale of a covered school building to a charter school or state educational institution includes certain assets. Requires parental notification if a school determines a student is at risk of not achieving grade level proficiency in mathematics.

**Current Status:** **Public Law 151**

**Comments:** SECTIONS 11-15 pertaining to the lease or sale of a school building to a charter school or state educational institution went into effect 3/12/2026; SECTIONS 3-5, and 7 pertaining to duties of the Department of Education take effect 7/1/2026; SECTIONS 2, 6-10, and 17 pertaining to innovation network charter schools take effect 7/1/2027

## **APPENDIX**

### **HEA 1004**

#### **Summary of School Governance Changes**

##### **SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE PROVISIONS**

- SECTION 48 – Provides authority to hold a joint meeting with another school board within the boundaries of one of the school corporations
- SECTION 49 – Establishes the authority to enter into agreements with one or more school corporations for a cooperative program of self-insurance
- SECTION 98 – Eliminates the specification of hours from the regular teacher contract (boards should consider establishing the expected hours of the workday)
- SECTION 103 – Provides authority to create employment contracts (as opposed to using the regular teacher’s contract) for principals, assistant principals, and directors of special education
- SECTION 140 – School corporations must create a venue specific emergency plan for sudden cardiac arrest that includes elements recommended by the American Heart Association and the number and location of AEDs

##### **SCHOOL BOARD POLICY PROVISIONS**

- SECTION 61 – By January 1, 2027, school boards must adopt policies that allows parents to increase computer filters and block access to websites when a student using the school-issued computer at home

##### **REPEALED PROVISIONS**

- SECTION 60 – Removal of cap on monies spent for remediation programs
- SECTION 85 – Health insurance for board members/attorneys (Note: this eliminates a “may” provision. School boards have the authority under IC 5-10-8 to allow board members and persons who provide personal services under a contract to participate in group insurance programs.)
- SECTION 102 – Authority to “hold” a teacher for 30 days after resigning
- SECTION 137 – Expulsion procedures for students without legal settlement