



2017 Legislative Summary:

Education

The Indiana General Assembly made some significant changes regarding education in Indiana this year, including changing student assessments from ISTEP to ILEARN, changing the Superintendent of Public Instruction from an elected position to appointed by the Governor, and expanding publicly funded PreK education throughout the state. Below are highlights of some of the key education bills that were passed.

[HEA1003 Student Assessments \(Behning R\)](#)

- Repeals ISTEP after June 30, 2018 with new assessment entitled Indiana's Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network (ILEARN) which will be developed by the State Board of Education
 - Includes statewide assessments, end of course assessments, and optional benchmark assessments
 - Specifies the design and content requirements for the assessment
- After June 30, 2018, students must complete a graduation pathway requirement (as determined by the State Board of Education) rather than pass a graduation exam
- Schools may reevaluate the use of ISTEP results in teacher evaluations

[HEA1004 Prekindergarten Education \(Behning R\)](#)

- Combines the Pre-k Pilot Program and Early Education Grant Pilot Program
- Original 5 counties still eligible and adds 15 additional counties
- Funded at \$22M per year
 - \$1M for on-line Pre-k program (including technology reimbursement for parents)
 - \$12M to existing programs
 - \$9M to additional 15 counties
- Children who are eligible for Pre-k under this program are eligible for a Choice Scholarship
- Requires random onsite inspections of existing or potential providers
- Requires certain conditions be met by parents in addition to income in determining eligibility including:
 - Must be working or actively seeking employment
 - Must agree to keep child in program for full duration and not transfer to another program
 - Child must attend 85% of days provided
 - Must agree to participate in external evaluation and assessments in addition to family engagement and involvement meetings
 - Must agree to send child to kindergarten and agree to read to child each week

[HEA1005 Superintendent of Public Instruction \(Bosma B\)](#)

- After January 10, 2025, the Superintendent of Public Instruction will be appointed by the Governor rather than elected and will be newly titled, Secretary of Education
- Requirements include:
 - Two-year residency in Indiana
 - Preferable experience in administration of public education
 - Possess an advanced degree and licensure, and has a minimum of five years' experience in the field of education

HEA1430 Suicide Awareness and Prevention (Olthoff J) See full summary in MCCOY's separate legislative update for HEA1430

- Requires public, private, and charter school teachers (including principals, counselors, social workers, nurses, etc.) of students in grades 5-12 to receive evidence-based prevention training every three years
- Requires public schools to adopt policies addressing prevention, intervention, and postvention programs and activities in schools

SEA337 Study of Ethnic and Racial Groups Course (Taylor G)

- Requires public, private, and charter high schools to offer an elective course on the study of ethnic and racial groups at least one semester per year

SEA355 Child Abuse Education and Policies (Messmer M)

- Requires the Department of Education to provide plans and policies to schools for child abuse and child sexual abuse prevention, including model educational, response, and reporting procedures for implementation in grades kindergarten through 12
 - Schools may not establish policies that restrict or delay reporting suspected child abuse by employees
- Requires schools to provide age-appropriate, evidence-based instruction on child abuse and child sexual abuse to students in grades K-12

SEA392 Emergency Medication in Schools (Stoops M)

- Allows public, charter, and private schools to fill prescriptions and store emergency medications, defined as epinephrine, albuterol, and naloxone

SEA447 Child Services (Merritt J) This bill contains other provisions related to the Department of Child Services and this summary pertains only to a provision pertaining to schools

- Requires public, charter, and private schools to provide training on recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect to all employees having direct, ongoing contact with children every two years

SEA475 Developmental Delay (Melton E)

- Requires the revision of an administrative rule regarding the ages that the disability category of developmental delay covers from 3-5 to 3-9 years
- Adds developmental delay to the list of programs for mild and moderate disabilities

To view the bills considered during the 2017 legislative session, visit the Indiana General Assembly's website:

www.iga.in.gov