



## 2018 Legislative Summary: *Education*

Each session, the Indiana General Assembly considers a number of bills dealing with education. This year, the key issues surrounding correcting a budget shortfall for funding schools, streamlining Indiana's high school diploma options, and the establishment of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. Issues that were considered but didn't pass were increased funding for school safety (HB1230) and school corporation financial management, particularly related to Muncie Community Schools (HB1315). Below are highlights of some of the key education bills that were passed.

### **HEA1314 Students in Foster Care and Homeless Students (DeVon)**

- Requires the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE), in collaboration with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS), to annually report on educational outcomes for foster youth and homeless youth, disaggregated by race, grade, gender, free or reduced-price lunch status, and eligibility for special education, including:
  - Annual graduation rates, including those who received graduation waivers and those who did not plus which type of diploma they received
  - Adjusted cohort graduation rates, including those who received graduation waivers and those who did not
  - Grade promotion and retention rates
  - Suspension and expulsion rates
  - Achievement of academic standards on statewide assessment programs tests
- The report must also include information regarding foster care and homeless youth who:
  - Are enrolled in the prekindergarten pilot program
  - Passed the reading skills evaluation
  - Are enrolled in school, disaggregated by category or designation of the school
  - Are enrolled in schools, disaggregated by type of school, including public, charter, and secure private facilities
- Requires the IDOE to develop a remediation plan concerning foster care youth and submit the plan to the SBOE, DCS, and the Legislative Council
- Requires the IDOE to develop a remediation plan concerning homeless youth and submit the plan to the SBOE, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority and the Legislative Council
- Requires the IDOE and DCS to share disaggregated data on foster care youth at least once per month

### **HEA1356 Bullying (Porter)**

- Removes reporting requirement in a school's annual performance report (while retaining reporting requirement in the school's safety report) and clarifies that the reporting of bullying incidents does not count negatively against a school's annual school improvement grade
- Requires the IDOE to remind schools annually of the reporting requirement
- Provides that the IDOE may conduct an audit of a school corporation to ensure accurate reporting and to highlight any discrepancies found
- Requires the IDOE to survey school corporations regarding the improvement of incident reporting

### **HEA1421 School Discipline (Behning)**

- Requires school corporations to ensure that their student behavior and discipline improvement plans do the following:
  - Reduce out-of-school discipline incidents
  - Limit referrals to law enforcement and school-based arrests to only those necessary to protect students and school employees
  - Include policies to address bullying and cyberbullying on school property
- Requires the IDOE to provide information and support to school corporations in the implementation of their plans
- Requests the interim study topic of the use of positive student discipline and restorative justice practices in elementary and secondary schools
- Requires the IDOE to survey school corporations to assess whether they currently use positive discipline and restorative justice practices and present a report on the findings to the Indiana General assembly

### **HEA1426 Education Matters (Behning)**

- Requests the interim study topic of issues related to a school corporation's ability to provide adequate career counseling to students during the 2018 through 2020 interim periods
- Requires the SBOE to create one standard diploma for high school graduation with four designations:
  - General
  - Core 40
  - Core 40 with academic honors
  - Core 40 with technical honors
- Requires SBOE to create an alternate diploma for students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Allows students who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program to receive preference for admission to a charter school if that school's charter includes that provision and the authorizer approves
- Requires the SBOE to look at math course options other than Algebra II and if a school offers another math course, schools must inform students and parents that the course may or may not qualify them to attend certain institutions of higher education
- Eliminates end of course assessments
- Requires a graduation examination (expiring July 1, 2020) and beginning after June 2021, high school students must take a nationally recognized college entrance exam
  - If the SBOE determines that no exam assesses the required subjects, they may select another assessment, including end of course assessment, for that subject

### **SEA24 Student Possession and Use of Sunscreen (Brown)**

- Allows for students to bring non-aerosol sunscreen to school without a doctor's note and allows teachers to help apply if a parent provides written permission

### **SEA50 Governor's Workforce Cabinet (Long)**

- Establishes the Governor's Workforce Cabinet which will advise the Governor on all workforce development resources, strategies and initiatives, including in elementary, secondary and post-secondary education, to ensure that funding is available and efforts are coordinated throughout Indiana
- The Cabinet will have at least twenty-one members representing various segments of business, higher education and workforce development initiatives

- The Cabinet will complete and annual report, submitted to the Governor, Legislative Council, and the Interim Study Committee on Fiscal Policy, that includes information on every workforce-related program reviewed
- The Cabinet will study real world career readiness programs and report its findings to the Governor and Legislative Council
- Repeals the State Workforce Innovation Council and transfers the responsibilities to the Governor's Workforce Cabinet

#### [SEA65 Instruction on Human Sexuality \(Kruse\)](#)

- Requires school corporations to allow parents to review human sexuality instructional materials
- Requires schools to provide parents a form to opt-in or opt-out of human sexuality instruction
  - If no form is received after a subsequent notice, the student will be opted-in

#### [SEA172 Computer Science \(Raatz\)](#)

- Creates the Next Level Computer Science Grant Program for professional development in how to teach computer science and for the IDOE to develop and administer the fund
- Requires high schools, beginning July 1, 2021, to offer one semester elective computer science courses annually and requires elementary and secondary schools to include computer science in the science curriculum

#### [SEA217 Dyslexia \(Houchin\)](#)

- Requires schools to:
  - Screen students for dyslexia, with parent permission, and provide information and services based on a student's need
  - Report to the IDOE the numbers of students screened and to be at risk for dyslexia
  - Employ at least one reading specialist trained in dyslexia and ensure that teachers are given information about dyslexia

***To view the bills considered during the 2018 legislative session, visit the Indiana General Assembly's website:***

[www.iga.in.gov](http://www.iga.in.gov)