

2023 Legislative Summary

Prepared by the Indiana Association of School Principals

This summary is not intended to be all inclusive of all information. IASP encourages you to access the [final versions of these bills](#) for complete information. Many pieces of legislation affect only certain schools. The summaries that follow are general in regard to how they influence education around the state.

HEA 1001: State Budget

Summary: This was the year (long session) to pass the Biennial (2 year) budget for the state of Indiana. It is safe to say that it was not as favorable for K-12 Education as the 2021 budget was. It does increase K-12 support by \$1.2 Billion over the next two years with an approximate 6% increase for FY24 and a 2% increase in FY25.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: The budget took many forms over the last four months. Below are some highlights (lowlights) of financial issues important to K-12 education.

- Increases Special Ed grants by 5% both years
- Increases high value CTE grants by 5% in FY24
- Increases non-English speaking program per-student grants by 23%
- Increases funding for On-My-Way Pre-K & expands eligibility to 150% of Free/Reduced Lunch (was 127% FRL).
- Expands Choice Scholarship eligibility to 400% FRL (was 300%)
- Funds Career Scholarship Accounts (CSA) from HEA 1002 at \$5,000/participant
- Funds Early Graduates at \$1,500/Early grad
- \$160 million line item to eliminate Textbook/Curricular materials fees (Guidance coming from Indiana Department of Education)
- Continues to fund ESA (Special Education students only) at cap of \$10 million
- Increases Charter & Innovation Network School Grant to \$1,440/student (was \$1,250).
- **No** 13th check or COLA adjustment for Retirees collecting TRF.

HEA 1002: Education and Workforce Development

Summary: This bill was a high priority for the House Republicans. After it passed out of the House originally, it was stripped of all its language in the Senate and replaced only with a Career Coaching grant fund and program. It went to a Conference committee where basically all the language from the original bill was placed back in the bill. Many portions of this bill will evolve in the next few months and even years.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: HEA 1002 will impact schools in many ways. Highlights of the legislation:

- Establishes the Career Scholarship Account (CSA) program, CSA program fund, CSA administration fund, CSA donation fund, Connecting Students with Careers fund, Teacher higher education and industry collaboration grant program & fund, Career Coaching grant fund, and Intermediary capacity building fund.
- SBOE & IDOE to establish new High School Diploma requirements no later than December 31, 2024.
- Mandates schools to include in its curriculum instruction for all students concerning career awareness by July 1, 2024. Beginning in 2030, instruction on career awareness must be taught in grade 9.
- During each school year, each public High School MUST hold, during regular school hours, at least one career fair. Schools may combine to host fairs as long as transportation is provided.
- 30 minute meetings:
 - Every student in grades 11 and 12
 - Shall meet with approved postsecondary educational institutions, intermediary, employer, or labor organization.
 - 30 minute meeting to discuss current and future career opportunities and the necessary education levels for various careers.
 - Parents of a student or an emancipated student may opt out of the meeting.
 - If the school determines no approved groups listed above are willing to meet with students, the school may submit to the CHE a written request to waive the meeting requirement.
 - Meeting requirements do not apply to students who are working for an employer or labor organization for part of regular school hours and attend school for part of regular school hours.
 - Meeting requirements do not apply to students who receive career coaching services through the career coaching grant.
 - Meetings must occur in person, on school property, during school hours.

HEA 1177: Firearms Training for Teachers

Summary: Allows funds from Indiana secured school fund and school corporation and charter school safety advance program to be used for providing specialized firearms instruction for school employees if the School Corporation chooses to allow school employees to carry firearms. It also requires certain notifications prior to conducting a training if any projectiles will be used during drill.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Hearings on this bill produced a lot of passionate conversation. This bill mandates nothing. School Corporations already have the ability to arm school employees if School Board policy allows it. If a school corporation does allow it, this bill does not mandate the training. It only provides the ability to fund the training.

HEA 1382: Robotics Programs

Summary: Establishes a robotics competition program to provide grants to eligible competition teams.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: In order to be eligible for the grant, teams must show proof of the following:

- A partnership for the purposes of robotics competition with at least one sponsor, business entity, higher education institution, or technical school
- An adult robotics team member,
- A spending plan
- A commitment to compete in a robotics competition
- For grades 9-12, a commitment to creating an original, iteratively designed robot
- A local in kind or cash match from other private or local funds in the amount equal to at least 25% of the amount of the awarded grant.

HEA 1447: Education Matters

Summary: This bill started out only dealing with surveys conducted by Third Party vendors. The bill elicited a lot of conversation in both houses during committee testimony. In the end, since this is an “education matters” bill, it finished with some other nuggets of joy also! The three major themes of this enrolled act are surveys, political neutrality and material harmful to minors.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: As stated, a majority of the legislation revolves around three concepts;

- Surveys and evaluations by third party vendors. The legislation doesn’t prevent the use of these surveys, it just puts a lot of guard rails around the use. If the survey “reveals, identifies, collects, maintains, or attempts to affect a student’s attitudes, habits, traits, opinions, beliefs, or feelings, the third party vendor and school corporation may not record, collect or maintain the responses or results in a manner that would identify the responses or results of an individual student. The school must also post a copy of materials and an explanation for why the survey is being administered. A parent/emancipated student may opt out of the survey if they so choose. Parents are also given an opportunity to file a complaint through an internal process. The law does offer some exceptions to the types of surveys listed.
- Political neutrality. A school or employee may not make part of a course (grade or extra credit) an incentive to engage in political activism, lobbying, or efforts to persuade members of the legislative or executive branch at the federal, state or local level.
- Obscene/Harmful Materials. Schools must create a catalog of materials in the library, establish a procedure to allow a parent or COMMUNITY member within the school district to request the removal and to review requests at the next PUBLIC MEETING. An appeal process must also be established. The catalog of materials must be posted on the school’s website and a hard copy must be made available upon request. The “educational purpose” defense has been removed and violators may be prosecuted. However, an employee of a school acting within the scope of their employment is exempted.

HEA 1449: 21st Century Scholars Program

Summary: This is the legislation that will “auto-enroll” your students who are eligible to participate in the 21st Century Scholars Program. This legislation is one that should not require the school to do anything.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: The Commission for Higher Education, in cooperation with the Department of Education, is responsible for identifying and communicating to eligible students. They are to notify the student that they are eligible, explain the expectations/requirements of participating in the program, and allow them to opt out if they so choose. We have not yet seen any communication from the CHE or IDOE in regard to this process.

HEA 1483: Discipline Rules Regarding Bullying

Summary: This enrolled act is designed to put more “teeth” in the current bullying language contained in IC 20-33-8-13.5. The changes are designed to protect the safety of the victim.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: The following provisions will now be required by schools in regard to complaints of bullying:

- Reports of bullying must be reported to the parents of both the victim and the “alleged perpetrator” within 5 business days.
- Parents must be allowed to view materials used in bullying prevention and suicide prevention programs.
- Discipline rules “may” contain provisions to determine the severity of the incident of bullying and whether a bullying incident may warrant a transfer of the victim or alleged perpetrator to another school in the district.
- Public schools (and charters) must document acts of bullying against a victim and committed by an alleged perpetrator.

HEA 1492: School Safety

Summary: This was the signature “school safety” piece from this legislative session.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: The Safe Schools Fund no longer exists. It is now the “Secured School Fund”, and will be administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the purposes for the use of the grants has been significantly expanded. Applicants must provide a matching amount when applying for the grant and the amount is based on ADM or the amount of the grant requested (25% to 100%). The IDOE has expanded responsibilities for developing School Safety Plans and assisting County School Safety Commissions. School districts and charters must identify school safety specialists with specified responsibilities and qualifications. Schools are mandated to create a Safe School Committee and develop a School Safety Plan. Each county must develop a County School Safety Commission by December 31, 2023.

HEA 1528: Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship Program

Summary: This law extends the financial benefit of the Hoosier Educators Scholarship Program to students enrolled in a transition to teaching program.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: A person with a Four year degree from an accredited institution, who is enrolled in a transition to teaching program may apply for a one time award of \$10,000. They will be held to the same accountability standards as those who receive the four year scholarship award.

HEA 1558: Science of Reading

Summary: This was the major piece of legislation involving the Science of Reading. The Senate version of this bill was folded into this legislation.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Several components to this enrolled act:

- Components of Science of Reading (SoR) defined.
- By October 1, 2023, the IDOE and State Board of Education (SBOE) must prepare a report that includes recommendations on the alignment of SoR concepts in IREAD.
- No later than July 15, 2023 (and July 15 every year after), the school corporation/charter school must report on their website;
 - Name and publisher of the adopted reading and writing curricula, listed by grade level
 - Information regarding remediation provided by the school at all grade levels.
 - Contact information for the administrator that can respond to questions about the above requirements.
- Beginning 2024/2025 school year, Schools must adopt materials aligned with the Science of Reading, the students reading proficiency, and the curriculum **shall not** include materials using the three-cueing model.
- Beginning July 1, 2024, The IDOE shall review teacher prep programs to ensure teacher candidates are receiving instruction on the SoR.
- No later than July 1, 2024, teaching candidates seeking an elementary generalist license (K-5), an early childhood license (PK-3), or a license to teach special education; must be instructed in a curriculum aligned to SoR.
- Pay differential is allowed for those candidates who obtain a literacy endorsement.

[HEA 1590: Various Education Matters](#)

Summary: This bill was known as the “DOE” bill. It contained many of their priorities for the 2023 session, including Science of Reading.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Again, as a “various education matters” bill, it has many components:

- A definition of “Science of Reading” (same as in HEA 1558).
- A requirement to publish a list of high quality curricular materials for STEM subjects.
- Use of grants to pay for professional development for teachers in Computer Science development and programs in schools.
- A requirement that future school adoptions for data technology systems be compatible with the DOE in order to share data.
- Allows schools to use the Formative Assessment grant to pay for a universal screener for dyslexia assessment.
- Requirements for schools who fall below the 70% pass rate for ILEARN

[HEA 1591: Various Education Matters](#)

Summary: Another various education matters bill. This legislation has several random components to it.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: The “meat and potatoes” of this house enrolled act:

- Changes some language in regard to archives and records maintenance.
- Updates language in regard to existing regulations for Child care providers
- Deletes language that refers to “On my way to Pre-K” as a “pilot.” It is no longer considered to be a pilot!
- Requires the DOE to maintain data on their website that reports employees of each public school who were physically injured on the job by students of the public school.
- The requirements for the department in regard to what school data must be posted on the DOE website in regard to school performance.
- It contains some new requirements for Innovation Network teams that enter into agreements with schools.
- New requirements on a Superintendent in regard to reporting possible criminal activity of a current or former school employee to the governing body.

- New language pertaining to Virtual Career and Tech Ed Courses.
- The assigning of “null” letter grades for schools for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.
- Inclusion of metrics to be used to assign performance designations for schools in the future.

HEA 1608: Education Matters

Summary: This legislation morphed many times since originally introduced in January. It was dubbed the “don’t say gay bill” which was modeled after the controversial Florida bill. The final version looked vastly different. It centers mostly on instruction on human sexuality.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Components of the law that schools need to be aware of:

- Schools may NOT provide instruction to students PK-3 on human sexuality. However, a school employee is NOT prohibited from answering a question from a student regarding the topic described in section 2 of this chapter (human sexuality).
- Parental notification regarding identification. A school “shall notify” in writing at least one parent of a request made by the student to change the student’s name, pronoun, title, or word to identify the student no later than five business days after the date on which a school receives the request.
- This law will most likely lead to local school districts adopting more specific rules in regard to the topic of “gender identity.”

HB 1609: Workforce Development Matters

Summary: This is an adult education bill. Money was provided in the budget to be specified for adult learning.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Creates a specific diploma for individuals (adults) who demonstrate high school level skills through certain competency based assessments and obtains industry recognized credentials.

HEA 1635: Various Education Matters

Summary: This various education matters bill arguably has the most impact on schools in regard to current programming. Most of the content deals directly with high schools.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: The impact of this legislation will be felt by our high schools. Contents:

- Calculation of graduation rates in regard to waivers. Caps for graduation waivers have been applied to reported graduation rates. The cap for the 2023-24 school year will be 9%, 6% for 2024-25 SY and 3% for SY 2025-26 and for each year after June 30, 2025. This does not prevent you from using a waiver to allow a student to graduate. It will only affect your reported graduation rate. An example would look like this:
 - School Graduation rate = 96%
 - Percent of waivers = 16%
 - Calculation of Cap impact = 16% - 9% (cap) = 7%
 - Calculation of reported grad rate = 96% minus 7% = 89% reported grad rate.
- Math curriculum. The State Board shall develop Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry courses that include real world application and project based and inquiry based learning. Courses shall be implemented no later than the 2025-26 school year.
- ASVAB and Graduation Pathways. In order for a student to use ASVAB as a graduation pathway, he/she must submit documentation (form prescribed by the department) that demonstrates the student's INTENT to enlist in the military as a condition to meeting the pathway requirements. Also in this law is a statement that says a school may not REQUIRE a student enrolled to participate in any particular graduation pathway to be eligible to graduate.
- Future of A-F. IDOE shall develop a proposal for a revised school designation UTILIZING A-F based on data contained in the GPS dashboard. The proposal must be submitted no later than December 1, 2024.

HEA 1637: Teacher Education Scholarship Programs

Summary: This legislation deals with a handful of scholarship programs for prospective teachers in Indiana.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Contents of this bill:

- Increased the amount of the Next Generation Hoosier Education Scholarship Program for \$7,500 to \$10,000 per year (maximum 4 years)
- Removes the limit of Hoosier Education Scholarships awarded.
- Establishes the Next Generation Hoosier Minority Educators Scholarship Program and fund. Recipients of the award will receive \$10,000 per year (maximum 4 years).
- Increases the Earline S. Rogers Student Teaching Scholarship for Minority Students from \$4,000 to \$5,000.

HEA 1638: Education Matters

Summary: This is the major deregulation bill that was passed by the House.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: The major components of this bill include:

- Moves up deadline for approving streamlined academic standards for the 2023-24 school year.
- Requires IDOE to report to the Legislative council redundant data schools currently submit to state agencies.
- Repeals the Annual Performance and Financial reports
- Requires appointees to the Academic Standards Committee be racially and geographically diverse.
- Establishes a Science of Reading grant.
- Requires employers to report employment of students enrolled in work based learning programs to DWD.
- Allows students who took a virtual course during COVID to retake the course before July 1, 2023. School is mandated to give full credit.

SEA 1: Behavioral Health Matters

Summary: We didn't do a lot of reporting on this bill. It doesn't have specific mentions/dealings with schools. However, this was major piece of legislation that deals with mental health in Indiana and should have some positive impact for our students and schools.

Takes Effect: Immediately

SEA 35: Financial Literacy

Summary: This bill went through some changes during the process but basically ended up in its original version. It will require a stand alone course as a graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2028.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023. However, graduation requirements will begin with the 2028 cohort.

Practice: The bill does list the required content areas that the course must contain. Students in the 2028 cohort must pass the course to be eligible for graduation. The State Board of Education may allow the course to satisfy one or more diploma course requirements. There is currently no designation in regard to a one semester or two semester course and there are no licensing requirements in order to teach the course. Guidance from the Department of Education is forthcoming.

SEA 72: Education Matters

Summary: This bill originated as the yearly “cursive writing” bill but was amended quickly in the Senate Education committee. It is now a “survey” law.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: No later than October 1, 2023, each public (including charter) and state accredited NON public school shall provide the IDOE the following information:

- Whether the school provides instruction on cursive writing
- If they do, what grade level is the instruction provided.

The department then has to provide a report to the legislative council on the data.

SEA 167: FAFSA

Summary: The annual FAFSA bill has finally survived and become public law.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Beginning the 2023-24 school year, each student SHALL submit the FAFSA form no later than April 15 of the SY. Students are not required to complete if:

- Parent (or emancipated student) signs a waiver certifying they understand the FAFSA and declines to complete; or

- The principal or school counselor waives the requirement for a group of students after April 15 after two reasonable attempts to contact parents.
- This law expires June 30, 2033.

So, instead of worrying about chasing down parents, as long as you make two reasonable attempts (IASP suggests documenting those attempts) you may “blanket” waive all students who haven’t filed by April 15. More guidance should come from CHE

SEA 168: Statewide Assessment Results

Summary: Deals with reporting of Statewide Assessments

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Simply deals with vendors of our state exams moving forward after June 30, 2023. Makes it mandatory that the contract stipulates that the assessment results be an easy to read, understandable format for parents and how the results compare to other students in the state.

SEA 342: Teacher Hiring

Summary: Repeals some language and adds other language in regard to teacher hiring.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Repeals current law concerning employment/contracting with certain individuals. Creates a section to code which creates “worse” crimes and “less bad crimes” which can determine how certain employees may be hired. It also requires a school that receives a reference request from another school to disclose specific incidents (almost all sexual/romantic in nature) with students.

SEA 369: Automated External Defibrillator Requirements

Summary: Requirements for schools in regard to the use of AEDs

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Adds drama or musical leader to the list of people who must receive training on the use of an AED. Mandates AEDs be available in all areas where activities are occurring, including outdoors). Outlines that one AED may be shared by two or more events as long as they are in close proximity and everyone knows where it is located. It

should be located with a “goal” in mind of being accessible within three (3) minutes. A plan must exist and be posted in a “conspicuous” space that is visible by all participants. Allows AEDs to be purchased with funds from the Secured School Fund moving forward.

SEA 380: Various Education Matters

Summary: This bill originally contained waiver information that was folded into HEA 1635. It was stripped of most of its language.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: This bill now only has a few requirements. School Corporations are required to post, online, graduation rates for each high school in the district. There is a statement requiring that Algebra 1 taught before 9th grade that meets the HS requirements must count toward a Core 40 and AHD. And finally, even though schools already have the ability, this HEA states that a school corporation may adopt a policy concerning student dress code or distractive behavior.

SEA 391: Charter Schools

Summary: This act deals exclusively with charter schools.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Creates the ability of charter schools located in only four counties; Lake, Marion, St. Joseph, and Vanderburgh, to get access to monies raised by public referendums in those school districts. If charter schools take part in the program, they would be required to support the promotion and hold a public hearing on its annual budget before adopting and submitting it to the state. The bill also changes some language in regard to vacant use and creates a system to allow charter schools to still gain access to buildings.

SEA 443: Various Education Matters

Summary: This is a deregulation bill.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: Mandates the DOE to create a list of personal liability insurers that offer personal liability insurance policies for teachers. Mandates that the Academic

Standards committee appointed by the Secretary of Education must include employers and provides that a school psychologist may provide services on a private basis to an individual if the school psychologist receives a referral from the individual's parent.

SEA 486: Education Matters

Summary: This law was the major deregulation bill that moved through the Senate this session. This bill touches on a little bit of everything.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

Practice: The different components of this bill are:

- Training on criminal gangs, homeless students and seizures are moved to Teacher prep curriculums.
- IDOE may establish use of an online platform to provide these trainings as well as youth suicide, bloodborne pathogens, bullying prevention, child abuse and neglect, lock out/tag out, and assessment training.
- Nothing prohibits districts from requiring training for their staff.
- Urges Legislative Council to assign to the interim study committees to study ways to reduce and streamline assessments for Indiana students.
- Staff evaluations are now to be developed by the local school but must still use the scale of Highly effective, Effective, Improvement necessary, and Ineffective. A Probationary Teacher is now defined as a teacher who receives two consecutive ratings of ineffective, is in their first or second year of full time teaching, or has not entered a teaching contract with the school.
- Removes the "Discussion" mandates. It allows the school employer to discuss with a certificated employee or group of certificated employees or have one or more meetings that are open to ALL certificated employees on ANY topic that significantly impacts a certificated employee's working conditions or impacts the educational quality of the school employer's students.