

2024 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.

2024 Stats:

House Bills Introduced:	443
House Bills Passed both chambers:	96
Percent passed both:	21.6%
Senate Bills Introduced:	296
Senate Bills Passed both chambers:	79
Percent passed both:	26.7%
Total Bills Introduced:	739
Bills passing both chambers:	175
Percent passing both:	23.7%

HEA 1001: Education and Higher Education Matters

Summary: Bill started out making some updates to last year's HEA 1002 bill. Many changes. Now amends the definition of "eligible student" to include a sibling of a student with a disability with regards to the ESA. CSA account money may be used for costs related to obtaining a driver's license. Other CSA updates include annual amounts for transportation costs. Other updates in regard to data collection contained here in 1001.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: We don't see much additional work on schools in this legislation. The Treasurer's Department is responsible for oversight with ESAs and CSAs.

HEA 1004: Pension Matters

Summary: 1004 was originally all about a 13th check for Indiana Retired Teachers. It went through some changes and in the end, SB 275 was amended into this bill. It now combines a short term fix with long term stability in regard to the future of Indiana's education retirees. The bill does include language for other public employee retirees but our focus is solely on educators.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: Short term fix: Current retirees will receive a "13th check" this year (2024). The amount is based on years of service and is outlined on page 11 of the bill. Long term fix: Retirees prior to July 1, 2025 will continue to receive the 13th check moving forward, again based on years of service. Retirees after July 1, 2025 will receive a 1% annual COLA moving forward. The reason for the 2025 date is because it will have to be included in the next biennial budget which will be handled next year during the 2025 long session. This bill is an exciting win for our retired teachers and administrators in Indiana!

HEA 1042: Transition to Teaching Scholarships

Summary: Applicants for a Transition to Teaching scholarship must have an annual income of \$100,000 or less. Any balance in the next generation Hoosier educators scholarship fund remaining after the awarding of next generation Hoosier educators scholarships for a fiscal year may be used to fund additional transition to teaching scholarships.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: You may recall, during the 2023 budget session, the T2T scholarship program was established. It was very successful, with all money being applied for quickly. This bill would allow any money left over from the "next generation" scholarship (if there is any) would be allowed to be distributed for more T2T scholarships, instead of being reverted back to the general fund.

HEA 1104: School Safety

Summary: School safety plans “must” establish an “armed intruder” drill protocol. Requires safe school committees to develop a policy that considers the effect of armed intruder drills on the safety and mental health of students, faculty, and staff. Prohibits an armed intruder drill that includes “sensory components” from requiring student participation or taking place during regular school hours if a majority of the student body is present on school property. This bill also allows schools to participate in the “1977 fund” for their SROs. This is seen as a beneficial retirement incentive for those officers.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: The biggest take away in this legislation is the sensory component language. It still allows you to conduct “armed intruder” drills during the regular school day. You just can’t conduct them with “live” components (first responders, simulations, blank gun fire, etc.).

HEA 1137: Release for Religious Instruction

Summary: “Requires” a building principal to allow a student to attend religious instruction conducted by certain entities following the principal’s receipt of written notice from the student’s parent. According to the code, an entity could be a church, an association of churches, or an association that is organized for religious instruction and incorporated under Indiana law.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: This has already existed in code as a “may” provision. It now becomes a “shall.” The instruction cannot exceed 120 minutes per week. The entity providing the instruction must work with the principal in a collaborative manner to ensure the time missed is the least disruptive to the instructional time of the student. A potential impact of this law could be the “entity” actually conducting the instruction. This bill would seem to open the door for “non-traditional” churches to push for release time of students. The existing law does allow a high school student to receive up to two (2) elective credits if conditions are met.

HEA 1233: Robotics Competition Program

Summary: This legislation is a continuance of the Robotics bill that was passed during the 2023 session.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: In order to include more schools, some re-defining of allowable expenses were made. It now allows a team to use grant funds on expenses associated with robotics competitions. Previously, it only allowed for expenses associated with attendance at robotics competitions. Also, the definition of an “eligible school” was amended to include a nonpublic school accredited by a national or regional accreditation agency that is recognized by the SBOE. The law was also amended to allow the definition of “eligible team” to now include a community based robotics competition team. The DOE is responsible for awarding grants prior to August 1 for the school year. The program and participation by a team mentor and coach is not subject to collective bargaining.

HEA 1243: Various Education Matters

Summary: This bill was known as the “DOE bill.” It contained many recommendations from the department and picked up a few “extra” pieces during the session. It became a 75 page bill! Not all components will be discussed below, only those most relevant to our schools.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024 for most provisions. Some provisions became effective immediately upon passage.

Practice: Different pieces of this bill affect education K-12 in some way. Highlights include:

- Data governance team will be established to report on the redundant data being reported K-12 and look for ways to streamline collection and reporting of data.
- Current HS diploma requirements will expire October 1, 2028.
- The State Board of Education (SBOE) shall establish one standard Indiana diploma for the class of 2029 and beyond. Parameters around the new diploma are established on Pages 3-4 of the bill.
- DOE shall develop self-paced PD modules to support educators in mathematics education (pp. 7-8).
- Defines Literacy coach and a literacy coaching model program (pp. 9-11).
- Computer science, as a separate course, shall be offered beginning July 1, 2028 and beginning 2029, students must successfully complete the course to be eligible to graduate.(p. 35, pp. 44-45). May be completed grades 8-12.

- Personal Financial Literacy may be offered grades 8-12.
- Effective July 1, 2024, school corporations “may” include instruction regarding internet safety in the school corporation’s curriculum.
- Not later than July 1, 2025, the DOE shall approve previously developed curricula for use by school corporations of internet safety (p. 37).
- Language in regard to counting “alternate diploma’s”. Law now allows 1% or 1 student (p. 44).
- Parameters to allow the ILEARN to have intermittent check points with one final summative assessment (pp. 45-56).
- Requirement for school board to have a policy regarding non-participation of a habitually truant student from extracurricular and co-curricular activities (p. 57)
- DOE must conduct a statewide survey to determine fees being charged to students (p. 64).
- Waiver language requiring 8 semesters.
- Exploration of Competency based proficiency.
- Transcripts to reflect knowledge, skills, and competencies

HEA 1380: Various Education Matters

Summary: 29 page Various Education matters bill. Many different items tucked into this legislation. New pilot programs, changes for innovation network schools, Student learning recovery grant program, Indiana enrichment scholarship account, and special ed litigation parameters. Also requires higher ed to publicize hazing incidents on their campuses.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: As a result of this legislation, the DOE will have to prepare and submit a plan to establish pilot programs for the; 1) use, operation, and management of school facilities, and; 2) innovative approaches to increasing transportation. The most important piece of this legislation is in regard to special education litigation. The bill requires the hiring of Independent Hearing officers.

SEA 1: Reading Skills

Summary: As you know, this was the marquee bill for the Senate and revolves around literacy in Indiana. This bill truly impacts K-12 with continued testing, remediation and redistribution of summer school money. Outlines waiver process for some who do not

attain the literacy endorsement. It requires the DOE to procure an universal screener assessment. It now requires schools to administer IREAD 3 in grade 2. Creates the Reading Deficiency Remediation Plan. Legislation also creates exceptions to grade 3 retention for those that do not pass IREAD 3.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: Major components with page references from legislation:

- Makes changes to renewal licenses in regard to Literacy Endorsement (pp. 6-8)
 - Affects PK-6 & Special Ed (K-12) licenses
 - Future teachers > Those applying for 1st license beginning July 1, 2025. Must complete an Indiana educator prep program aligned with science of reading and pass content licensure test (HEA 1558-2023)
 - Current teachers > Upon renewal of PK-6 or Special Ed (K-12) license on or after July 1, 2027. Must complete an approved program of 80 hours of science of reading professional development and pass a content licensure test (SEA 1-2024)
- Potential waivers for literacy endorsements (pp. 8-9)
- Summer School & reimbursement. Middle schools and high schools may not be able to offer traditional summer school courses due to requirements for summer remediation for grade 2 and 3 IREAD re-testers. (pp. 9-10).
- Reading deficiency remediation plan (pp. 14-18)
- Grade 2 administration of ILEARN (p. 17)
- Retention exceptions (p. 19)

[SEA 6: Reading Proficiency](#)

Summary: Requires the DOE to develop a method to identify students in grade 4-8 who did not pass IREAD and are at risk of not being proficient in reading as determined by Lexile scores on ILEARN.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: This bill might be the most “cut and dried” piece of legislation from the session! The DOE must track students grade 4-8 who are in danger of not reading at grade level.

SEA 8: Higher Education Matters

Summary: This bill deals with many higher ed matters. Our interest from the beginning is the section that requires schools to offer the Indiana College Core. This would be a requirement on all high schools in Indiana (Public, Charter, and Non-Public). The specifics are listed below.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: As of July 1, 2024; each school shall do one (1) of the following:

- Offer the Indiana College Core (ICC) in the HS curriculum for HS students in 2024-2025.
- Not later than October 1, 2024, submit an implementation plan to CHE to offer the ICC for HS students by the 2025-2026 school year.
- Not later than October 1, 2024, submit an implementation plan to CHE to offer the ICC for HS students by the 2026-2027 school year.
- Not later than October 1, 2024, submit an ICC feasibility report to the CHE if the high school does not plan to offer the ICC by the 2026-2027 school year.

The CHE will prescribe how those plans are to be submitted.

SEA 185: Student Use of Wireless Communication Device

Summary: Student's use of cellphones in school was a popular topic for the legislature prior to the session. The final result of this bill requires each school corporation and charter school to adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy and publish the policy on the school's website. The bill defines a "wireless communication device" and outlines exemptions to the law.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice:

- 1) A wireless communication device is defined as:
 - Cellular telephone
 - Tablet computer
 - Laptop computer
 - Gaming device
- 2) Students are prohibited from using the devices during instructional time, unless;
 - A teacher has authorized the use for educational purposes during instructional time;

- Student is permitted to use the device in the event of an emergency;
- Used to manage student's health care;
- Use is included in student's IEP or 504 plan

SEA 211: Excellence in Civic Engagement Designation and School Meetings

Summary: This legislation requires the DOE, in collaboration with the CHE, to establish an "Excellence in Civic Engagement" designation. The designation may be earned by a high school student and be recognized on the transcript of a student expected to graduate in the 2029 cohort or after.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: A list of the criteria that may be considered are listed in the bill as well as the due date for the recommendations (December 1, 2024).

SEA 212: Various Education Matters

Summary: Another various education bill that contains language dealing with a number of un-connected items! Guidance for CEO's of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually impaired, and the Indiana School for the Deaf. Language surrounding the hiring of a superintendent. Teacher prep programs are prohibited from using the three-cueing model.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: No real pressing issues for our K-12 schools in this legislation. Perhaps most of interest is that teacher prep programs are prohibited from instructing on the use of the 3-cueing model.

SEA 270: Various Education Matters

Summary: This various education bill deals mostly with charter school language. More updates to the "\$1 law" for access to vacant/slightly used school buildings. Also, CHE is required to study and report on the potential for Ivy Tech and Vincennes to award Bachelor degrees or additional programs that lead to Bachelor degrees.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: Most of the language of this 33 page bill does surround building use and the potential for buildings to be accessed by charter schools via the §1 law.

SEA 282: Absenteeism and School Attendance

Summary: Amends duties of school attendance officer and state attendance officer. Requires reporting to the legislative council. Places requirements on schools to meet with parents of chronically absent students in K-6, and establish plans and wraparound services to improve attendance before being reported as habitually truant. The legislation also requires schools to report truant students to the prosecutor's office and requires prosecutors to take legal action against the parents of habitually truant students.

Takes Effect: July 1, 2024

Practice: Absenteeism/Truancy was another of the major topics that the legislators wanted to take on this session. This bill was massive at the start but got trimmed down significantly. The bill originally was a K-12 bill but did get reduced to requirements for K-6 students/schools. This legislation also defines an "absent student." New requirements include:

- Defines "truancy prevention measure" (p. 1)
- Requires prosecuting attorney to notify each parent of a student when reported as habitually truant (p. 2).
- Amended duties for a superintendent, school attendance officer and state attendance officer (pp. 1-4).
- Defines "absent student":
 - Student enrolled in school K-6; and
 - Is absent from school five (5) days within a ten (10) week period without being:
 - Excused; or
 - Absent in conformity with a note on file from the student's doctor, therapist, or other professional requesting frequent absences be excused under certain exceptions (listed on p. 4).
- Defines "truancy prevention policy" and outlines requirements for schools (p 4-6).