

2024 EDUCATION—More than 70 bills have been posted.

Senate Education Committee: *Sen. Raatz, chair; Sen. Crane; Sen. Buchanan; Sen. Deery; Sen. Dernulc; Sen. Donato; Sen. Johnson; Sen. Leising; Sen. Rogers; Sen. J.D. Ford; Sen. Hunley; Sen. Qaddoura; and Sen. Yoder*

House Education Committee: *Rep. Behning; Rep. Davis; Rep. Carbaugh; Rep. Cash; Rep. Goodrich; Rep. Jordan; Rep. McGuire; Rep. Payne; Rep. Teshka; Rep. Smith; Rep. DeLaney; Rep. Sheila Klinker; and Rep. Tonya Pfaff*

Summary of several bills by *Chalkbeat*:

- Senate Bill 141 and Senate Bill 185 would require schools to adopt policies banning cell phone use in classrooms. SB 141 includes an exception for students who use their phones to manage medical care.
- Senate Bill 143 would expand eligibility for Education Scholarship Accounts to all students, not just those with disabilities.
- Senate Bill 165 and House Bill 1219 seek to change the requirement that schools provide 180 days of instruction to a certain number of minutes of instruction. HB 1219 also seeks to establish a “mastery-based learning” pilot program.
- Senate Bill 191, this year’s “divisive concepts” bill, is aimed at higher education institutions while Senate Bill 202 seeks to impose new rules on diversity and free expression on college campuses

A Brief on Some of the 70 Bills:

SB 50 Chaplains in public/charter schools and HB 1192. HB 1137 Release to attend religious instruction.

Senate Bill 6 Reading proficiency. Requires the department of education (department) to develop a method to identify students in grade 4 through grade 8 who: (1) did not pass the determinant evaluation of reading skills approved by the state board of education Requires the department to develop guidance for schools regarding how to support students who are at risk of not being proficient in reading.

SB 17 Age verification for material harmful to minors and HB 1221 Materials that are obscene or harmful to minors.

SB 128 Human sexuality instruction. Provides that, if a school instructs students on human sexuality, the school's governing authority must first approve and publish certain information concerning the instruction on the website of the school.

SB 141 Education matters. Requires a public school and state accredited nonpublic school to ensure that at least 85% of a school counselor's aggregate time performing the counselor's job duties is used to provide direct services to students.

SB 195 Age for compulsory school attendance--from the beginning of the fall school term for the school year in which the student is five years of age on August 1 of that school year.

SB 224 School funding. Increases the income cap of a family, from 150% to 185% of the federal poverty level, that may participate in the On My Way prekindergarten program. Increases the maximum grant amount under the prekindergarten program from \$6,800 to \$10,000.

House Bill 1001 Education and higher education matters. Expands the way the career scholarship can be used. Makes diploma requirements more flexible and increases the number of postsecondary credentials that can be earned by students before they graduate from high school. The parameters of this bill allow students to use money from state scholarship programs on job training, instead of traditional college coursework.

HB 1020 Teacher licensing requirements. Removes the requirement for a pedagogy examination as a prerequisite for obtaining a teaching license.

HB 1035 Elimination of school improvement plans.

HB 1066 Hunger-free campus grant program.

HB 1072 Student immunizations. Provides that a student enrolled in a health profession education program may not be required to receive an immunization

HB 1073 Special education. Requires school corporations to have electronic recording equipment in each designated special education classroom, seclusion, timeout area, etc. and must employ at least one behavioral interventionist by January 1, 2025.

HB 1104 School safety. School corporation or charter school must establish an armed intruder drill protocol.

HB 1173 Classroom based violence prevention program and HB 1262 Behavioral issues in school. Both address disruptive behavior in schools.

HB 1253 Internet and social media literacy education.

HB 1294 Antiterrorism policies of state universities.

HB 1353 Education matters. Provides that the parents of any high school student may request a transfer from a school corporation in which the student has a legal settlement to a transferee school corporation in Indiana if the student may be better accommodated by the athletics program offered by the public schools of the transferee corporation.