

TRACKING EDUCATION BILLS IN 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

What does tracking bills look like?

Iga.in.gov

- Find Sponsors of bills
- Find Digest
- Find Full bills
- Find Committees
- Watch meetings

Outside Sources

- Indiana Capital Chronicle <https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/>
- Indiana Retired Teachers website <https://www.retiredteachers.org/>
- Indianapolis Star Press <https://www.indystar.com/>
- Indiana Week in Review (watch) <https://www.pbs.org/show/indiana-week-review/>
- Chalkbeat <https://www.chalkbeat.org/indiana/>

What needs to be reported?

- When bill goes to committee
- When bill is up for discussion by committee
- When bill is up for vote (often same day as discussion)
- Points/reasons people should cover in emails to their legislators

Sample Letter/Email

Dear Representative/Senator (**Last Name**),

(In your first paragraph include personal information) I am very fortunate to have been provided with an excellent education that prepared me for the future. I currently have children in both elementary and middle school. Recently, I have become very concerned about legislative impact on education. As a parent yourself, I am sure that you share many of these concerns.

(Include facts) Research has shown that schools with strong school library media programs have better rates of success. For example, in Alaska it was found that schools with a full time librarian scored higher on standardized tests than schools with only part time librarians. These schools were able to have longer hours of operation, leading to higher rates of circulation, thus impacting student achievement. Similar findings have been made in many other states across our country.

(State what you are asking for) I ask that you support (Insert name of bill here). In supporting this bill funding will be provided that will support school library media programs. This is a very small price to invest in the futures of our nations children. All children should have the opportunity to achieve and develop skills necessary for the future. I believe that in supporting this bill you will impact the lives of countless children.

Sincerely,

Scheduled Meetings and Committee Members:

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON		Education and Career Development
EDUCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT Sen. Jeff Raatz, Chair (Chamber)	Sen. Jeff Raatz (Chair) Sen. John Crane (RM) Sen. Brian Buchanan Sen. Spencer Deery Sen. Dan Dermalc Sen. Stacey Donato Sen. Tyler Johnson Sen. Jean Leising Sen. Linda Rogers	Sen. J.D. Ford (RMM) Sen. Andrea Hunley Sen. Fady Qaddoura Sen. Shelli Yoder

Things to watch for in 2024 Legislative Session:

- Making School Board Elections Partisan
 - Anything about expanding ESAs to non-IEP and 504 families
 - Anything about regulating vendors who can accept vouchers
 - Expansion of Parental Control of school districts and curricula
 - Examples from 2023:
 - HB 1447 prohibits teachers from giving students no choice in which side of an argument they debate.
 - HB 1356 (tell parents of name/pronoun requests). Will be expanded this year to require schools to follow parent's choice, not students'.
 - Further elimination of teacher bargaining rights
 - Sharing referendum money with charter schools.
 - Deregulation of public schools in different areas (instead of strengthening regulation of charters)
 - Consolidation of smaller school districts (Chamber of Commerce backs this)
 - LGBTQ bills, especially around athletics
 - Doing away with DEI and soft skills
- Soft skills** are non-technical skills that relate to how you work. They include how you interact with colleagues, how you solve problems, and how you manage your work.
- Teamwork. With effective teamwork, teams are more productive, deadlines are met, relationships with your team members are stronger and knowledge is shared. ...
 - Problem solving. ...
 - Communication. ...
 - Adaptability. ...
 - Critical thinking. ...
 - Time management. ...
 - Interpersonal.

Legislative surveys