
HOUSE BILL No. 1254

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-20-53.

Synopsis: Cognitive training grant program. Establishes the cognitive training grant program (program) to provide grants to public and charter schools (eligible schools) to adopt and implement a cognitive training program designed to build skills in areas important to learning. Establishes the cognitive training grant program fund (fund). Provides that the department of education (department) shall develop and publish on the department's website: (1) criteria that vendors must meet to be eligible for use by eligible schools; and (2) guidelines to award grants to eligible schools. Requires the department to prepare and submit an annual report regarding the program to the governor and legislative council.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

Teshka, McGuire, Cash

January 9, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.



PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1254



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-20-53 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2025]:

4 **Chapter 53. Cognitive Training Grant Program and Grant**
5 **Fund**

6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "allowable expenses" means the**
7 **following:**

8 (1) Licenses for a comprehensive, integrated cognitive
9 training software.

10 (2) Scientifically valid, nationally normed cognitive
11 assessments for eligible students.

12 (3) Teacher and administrator training on implementing the
13 cognitive assessment and training software.

14 (4) Compensation expenses for teacher, aide, and
15 administrator support to implement a cognitive training
16 program.

17 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "eligible school" means a public**



1 school, including a charter school (as defined in IC 20-24-1-4).

2 Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "eligible student" means a
3 student in grades 3 through 5 who is enrolled in an eligible school.

4 Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the cognitive
5 training grant program fund established by section 7 of this
6 chapter.

7 Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "grant program" refers to the
8 cognitive training grant program established by section 6 of this
9 chapter.

10 Sec. 6. The cognitive training grant program is established to
11 provide grants to eligible schools to adopt and implement an
12 asynchronous, technology based cognitive training program that
13 provides systematic and integrated exercises designed for eligible
14 students to build cognitive skills in key areas important to learning,
15 including visual processing, auditory processing, attention,
16 memory, sensory integration, executive functions, and logic and
17 reasoning.

18 Sec. 7. The cognitive training grant program fund is established.
19 The department shall use money in the fund to provide grants to
20 eligible schools to implement a cognitive training program
21 described in section 6 of this chapter.

22 Sec. 8. (a) The fund consists of the following:

23 (1) Appropriations from the general assembly.

24 (2) Gifts to the fund.

25 (3) Grants, including grants from private entities.

26 (4) Other state funds that are transferred to the fund.

27 (b) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from
28 money in the fund.

29 (c) The treasurer of the state shall invest the money in the fund
30 not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same
31 manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that
32 accrues from these investments shall be deposited into the fund.

33 (d) Money in the fund at the end of the state fiscal year does not
34 revert to the state general fund.

35 Sec. 9. The department shall administer the grant program and
36 fund.

37 Sec. 10. (a) Beginning July 15, 2025, an eligible school may
38 apply to the department, on a form and in a manner prescribed by
39 the department, to receive a grant from the fund.

40 (b) As part of the application, an eligible school must submit a
41 plan to the department that includes the following information in
42 order to be considered for a grant:



- 1 (1) The number of eligible students anticipated to participate
- 2 in the cognitive training program.
- 3 (2) The school's performance on the most recent ILEARN
- 4 assessment.
- 5 (3) The total amount of funds requested, including an itemized
- 6 budget for allowable expenses.
- 7 (4) The days and time periods the cognitive training program
- 8 will be administered.
- 9 (5) The number of weeks the cognitive training program will
- 10 be administered.
- 11 (6) When the cognitive training program will be administered.
- 12 (7) The personnel that will help administer the cognitive
- 13 training program.
- 14 (8) The availability of the required technology to implement
- 15 the cognitive training program.
- 16 (9) The vendor the eligible school intends to use to implement
- 17 the cognitive training program.

18 **Sec. 11. (a)** The department shall begin administering grants not
19 later than August 1, 2025, and each August 1 thereafter.

20 **(b)** The department shall develop criteria that vendors must
21 meet to be eligible for use by an eligible school to provide services
22 for a cognitive training program.

23 **(c)** The department shall develop guidelines to award grants to
24 eligible schools for allowable expenses. The guidelines developed by
25 the department must include a maximum grant award allotment
26 to each eligible school based on the number of students anticipated
27 to receive cognitive training as described in section 10(b)(1) of this
28 chapter.

29 **(d)** The department may give priority to eligible schools that:

30 (1) have not previously received a grant from the fund;

31 (2) have a grade level with below average ILEARN
32 assessment results in English/Language Arts or mathematics;
33 or

34 (3) are not expected to receive federal stimulus funds.

35 **(e)** The department shall publish on the department's website
36 the criteria and guidelines developed by the department under
37 subsections (b) and (c).

38 **Sec. 12. (a)** Not later than July 1, 2026, and each July 1
39 thereafter, the department shall prepare a report concerning the
40 grant program that includes the following information:

41 (1) A list of the eligible schools that received a grant from the
42 fund and the year the funding was received.



- 1 (2) The total number of students that participated in a
2 cognitive training program in the previous year.
3 (3) The vendor and particular cognitive training program
4 used by each eligible school.
5 (4) The average ILEARN assessment results for eligible
6 students before, during, and after participating in a cognitive
7 training program, organized by eligible school.
8 (b) The department shall submit the report described in
9 subsection (a) to the:
10 (1) governor; and
11 (2) legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

