

SENATE BILL No. 34

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-28-5-19.7.

Synopsis: Literacy endorsement. Provides that the department of education may not renew a practitioner license or an accomplished practitioner license issued to an individual unless the individual receives a literacy endorsement by completing 40 (instead of 80) hours of evidence based professional development. Removes written examination requirements to receive a literacy endorsement for individuals renewing a practitioner license or an accomplished practitioner license. Provides that the state board of education may not require certain individuals to take or pass a written examination to be eligible to receive a literacy endorsement.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

Leising, Glick, Becker

January 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.



First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

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.

SENATE BILL No. 34

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 20-28-5-19.7, AS AMENDED BY THE
2 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2025 GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
4 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 19.7. (a) Not later than July 1, 2024, the state
5 board shall establish and require a literacy endorsement for individuals
6 first licensed after June 30, 2025, to teach a content area involving
7 literacy instruction, including special education, in prekindergarten
8 through grade 5.

9 (b) Except as provided in section ~~19.8(a)~~ **19.8** of this chapter,
10 beginning July 1, 2027, the department may not renew a practitioner
11 license or an accomplished practitioner license, or a comparable license
12 under prior rules, issued to an individual who, based on the content
13 area for which the individual is licensed, including special education,
14 provides literacy instruction to students in prekindergarten through
15 grade 5 unless the individual receives a literacy endorsement under this
16 section.

17 (c) To be eligible to receive a literacy endorsement, an individual



- 1 **described in subsection (a)** must meet the following:
- 2 (1) Complete eighty (80) hours of evidence based professional
- 3 development that is:
- 4 (A) aligned to the science of reading;
- 5 (B) provided by an organization that is:
- 6 (i) accredited by the International Dyslexia Association; or
- 7 (ii) aligned with Knowledge and Practice Standards for
- 8 Teachers of Reading (KPS) as determined by the
- 9 department; or
- 10 (C) approved by the department.
- 11 (2) Demonstrate proficiency in scientifically based reading
- 12 instruction skills aligned to the science of reading on a written
- 13 examination or through other procedures prescribed by the
- 14 department in accordance with this section.
- 15 **(d) To be eligible to receive a literacy endorsement, an**
- 16 **individual described in subsection (b) must complete forty (40)**
- 17 **hours of evidence based professional development that is:**
- 18 **(1) aligned to the science of reading;**
- 19 **(2) provided by an organization that is:**
- 20 **(A) accredited by the International Dyslexia Association;**
- 21 **or**
- 22 **(B) aligned with Knowledge and Practice Standards for**
- 23 **Teachers of Reading (KPS) as determined by the**
- 24 **department; or**
- 25 **(3) approved by the department.**
- 26 ~~(d)~~ **(e)** The ~~eighty (80)~~ hours of evidence based professional
- 27 development required under subsection ~~(e)~~ **(c) or (d)** must provide
- 28 individualized and on demand support. The evidence based
- 29 professional development required under subsection ~~(e)~~ **(c) or (d)**
- 30 must:
- 31 (1) promote explicit, systematic, and cumulative instruction as the
- 32 primary approach to literacy instruction;
- 33 (2) align with both word recognition and language
- 34 comprehension;
- 35 (3) promote an understanding of how language, reading, and
- 36 writing relate to each other;
- 37 (4) promote strategies for differentiated instruction for:
- 38 (A) students with:
- 39 (i) reading difficulties; or
- 40 (ii) disabilities; and
- 41 (B) English language learners;
- 42 (5) focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary,



- 1 and comprehension; and
 2 (6) allow participants to implement the strategies into a classroom
 3 environment with the opportunity for feedback throughout the
 4 professional development experience.
- 5 ~~(e)~~ (f) The written examination required under subsection (c)(2)
 6 shall ensure the individual demonstrates the ability to:
- 7 (1) effectively teach foundational reading skills, phonemic
 8 awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension;
 9 (2) implement reading instruction using high quality instructional
 10 materials aligned to the science of reading; and
 11 (3) provide effective instruction and interventions for students
 12 with reading deficiencies.
- 13 ~~(f)~~ (g) The department shall approve and provide the evidence based
 14 professional development necessary for an individual to receive a
 15 literacy endorsement under this section.
- 16 ~~(g)~~ (h) The department shall establish the procedure for an existing
 17 teacher to add the literacy endorsement established under this section
 18 to the teacher's license.
- 19 **(i) The state board may not require an individual described in**
 20 **subsection (b) to take or pass a written examination to be eligible**
 21 **to receive a literacy endorsement under this section.**
- 22 ~~(h)~~ (j) The state board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to do the
 23 following:
- 24 (1) Adopt, validate, and implement the examination or other
 25 procedures required by subsection (c)(2).
 26 (2) Establish examination scores indicating proficiency.
 27 (3) Otherwise carry out the purposes of this section.

