

SENATE BILL No. 234

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-30-8.5.

Synopsis: High school equivalency pilot program. Establishes the high school equivalency pilot program (program) for Richmond Community Schools, MSD Washington Township Schools, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, and MSD Warren Township Schools. Allows a student who has completed less than 50% of the required number of credits necessary to graduate upon entering their fourth year of high school to participate in the program to earn a high school equivalency diploma as a new form of diploma. Requires that a student who successfully achieves a high school equivalency diploma and successfully completes certain career and college readiness requirements be reflected in the high school's graduation rate. Allows a school corporation to contract with an adult education provider for services if: (1) the provider is a WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) Title II funded organization; (2) teachers provided by the adult education provider hold a current teaching license from any state, and teachers of core subjects are highly qualified in the subjects to which they are assigned; and (3) the adult education provider has provided one or more dropout recovery of high school equivalency programs and testing for at least two years prior to providing services pursuant to this section. Requires a school corporation to pay for the program from its budget or through gifts, donations, bequests, grants, and funds from any other source. Requires that an eligible student enrolled in a school corporation may not be a student in an adult education program or adult high school. Requires participating school corporations to report to the general assembly concerning the program.

Effective: July 1, 2020.

Raatz

January 9, 2020, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.



Second Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2020)

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 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 234

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 20-30-8.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2020]:

4 **Chapter 8.5. High School Equivalency Pilot Program**

5 **Sec. 1. This section applies to the following school corporations:**

- 6 (1) **Richmond Community Schools.**
- 7 (2) **Metropolitan School District of Washington Township**
- 8 **Schools.**
- 9 (3) **Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.**
- 10 (4) **Metropolitan School District of Warren Township Schools.**

11 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, an "eligible student" means a**
12 **student who has completed less than fifty percent (50%) of the**
13 **required number of credits necessary to graduate upon entering**
14 **the student's fourth year of high school or any subsequent**
15 **semester.**

16 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the high**
17 **school equivalency pilot program established by section 6 of this**



- 1 chapter.
- 2 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "provider" is a current grantee**
 3 **receiving WIOA Title II money from the department of workforce**
 4 **development and that provides academic instruction and education**
 5 **services at the elementary or high school level that:**
- 6 (1) **include adult education, literacy activities, workplace adult**
 7 **education and literacy activities, family literacy activities,**
 8 **English language acquisition activities, integrated English**
 9 **literacy and civics education, workforce preparation**
 10 **activities, or integrated education and training;**
 - 11 (2) **transition to postsecondary education and training; and**
 - 12 (3) **provide an ability to obtain employment.**
- 13 **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "WIOA" refers to the federal**
 14 **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.**
- 15 **Sec. 6. (a) The high school equivalency pilot program is**
 16 **established. The purpose of the program is to allow an eligible**
 17 **student to enroll in a program to earn a high school equivalency**
 18 **diploma that would be recognized as a new form of diploma by a**
 19 **participating high school.**
- 20 (b) **A high school not listed in section 1 of this chapter may**
 21 **participate in the program beginning July 1, 2021, by notifying the**
 22 **adult education section of the department of workforce**
 23 **development in a manner prescribed by the department.**
- 24 **Sec. 7. An eligible student may participate in the program in lieu**
 25 **of meeting the graduation requirements in IC 20-32-4-1.5.**
- 26 **Sec. 8. In addition to successfully achieving their high school**
 27 **equivalency diploma, an eligible student shall also successfully**
 28 **complete two (2) of the following career and college readiness**
 29 **programs:**
- 30 (1) **A certification class approved by the department or the**
 31 **department of workforce development.**
 - 32 (2) **Project based, service based, or work based learning as**
 33 **prescribed by the graduation pathways.**
 - 34 (3) **The ASVAB, ACCUPLACER, SAT, or ACT.**
 - 35 (4) **EmployIndy Job Ready badges.**
- 36 **Sec. 9. An eligible student who successfully completes the**
 37 **requirements under section 8 of this chapter shall be counted in the**
 38 **school's graduation rate under IC 20-26-13.**
- 39 **Sec. 10. (a) A school corporation may contract with a provider**
 40 **to provide services for the program. However, the program may**
 41 **not receive money from WIOA Title II or state appropriated adult**
 42 **education funding. If contracting with a provider, the school**



1 corporation shall ensure the following:

- 2 (1) The provider is a WIOA Title II funded organization.
 3 (2) Teachers provided by the provider hold a current teaching
 4 license from any state, and teachers of core subjects are
 5 highly qualified in the subjects to which they are assigned.
 6 (3) The provider has provided one (1) or more dropout
 7 recovery or high school equivalency programs and testing for
 8 at least two (2) years prior to providing a program under this
 9 section.

10 (b) All contracts entered into by a school corporation and a
 11 provider shall include requirements for the protection of all
 12 personally identifiable student information that shall comply with
 13 all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

14 Sec. 11. A school corporation shall fund the program from the
 15 school corporation's budget or from:

- 16 (1) gifts, donations, and bequests;
 17 (2) grants, including federal grants and grants from private
 18 entities;
 19 (3) funds from any other source; and
 20 (4) a combination of the resources described in subdivisions
 21 (1), (2), and (3).

22 Sec. 12. If an eligible student enrolled in a school corporation
 23 participates in the program, the eligible student may not be a
 24 student of an adult education center (as described in IC 22-4.1-20)
 25 or adult high school (as defined under IC 20-24-1-2.3).

26 Sec. 13. Not later than July 1, 2021, and not later than July 1 of
 27 each year thereafter, participating school corporations shall
 28 submit a report to the general assembly in an electronic format
 29 under IC 5-14-6 concerning the program that includes the
 30 following:

- 31 (1) The number of students eligible for the program.
 32 (2) The number of students who participated in the program.
 33 (3) The number of credits upon entry to the program.
 34 (4) The number of students who successfully achieved their
 35 high school equivalency diploma through the program.
 36 (5) A list of credentials earned upon completion of the
 37 program.
 38 (6) Recommendations on improvements to the program.
 39 (7) An estimated cost to each school corporation for the
 40 program.
 41 (8) Any other relevant consideration.

42 Sec. 14. This chapter expires June 30, 2024.

