



## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST FOR ESB 482

**Citations Affected:** IC 20-18-2-2.4; IC 20-19-3; IC 20-33.

**Synopsis:** Absenteeism and student discipline. Defines "chronically absent". Requires the department of education (department) to do the following: (1) Create a list of best practices to reduce student discipline and absenteeism. (2) Study and prepare a report regarding the basis for the categorization of certain suspensions and expulsions. (3) Establish a categorization framework for excused absences based on the reason for the absence. (4) Collect certain information regarding absences from school corporations and charter schools and prepare and post a report regarding the information on the department's website. Provides that the absence policy adopted by the governing body of a school corporation must provide for the categorization of excused absences in accordance with the categorization framework established by the department. Allows a prosecuting attorney to conduct a meeting, collaborate, and make reasonable efforts to secure appropriate support services for a child and the child's family before filing an affidavit with regard to a violation of compulsory school attendance requirements. Amends the definition of "absent student" for purposes of the truancy prevention policy provisions. Requires a public school to hold an attendance conference not later than 10 instructional days (instead of five instructional days) after the student's fifth absence. Prohibits a public school from expelling or suspending a student solely because the student is chronically absent or a habitual truant. Makes a conforming change. **(This conference committee report does the following: (1) Relocates a provision requiring the department to create a list of best practices to reduce student discipline into a new section. (2) Sets an expiration date for the provision prohibiting a public school from expelling or suspending a student solely because the student is chronically absent or a habitual truant.)**

**Effective:** July 1, 2025.



Adopted	Rejected
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## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

**MR. SPEAKER:**

*Your Conference Committee appointed to confer with a like committee from the Senate upon Engrossed House Amendments to Engrossed Senate Bill No. 482 respectfully reports that said two committees have conferred and agreed as follows to wit:*

that the Senate recede from its dissent from all House amendments and that the Senate now concur in all House amendments to the bill and that the bill be further amended as follows:

- 1 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:
- 2 SECTION 1. IC 20-18-2-2.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 3 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 4 1, 2025]: **Sec. 2.4. "Chronically absent" means missing ten percent**
- 5 **(10%) or more of a school year for any reason.**
- 6 SECTION 2. IC 20-19-3-12.2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.233-2015,
- 7 SECTION 37, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 8 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 12.2. (a) The department shall make reduction of
- 9 absenteeism in schools a policy priority and provide assistance and
- 10 guidance to school corporations and schools in:
- 11 (1) identifying contributing factors of absenteeism; and
- 12 (2) developing chronic absence reduction plans that school
- 13 corporations may elect to include as a component of the school
- 14 improvement plans required under IC 20-31-5.
- 15 (b) The department shall:
- 16 (1) **create a list of best practices to;** and
- 17 (2) provide resources and guidance to school corporations
- 18 concerning evidence based practices and effective strategies that;
- 19 reduce absenteeism in schools. However, **subject to section 12.4 of**
- 20 **this chapter,** the department may not mandate a particular policy
- 21 within a chronic absence reduction plan adopted by a school

corporation or school.

SECTION 3. IC 20-19-3-12.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 12.4. (a) The department shall establish a categorization framework for excused absences based on the reason for the absence.**

**(b) The department shall annually do the following:**

**(1) Collect information from each school corporation and charter school for each school year regarding the number of absences for each category described in subsection (a), including the reason for the absence.**

**(2) Prepare a report that includes information collected under subdivision (1), including the information disaggregated by:**

**(A) race;**

**(B) gender;**

**(C) grade;**

**(D) ethnicity;**

**(E) limited English language proficiency;**

**(F) free or reduced price lunch status; and**

**(G) eligibility for special education.**

**(3) Post the report on the department's website.**

SECTION 4. IC 20-19-3-12.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 12.5. The department shall:**

**(1) create a list of best practices to reduce student discipline; and**

**(2) post the list on the department's website.**

SECTION 5. IC 20-19-3-37 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 37. (a) The department shall do the following:**

**(1) Study the basis for student suspensions and expulsions categorized as "other" by school corporations.**

**(2) Prepare a report that includes the following:**

**(A) Information concerning the study under subdivision**

**(1).**

**(B) Any recommendation regarding expanding the suspension and expulsion category options.**

**(3) Not later than November 1, 2025, submit the report prepared under subdivision (2) to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.**

**(b) This section expires July 1, 2026.**

SECTION 6. IC 20-33-2-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.111-2021, SECTION 95, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 11. (a) Notwithstanding IC 9-24 concerning the minimum requirements for qualifying for the issuance of a driver's license or a learner's permit, and subject to subsections (c) through (e), an individual who is:**

**(1) at least fifteen (15) years of age and less than eighteen (18) years of age;**

**(2) a habitual truant under the definition of habitual truant established under subsection (b); and**

(3) identified in the information submitted to the bureau of motor vehicles under subsection (f);  
may not be issued a driver's license or a learner's permit to drive a motor vehicle under IC 9-24 until the individual is at least eighteen (18) years of age.

(b) Each governing body may establish and include as part of the written copy of its discipline rules described in IC 20-33-8-12:

(1) a definition of a child who is designated as a habitual truant, which must, at a minimum, define the term as a student ~~who is chronically absent, by~~ having unexcused absences from school for more than ten (10) days of school in one (1) school year; and

(2) all other pertinent matters related to this action.

(c) An individual described in subsection (a) is entitled to the procedure described in IC 20-33-8-19.

(d) An individual described in subsection (a) who is at least thirteen (13) years of age and less than eighteen (18) years of age is entitled to a periodic review of the individual's attendance record in school to determine whether the prohibition described in subsection (a) shall continue. The periodic reviews may not be conducted less than one (1) time each school year.

(e) Upon review, the governing body may determine that the individual's attendance record has improved to the degree that the individual may become eligible to be issued a driver's license or a learner's permit.

(f) The governing body of the school corporation may submit to the bureau of motor vehicles the pertinent information concerning an individual's ineligibility under subsection (a) to be issued a driver's license or a learner's permit.

(g) The department shall develop guidelines concerning criteria used in defining a habitual truant that may be considered by a governing body in complying with subsection (b).

SECTION 7. IC 20-33-2-14, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1660-2025, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 14. (a) This section and sections 15 through 17.8 of this chapter apply to a student who attends either a public school or a nonpublic school.

(b) The governing body of each school corporation shall ~~have~~ **adopt** a policy:

**(1) outlining the conditions for excused and unexcused absences;**

**and**

**(2) providing for the categorization of excused absences in accordance with the categorization framework established by the department under IC 20-19-3-12.4.**

(c) The governing body of each school corporation shall have a policy regarding the participation of a habitually truant in extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

(d) The policy under subsection (b) must include the grounds for excused absences required by sections 15 through 17.8 of this chapter or another law.

(e) Any absence that results in a person not attending at least one

hundred eighty (180) days in a school year must be in accordance with the governing body's policy under subsection (b) to qualify as an excused absence.

(f) Service as a page for or as an honoree of the general assembly is a lawful excuse for a student to be absent from school, when verified by a certificate of the secretary of the senate or the chief clerk of the house of representatives. A student excused from school attendance under this section may not be recorded as being absent on any date for which the excuse is operative and may not be penalized by the school in any manner.

SECTION 8. IC 20-33-2-26, AS AMENDED BY P.L.125-2024, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 26. (a) It is the duty of each:

- (1) superintendent;
- (2) attendance officer;
- (3) state attendance official;
- (4) security police officer appointed under IC 36-8-3-7; and
- (5) school corporation police officer appointed under IC 20-26-16;

to enforce this chapter in their respective jurisdictions and to execute the affidavits authorized under this section. The duty is several, and the failure of one (1) or more to act does not excuse another official from the obligation to enforce this chapter. The duty includes reporting to the prosecuting attorney that a child is a habitual truant.

(b) An affidavit:

- (1) against a parent for a violation of this chapter; and
- (2) concerning a child being a habitual truant;

shall be prepared and filed in the same manner and under the procedure prescribed for filing affidavits for the prosecution of public offenses.

**(c) Before a prosecuting attorney files an affidavit described in subsection (b), the prosecuting attorney may do the following:**

**(1) Conduct a meeting with the child, the child's parent, school officials, and any relevant service providers.**

**(2) In preparation for a meeting described in subdivision (1), collaborate with the involved parties to develop an intervention plan to address the child's truancy. The plan may include referrals to support services, counseling, academic assistance, or other resources intended to reduce the likelihood of further truancy.**

**(3) Make reasonable efforts to secure appropriate support services, including:**

- (A) mental health services;**
- (B) family counseling; or**
- (C) educational support;**

**for the child and the child's family, as applicable, for the purpose of addressing the root causes of the truancy.**

**(d) Upon completion of the development of an intervention plan and meeting under subsection (c)(1) and (c)(2), the prosecuting attorney shall provide written notice to the child's parent summarizing the following:**

- (1) Outcome of the meeting.**

**(2) Services or other resources offered.**

**(3) Conditions for avoiding prosecution, if applicable.**

~~(e)~~ **(e)** An affidavit under this section shall be filed in a court with jurisdiction in the county in which the affected child resides.

~~(f)~~ **(f)** The prosecuting attorney shall notify each parent of a child regarding an affidavit described in subsection (b) when the affidavit is filed under this section.

~~(g)~~ **(g)** The prosecuting attorney shall file and prosecute actions under this section as in other criminal cases.

~~(h)~~ **(h)** The court shall promptly hear cases brought under this section.

SECTION 9. IC 20-33-2-43, AS AMENDED BY P.L.125-2024, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 43. (a) The secretary of education shall appoint a state attendance officer. The state attendance officer serves at the pleasure of the secretary of education and may be removed by the secretary of education at any time.

(b) The state attendance officer shall:

- (1) exercise general supervision over the attendance officers of Indiana;
- (2) visit the various attendance districts throughout Indiana;
- (3) inspect the work of the attendance officers; and
- (4) investigate the manner in which this chapter is being enforced.

(c) The state attendance officer may initiate court action whenever necessary for the enforcement of this chapter.

(d) The state attendance officer shall meet at least one (1) time each year with all attendance officers to:

- (1) review data, policies, and procedures; and
- (2) discuss recommending to the legislative council legislation to deter absenteeism and to promote school attendance.

(e) Not later than November 1 of each year, the state attendance officer shall submit a report to the legislative council containing recommended legislation based on the:

- (1) state attendance officer's discussions with attendance officers under subsection (d) and section 39 of this chapter; **and**

**(2) report prepared by the department under IC 20-19-3-12.4.**

A report required by this subsection must be submitted in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

SECTION 10. IC 20-33-2.5-1, AS ADDED BY P.L.125-2024, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "absent student" means a student who:

- (1) is enrolled in a school in kindergarten through grade ~~6~~; **12**; and
- (2) is absent from school five (5) days within a ten (10) week period without being:
  - (A) excused; or
  - (B) absent in conformity with a note on file from the student's doctor, therapist, or other professional requesting frequent absences be excused under the student's:

- (i) individualized education program;
- (ii) service plan developed under 511 IAC 7-34;
- (iii) choice scholarship education plan developed under 511 IAC 7-49; or
- (iv) plan developed under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.

SECTION 11. IC 20-33-2.5-5, AS ADDED BY P.L.125-2024, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 5. (a) A school shall hold an attendance conference described in section 4(2) of this chapter not more than ~~five~~ **(5) ten (10)** instructional days after the student's fifth absence described in section 1(2) of this chapter regardless of whether:

- (1) the parent of the student; or
- (2) a representative described under section 4(2)(D) of this chapter;

is able to attend the conference.

(b) A school shall make all reasonable efforts to hold an attendance conference as required under subsection (a) on a date and at a time that works with the schedule of the student's parent.

SECTION 12. IC 20-33-8-16.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 16.5. (a) Except as otherwise provided in IC 20-19-9-5 and IC 20-24-5-4.5(e), a public school, including a charter school, may not expel or suspend a student solely because the student is chronically absent or a habitual truant.**

**(b) This section expires July 1, 2026.**

(Reference is to ESB 482 as printed April 9, 2025.)

**Conference Committee Report**  
**on**  
**Engrossed Senate Bill 482**

**S**igned by:

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Senator Donato  
Chairperson

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Representative Davis

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Senator Hunley

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Representative Smith V

**Senate Conferees**

**House Conferees**