

## Education Laws Effective July 1, 2018

### **SEA 24 (Sen. Liz Brown) Student Possession and Use of Sunscreen**

This bill allows a student to possess and use topical, non-aerosol sunscreen while on school property or a school-sponsored event or activity without being required to have a doctor's note or prescription. It allows the student to store the product in a specific location if the product is regulated by the FDA for over-the-counter use. School personnel may assist the student in applying the sunscreen if the school has written permission from the student's parent or guardian. The bill provides civil immunity for school corporations, schools and personnel for any action taken to comply.

### **SEA 43 (Sen. David Long) Racial Balance Levy Fund**

The bill repeals provisions regarding the racial balance levy and fund (an obsolete provision following HEA 1009). It requires that any money in a corporation's racial balance fund on Jan. 1, 2019, be transferred into the operations fund. The bill was intended specifically for Fort Wayne but applies to all corporations.

### **SEA 65 (Sen. Dennis Kruse) Instruction on Human Sexuality**

This bill began by prohibiting a school from providing instruction on human sexuality unless parents sign a consent form. ISTA opposed the bill, because it stipulated that unless a parent affirmatively consented to a student receiving instruction of this nature, the school could not provide it.

An amendment changed the bill to require a parent to have two opportunities to complete a form consenting or opposing to a student receiving human sexuality instruction. If a parent fails to complete the form on those two chances, the student automatically receives the instruction unless a parent at any time thereafter opts-out. The bill also requires that a student who does not participate in the instruction must receive alternative instruction during that period.

This is not the direct "opt out" stance that ISTA and many groups believed is the common-sense approach to this issue, but it was a move in the right direction and reflects the version that passed.

### **SEA 135 (Rep. Michael Bohacek) DCS Notification to Schools**

Requires the Department of Child Services (DCS) to notify the individual designated as the contact for a child's school if the child is removed from a home. Provides civil immunity for a guardian ad litem, court appointed advocate program and employee or volunteer for a program when a child is placed on a waiting list for services.

### **SEA 217 (Sen. Erin Houchin) Dyslexia**

If a multidisciplinary team determines a student is eligible for special education and related services or has characteristics of dyslexia, the bill requires the team to include information about dyslexia in a student's educational evaluation. Information about dyslexia must be discussed with the student's case conference committee and included in the student's Individualized Education Program if the case conference committee determines that the information should be included. A school corporation's and charter



school's reading plan must include indicators to screen for risk factors of dyslexia using a tool developed by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE).

Requires school corporations and charter schools to use the response to intervention process to address needs of students who have characteristics of dyslexia. Parental consent must be obtained prior to administration of a dyslexia screening. Schools must report annually to IDOE the number of students who were screened and determined at-risk. A school corporation and charter school must include information on their websites about dyslexia. IDOE must employ after July 1, 2019, at least one reading specialist trained in dyslexia. A school may receive a waiver from employing the specialist in certain cases. Requires IDOE to develop a dyslexia resource guide and provide teachers with professional awareness information.

### **SEA 230 (Sen. Randy Head) Suicide Prevention**

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction must develop and provide research-based training for health care providers regarding suicide assessment and prevention that is recommended by the Indiana Suicide Prevention Network Advisory Council. Requires emergency medical technicians to complete a training program. Requires teachers and certain school employees to receive at least two hours of suicide awareness and prevention training.

### **SEA 297 (Sen. Jeff Raatz) Employability Skills Curriculum**

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) must establish standards for students to provide career and college planning resources under the Career Explorer program. Requires each school no later than July 1, 2019, to include interdisciplinary employability skill standards established by IDOE in coordination with DWD and approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE). The Career Explorer pilot program must be expanded to at least 15 additional schools if the pilot is determined to be expanded. Establishes the work ethic certificate program.

### **Retired SEA 373 (Sen. Greg Walker) Post-Retirement Benefits**

This bill creates a new pre-funded avenue to strive to provide cost-of-living increases for public employee retirees on a regular basis. ISTA supported this bill as a credible attempt to regularize post-retirement benefit increases.

### **HEA 1024 (Rep. Ron Bacon) Heat Preparedness Training for Coaches**

Requires that head and assistant coaches of interscholastic sports or intramural sports complete a certified coaching education course that includes prevention and response for heat-related medical issues.

**HEA 1047 (Rep. Tim Wesco) Education Benefits for Veterans** For purposes of determining eligibility for need-based financial aid for veterans, certain benefits are excluded from the formula to provide a greater financial benefit. Students who are members of the National Guard, reserves or armed forces and on active duty may receive a tuition refund or credit or reenrollment due to active duty status.



### **HEA 1242 (Rep. Jim Baird) Resident Tuition for Serving on the USS Indiana**

Certain individuals who serve, or served, on the USS Indiana are eligible for resident state tuition in state educational institutions after June 30, 2019.

### **HEA 1314 (Rep. Dale DeVon) Students in Foster Care**

Requires the SBOE to collaborate with IDOE and DCS to prepare an annual report of foster care educational outcomes. Requires IDOE to develop a remediation plan for foster-care youth. Requires that information for foster-care students be included in a school corporation's annual performance report. Requires DCS to share with IDOE at least once per month disaggregated data for foster-care students to identify trends.

### **HEA 1315 (Rep. Tim Brown) Loss of Teacher Rights**

The bill authorizes an emergency manager, assigned to the school district, the ability to lay off up to five percent of the teachers mid-year, creating unnecessary hardships to kids, parents and staff.

For Muncie schools, the consequences are even broader. The final bill dissolves Muncie's locally-elected school board, and makes it an advisory board to a new governing body appointed by Ball State University, of which only four of seven members must reside in Muncie.

Operations of Muncie schools will be turned over to the new Ball State-appointed board, and in exchange, the label "in fiscal distress" will be removed from Muncie schools. The new board will have the power to operate the district outside of most education laws on the books applying to other districts. Many of these laws were enacted to educate, serve and protect kids.

Collective bargaining rights for Muncie teachers are also unclear. Ball State will have the power to recognize an exclusive representative under the collective bargaining laws, and only for the school buildings that its school board authorizes, but it is not required to recognize an exclusive representative.

### **HEA 1399 (Rep. Robert Behning) Content License at Elementary Level**

This bill makes a content license for elementary teachers an option and not a requirement of the SBOE. ISTA was neutral since this new content license is not mandatory.

