



February 2, 2024

---

---

## SENATE BILL No. 211

---

DIGEST OF SB 211 (Updated January 31, 2024 4:03 pm - DI 152)

**Citations Affected:** IC 20-20; IC 20-24; IC 20-29.

**Synopsis:** Various education matters. Requires the department of education to establish a civics seal program (program) and make certain determinations concerning the program. Prohibits formal collective bargaining between a school corporation and the exclusive representative from beginning before October 1.

**Effective:** July 1, 2024.

---

---

### Raatz, Crane

---

---

January 10, 2024, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.  
February 1, 2024, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

---

---

SB 211—LS 6837/DI 152





February 2, 2024

Second Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2024)

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 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 211

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 20-20-46.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2024]:  
4 **Chapter 46.5. Civics Seal Program**  
5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "civics seal" refers to an award**  
6 **granted by the department under the program.**  
7 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the civics**  
8 **seal program established under section 4 of this chapter.**  
9 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "school" refers to the following:**  
10 (1) **A school maintained by a school corporation.**  
11 (2) **A charter school.**  
12 (3) **A state accredited nonpublic school.**  
13 **Sec. 4. The department shall do the following:**  
14 (1) **Establish a civics seal program through which students,**  
15 **teachers, and schools are awarded civics seals recognizing**  
16 **excellence in civics.**  
17 (2) **Adopt criteria to determine student, teacher, and school**

SB 211—LS 6837/DI 152



1 **excellence in civics. The criteria may include the following:**

2 **(A) A student's proficiency in civics demonstrated by**  
3 **student volunteer work and class grades.**

4 **(B) A teacher's participation in professional development**  
5 **training in civics.**

6 **(C) A school's emphasis on civics by means of curriculum,**  
7 **instructional methods, conduct requirements, and other**  
8 **means.**

9 **(3) Determine the form of a civics seal award. The form may**  
10 **include the following:**

11 **(A) A seal displayed on a student's diploma or transcript.**

12 **(B) A seal displayed on a teacher's license.**

13 **(C) A seal displayed as prescribed by the department for**  
14 **a school.**

15 SECTION 2. IC 20-24-1-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.1-2005, SECTION  
16 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
17 2024]: Sec. 4. **(a)** "Charter school" means a public elementary school  
18 or secondary school established under this article that:

19 (1) is nonsectarian and nonreligious; and

20 (2) operates under a charter.

21 **(b) Except as otherwise provided, a charter school described in**  
22 **subsection (a) includes a charter school corporation (as defined in**  
23 **section 4.5 of this chapter).**

24 SECTION 3. IC 20-24-1-4.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
25 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
26 1, 2024]: Sec. 4.5. "Charter school corporation" means a collection  
27 of charter schools (not including a virtual charter school):

28 **(1) operated by the same organizer under a single charter;**  
29 **and**

30 **(2) approved by the state board to receive a school**  
31 **corporation identification number.**

32 SECTION 4. IC 20-24-7-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.218-2015,  
33 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
34 JULY 1, 2024]: Sec. 1. (a) The organizer is the fiscal agent for the  
35 charter school.

36 (b) The organizer has exclusive control of:

37 (1) funds received by the charter school; and

38 (2) financial matters of the charter school.

39 (c) The organizer shall maintain accounts of all funds received and  
40 disbursed by the organizer. **Except in the case of a charter school**  
41 **corporation**, the organizer shall maintain separate accountings of all  
42 funds received and disbursed by each charter school it holds.



1 (d) Notwithstanding IC 20-43, an organizer that operates more than  
 2 one (1) charter school **or operates a charter school corporation** may  
 3 file, before July 1 of each year, a notice with the department that the  
 4 organizer desires to receive the tuition support distributions, and in the  
 5 case of an adult high school (as defined in IC 20-24-1-2.3), funding  
 6 provided in the state biennial budget for adult high schools, for all the  
 7 charter schools the organizer operates **or the charter school**  
 8 **corporation as a whole**. After the organizer's authorizer or authorizers  
 9 verify to the department that the organizer operates the charter schools  
 10 **or charter school corporation**, the department shall distribute the  
 11 tuition support, and in the case of an adult high school (as defined in  
 12 IC 20-24-1-2.3), funding provided in the state biennial budget for adult  
 13 high schools, for the verified charter schools to the organizer **or the**  
 14 **charter school corporation**. The organizer **or charter school**  
 15 **corporation** may distribute the tuition support distribution it receives  
 16 to each charter school it operates in the amounts determined by the  
 17 organizer. However, an organizer that receives money from the state  
 18 under this subsection may not use any of the money received for  
 19 expenses incurred outside Indiana that are not directly related to the  
 20 charter school **or charter school corporation** the organizer operates  
 21 in Indiana.

22 (e) Organizers **or charter school corporations** receiving tuition  
 23 support under this section may submit a consolidated audit in  
 24 accordance with guidelines established by the state examiner and  
 25 submit any required financial reporting to the department in a manner  
 26 prescribed by the state examiner. The state examiner shall establish  
 27 guidelines and prescribe reporting requirements for organizers under  
 28 this section that are consistent with generally accepted accounting  
 29 principles (GAAP) and the needs of the department.

30 SECTION 5. IC 20-29-6-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.200-2023,  
 31 SECTION 25, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 32 JULY 1, 2024]: Sec. 1. (a) School employers and school employees  
 33 shall:

- 34 (1) have the obligation and the right to bargain collectively the  
 35 items set forth in section 4 of this chapter; and
- 36 (2) enter into a contract embodying any of the matters listed in  
 37 section 4 of this chapter on which they have bargained  
 38 collectively.

39 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, before a school employer and  
 40 school employees may privately negotiate the matters described in  
 41 subsection (a)(1) during the time period for formal collective  
 42 bargaining established in section 12 of this chapter, the parties must



1 hold at least one (1) public hearing and take public testimony to discuss  
2 the items described in subsection (a). **The public hearing under this**  
3 **subsection may take place at a regular or special meeting of the**  
4 **governing body.** A school employer may allow governing body  
5 members or the public to participate in a public hearing under this  
6 subsection by means of electronic communication.

7 SECTION 6. IC 20-29-6-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.214-2017,  
8 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
9 JULY 1, 2024]: Sec. 12. Formal collective bargaining between a school  
10 corporation and the exclusive representative shall not begin before:

11 (1) ~~September 15~~ **October 1** in the first year of the state budget  
12 biennium; or

13 (2) ~~September 15~~ **October 1** in the second year of the state budget  
14 biennium if the parties agreed to a one (1) year contract during the  
15 first year of the state budget biennium or the contract provides for  
16 renegotiating certain financial items the second year of a two (2)  
17 year contract.

18 Informal negotiations may be held before ~~September 15~~ **October 1**.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 211, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 2, line 27, delete "schools:" and insert "**schools (not including a virtual charter school):**".

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 211 as introduced.)

RAATZ, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 9, Nays 4.

