

ANSWERS AND INFORMATION REGARDING EDUCATION STANDARDS REQUIRED BY INDIANA LAW

Below, please find answers to questions we have received from various education stakeholders regarding Indiana Academic Standards and the Indiana Employability Skills Standards:

I. What standards are required to be taught in Indiana's schools?

The [Indiana Academic Standards](#) (IC 20-31-3) and the [Indiana Employability Skills Standards](#) (IC 20-30-5-14) are the only standards that are required to be taught in Indiana's schools.

II. Can local school corporations adopt curriculum that addresses ideas and concepts that are not included in the Indiana Academic Standards or the Indiana Employability Skills Standards?

Yes, provided the locally-adopted curriculum does not conflict with the Indiana Academic Standards or the Indiana Employability Skills Standards (IC 20-26-3, IC 20-26-12-24).

III. Is there a mechanism for parents to opt out of locally-adopted curriculum?

Yes. Pursuant to IC 20-26-3, local school boards can decide if and how parents are able to opt out of locally-provided instruction.

IV. Is the Critical Race Theory included in either the Indiana Academic Standards or Indiana Employability Skills Standards?

No.

V. Who is responsible for adopting curriculum for use in local schools?

Per IC 20-26-12-24, local school boards, after reviewing recommendations from their superintendent, are responsible for adopting curriculum for use in teaching each subject in the school corporation.

Below, please find answers to questions we have received from various education stakeholders regarding Social Emotional Learning:

VI. What is Social Emotional Learning (SEL)?

SEL is sometimes referred to as character education, 21st Century skills, whole-child education, etc. SEL encompasses the developmental and ongoing process of teaching, modeling, practicing, and reinforcing the knowledge and skills essential to wellbeing and personal and professional success.

VII. Is Social Emotional Learning (SEL) required by law?

Yes. Per IC 20-19-5, IDOE, in collaboration with other agencies, is required to have a plan for children's social, emotional, and behavioral health. That plan was updated in 2019 to include seven SEL competencies. These SEL competencies are followed by many states and are recommended by national SEL experts.

VIII. Are any SEL competencies included in the Indiana Academic Standards?

No.

IX. Are any SEL competencies included in Indiana Employability Skills Standards?

Three skills identified in the [Indiana Employability Skills Standards](#) (which must be taught to Indiana's students in grades K-12) also appear within Indiana's SEL competencies. Those skills are captured in the [Indiana Employability Skills Standards](#) as follows:

- A. **Regulation** - Recognize and manage one's emotions.
- B. **Connection** - Demonstrate the ability to network with others through social awareness and cultural sensitivity.
- C. **Collaboration** - Work well with others in a team.

X. What are the other Indiana SEL competencies?

While Indiana's schools are not required to adopt them, the four additional SEL competencies are as follows:

- A. **Sensory-Motor Integration** - the unique sensory development and emotional ability of each person to be aware of their body mind connection.
- B. **Insight** - the ability to know your emotions and how they affect your thoughts and actions.
- C. **Critical Thinking** - the ability to make constructive choices and understand metacognitive strategies to enhance learning.
- D. **Mindset** - the ability to demonstrate cognitive flexibility, innovative and adaptive thinking strategies, and a growth perspective.

XI. Is the Critical Race Theory included in any of Indiana's SEL competencies?

No.

XII. Is SEL required for Indiana high school graduation?

[Indiana Academic Standards](#) and the [Indiana Employability Skills Standards](#) are the only standards required by Indiana for high school graduation. Per IC 20-26-3 and 511 IAC 6-7.1-2(1), local school boards may approve additional requirements for their students.