

Freeway Accreditation Statute Information

As a means of encouraging educational reform and freeing some schools from some statutory requirements, the Indiana General Assembly passed the Freeway School Accreditation statute, IC 20-26-15.

This accreditation model provides some flexibility in exchange for achieving and maintaining high levels of performance.

In exchange for the flexibility in their operations and curriculum, the statute requires that it show a steady pattern of increases in performance in the following areas:

- Attendance Rate
- Graduation Rate
- State Assessment Performance

The minimum educational benefits that a freeway school must produce under this chapter are performance in each of these areas above that include increases of 2% or more each school year until the average rate is eighty five percent (85%); when the school reaches 85%, the improvement level is one percent (1%) each year until the average is ninety percent (90%). After a freeway school has achieved the minimum rates required the freeway school must either maintain the minimum required rates or show continued improvement of those rates.

Failure to meet these benchmarks can result in the revocation of the Freeway accreditation status.

Below is a list and brief summary of statutes that Freeway schools must comply with. The highlighted ones are ones that can be identified as suspended if the governing body of the school elects to have the specific statute or rule suspended in the contract.

- 20-20-40-14: Adopt a restraint & seclusion plan that incorporates the elements of the model plan
- 20-26-5-10: Adopt a criminal background check policy for employees and volunteers at the school that interact with students
- 20-27: Comply with the determinations of the state school bus committee if the school provides transportation for students
- 20-30-2-2: Provide required instructional time per school day
- 20-30-2-3: Provide at least 180 instructional days during the school year
- **20-30-2-7: Provide at least 9 months for a school year**
- 20-30-3-3: Sing the national anthem on all patriotic occasions
- 20-30-3-4; 20-30-5-0.5: Have a US flag on display outside every school day & in each classroom
- 20-30-4: Develop a graduation plan for 6th grade students
- 20-30-5-0.5: Provide an opportunity for students to say the pledge of allegiance every school day
- 20-30-5-1: Must provide instruction on the Constitution for grades 6-12

- 20-30-5-2: Provide one year course in IN & US Constitutions for high schools
- 20-30-5-4: Provide 5 recitation periods of class discussion concerning system of government in US
- 20-30-5-5: Present instruction with special emphasis on morals instruction
- **20-30-5-8: Course in safety ed for at least one full semester taught in 8th grade**
- 20-30-5-18: Ensure info concerning meningitis is provided to students & parents at the beginning of the school year
- 20-30-5-19: Include instruction concerning personal financial responsibility in curriculum for grades 6-12
- 20-30-5-20: Include instruction in CPR & use of AED for high school students in health education curriculum (may be provided by community based providers)
- 20-31-4-3 & 511 IAC 6.1-1-3: Be assigned accreditation level
- 20-31-4-6 & 511 IAC 6.1-1-4, 6.1-2-1, 6.1-6-2: Comply with legal standards for accreditation (health & safety requirements; minimum time requirements; curriculum offerings; staff evaluation plan; school improvement plan)
- 20-31-4-8: If school hasn't complied with all legal standards, or has not met performance expectations then review panel must conduct onsite evaluation of the school to make a recommendation regarding accreditation status of school
- 20-31-5-1; 511 IAC 6.2-2.5: Principal shall coordinate the development of an initial 3 year strategic & continuous school improvement & achievement plan & annual review of the plan (plan must consider cultural competency in ed environments)
- 20-32-4-1: Student must meet academic standards tested in the graduation exam; Core 40 course & credit requirements adopted by the SBOE; any additional requirements established by the governing body
- 20-32-4-2: Student who does not meet grad exam shall be given the opportunity to be tested each semester
- 20-32-4-4, 5: Student may be granted grad waiver
- **20-32-5-15: ISTEP testing schedule determined by state in which each student in grades 3, 6, 8 & 10 must be tested & student must take grad exam**
- 20-32-5-17 & 511 IAC 5-2-3: Seeking accreditation nonpublic must administer the ISTEP
- 20-33-2: students at nonpublic school are bound by compulsory attendance laws & approved absences
- 20-33-2-20: Accurate daily record of attendance of each student shall be kept by school
- 20-33-2-11: Furnish the number of students by grade level attending the school to DOE
- 20-33-2-47; 512 IAC 1-2-1 & 2: Report to local health dept if student absences due to illness are above 20% of enrolled students; develop local attendance system in coordination with school nurse for reporting symptoms & syndromes from outbreaks or suspected outbreaks or conditions that could be a danger to public health
- 20-34-7-3: Provide parent & student athlete info sheets on concussion & head injuries & sign document to be maintained on file
- 20-34-7-4: Student suspected of sustaining concussion or head injury during sport shall be removed from play & may not return until written clearance received
- 20-34-7-6: Football coaches must complete certified coaching ed course

- 20-34-8-6: Give athlete & parent info sheet on cardiac arrest annually to sign & return & keep on file
- 20-34-8-7 & 8: If student suspected of experiencing symptom of sudden cardiac arrest, student must be removed & parent notified; student removed may not return until coach receives verbal permission for student to return to practice/play & receives written statement from parent
- 511 IAC 5-4-1: Participate, if selected, in NAEP
- 511 IAC 5-4-2: Participate, if selected, in international math & science study testing
- 511 IAC 6.1-2-5: Pupils & teachers must wear industrial quality eye protective devices when required by IC 20-34-3-19
- 511 IAC 6.1-2-6: Provide student services under 511 IAC 4-1.5
- 511 IAC 6.1-5-6: Have a media program that's integral part of education program with licensed medial specialist supervising the media program
- 511 IAC 6.1-5-9: Adopt, implement & communicate a written homework policy to reinforce the concept that homework is an out of school assignment that contributes to education of student
- 511 IAC 6.1-5-10: Adopt & enforce a written policy that prohibits retaining a student in a grade level for the sole purpose of athletic participation
- 511 IAC 6.2-3.1: Submit details of reading plan that includes required components to DOE before school year of implementation
- 511 IAC 6.2-3.1: Provide 90 minute block of time daily for reading unless the nonpublic has 90% or more students passing IREAD