

MEMORANDUM

To: Indiana School Superintendents, Principals, and Educators

From: Robin LeClaire, Chief Academic Officer

Date: June 26, 2020

Re: Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 398 - Various Education Matters (1 of 2)

Background:

Senate Enrolled Act 398 (2020) provides that, upon request by certain **patriotic youth membership organizations**, public schools, including charter schools, shall provide at least one time each school year, a day and time, which may be during the school day as approved by the public school, for the representative of the organization to provide information to students on school property. Information provided by such organizations includes how the specific organization furthers the “educational interests and civic involvement of students consistent with good citizenship and moral instruction...” (see IC 20-26-20). Additionally, the law requires a public school or a charter school to conduct expanded criminal history checks of representatives of organizations.

SEA 398 requires, not later than November 1, 2022, and not later than November 1 each year thereafter, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to report to the General Assembly information regarding the pass rate of students who took the **naturalization examination** and schools must post the pass rate on the school’s website.

Guidance:

SEA 398 requires that schools have procedures that permit **patriotic youth membership organizations** at least one day and time each school year to 1) allow the youth membership group representative to provide information to students on school property, and 2) ensure that an expanded background criminal history checks of representatives of organizations occurs.

Patriotic youth membership organizations are defined as any youth organization listed under [Title 36](#) of the United States Code.

SEA 398 requires that schools provide IDOE the passing rates for students who take the **naturalization examination** as required by [SEA 132](#). Passing rates for student cohorts are to be posted on the school’s website. Passing rates shall be defined by the number of students who took the naturalization examination and by the numbers of students who passed the

naturalization examination. A student score of 60 percent accuracy is considered passing on the student's first attempt at taking the naturalization examination. Passing rates shall be submitted to IDOE beginning November 1, 2022 and by each November 1 in subsequent years. Submission of passing rates to IDOE shall begin with tests that are issued during the 2021-2022 school year via a process that has yet to be determined.

Resources about the United States Naturalization Test may be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact J. Matthew Walsh by phone at (317) 232-6619 or through email at jwalsh1@doe.in.gov.

This bill was authored by Senator Jeff Raatz and the full bill text can be found [here](#). Information regarding how to contact your legislators can be found [here](#).