

Healthy Schools Legislation

HB 1380: Various Education Matters

Authored by Rep. Bob Behning (R) with Rep. Michelle Davis (R) and Rep. Julie McGuire (R), HB 1380 would establish a pilot program to monitor the use, operation, and management of school facilities. This program would aim to promote an enhanced learning environment; create unique learning opportunities; and improve student academic and health outcomes. This is an exciting first step to push for healthy school environments.

Why does HB 1380 matter to me and my family?

1. Children are not little adults. They are more sensitive to air quality, temperature changes, noise, and daylight.

2. The decisions made during the design process for renovations and new construction impact students and educators. By the time students graduate 12th grade, they will have spent over 15,000 hours in school. The average educator tenure is 13 years. Decisions impact well-being long term.

3. Healthier schools lead to better academic outcomes and optimize educator performance. Public health research shows environmental exposures in school buildings impact student and educator health, thinking, and performance.

4. A new school is not necessarily the healthiest school. Healthy schools require a holistic approach- all the way from material selections to maintenance products.

How can I make a difference in Indiana's legislation?

1. Contact

your local representative and state senator.

2. Volunteer

with the Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC).

3. Write

a letter to the editor of your local paper.

4. Attend

public meetings and share your opinion.

Additional Resources:

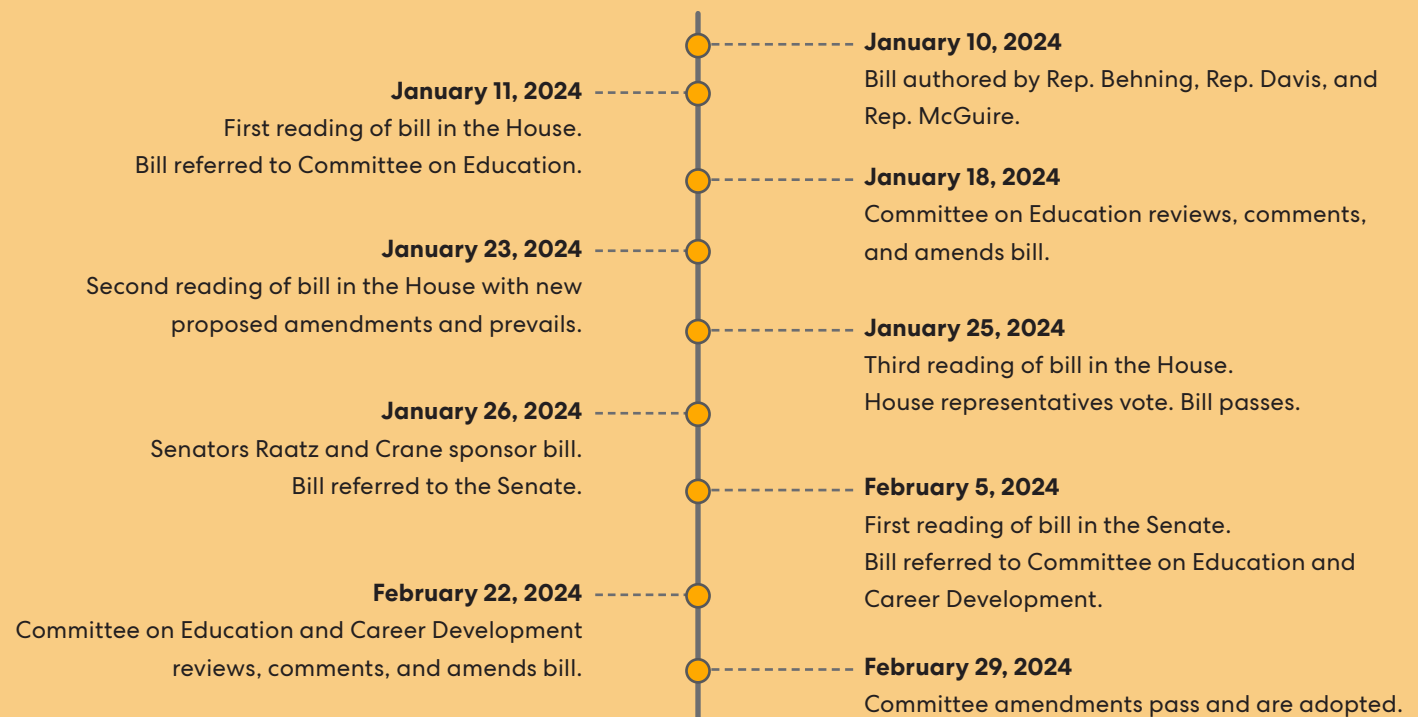
• How a Bill becomes a Law:

LEARN MORE AT: [INDIANACHAMBER.COM/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2018/01/HOWABILLBECOMESLAW2018.PDF](https://indianachamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/HowABillBecomesLaw2018.pdf)

•How to volunteer with the HEC:

LEARN MORE AT: [HECWEB.ORG/YOU-CAN-MAKE-A-DIFFERENCE-IN-INDIANAS-LEGISLATIVE-SESSION](https://hecweb.org/you-can-make-a-difference-in-indianas-legislative-session)

Exciting First Steps towards Healthy Schools in Indiana: HB 1380 in Legislative Session 2024



What's next for Healthy Schools Indiana?

There are many ways to improve school facilities to foster a healthier learning environment for Hoosier students as well as the educators and staff who ensure their safety, growth, and overall well-being. HB 1380: Various Education Matters is an exciting first step to drive progress and position Indiana as a leader in the rapidly evolving educational landscape.

Recommended next steps to support healthy school environments:



The state should hire an individual who can support school building design, maintenance, and operations. This individual can act as a liaison between the state and the school to ensure that any changes improve health outcomes. This individual should be accountable for tracking health and academic metrics as well as providing guidance to local school districts.



Measure existing school buildings to evaluate environmental conditions either quantitatively or qualitatively to understand the current physical and economic needs. Collect information on school facilities age, last renovation, age and type of HVAC, windows, roof, boilers. Health conditions measure air quality, acoustics, daylight.



Indiana should adopt a healthy school certification system such as Collaborative High Performance Schools (CHPS). This is a voluntary program in which schools use criteria outlined by CHPS to monitor and comply with metrics of high performing school facilities. Currently, Indiana does not use this designation system, but many other states have implemented it. The use of this system could help identify schools with the greatest need for facility improvements.



Learn more about the impacts of healthy school environments in Indiana at healthyk12.perkinswill.com/school-guidance

CASE STUDY: WEST VIRGINIA

In 1989, West Virginia School Building Authority (SBA) was established to address educational planning and school construction needs of the state.

Since then, SBA has created a Policy and Procedures Handbook to guide design and construction for school projects in the state. The handbook has been updated several times. In 2022, the legislative rule once again updated the handbook. This change reinforced the idea that healthy schools need to be maintained. Each county school facility must undergo annual on-site inspections and maintain a 10-year Comprehensive Education Facilities Plan (CEFP). The new ruling also noted the importance of healthy flooring selections within schools.

The Office of School Facilities enacts the Policy and Procedures Handbook. The office provides guidance to county school systems to improve the physical school environment.

The Office of School Facilities is responsible for:

- Conducting annual facility reviews for all schools constructed or renovated with SBA funds.
- Providing training on installing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC) in school facilities.
- Reviewing and approving all 10-year CEFP submitted by each county board.
- Performing investigations of IAQ complaints.
- Providing consultative services to mediate indoor environmental issues.
- Providing energy management and technical assistance on the maintenance and operation of HVAC for all county schools.
- Providing professional learning and assistance to county school systems for implementation of their crisis prevention and response plans.