



## The Scholar Pledge: What Constitutes a Pledge Violation?

In exchange for tuition and fee support services, 21st Century Scholars make a commitment to excellence in school and in life. When students enroll in seventh or eighth grade, they pledge to graduate with an Indiana High School Diploma from a state-accredited high school; participate in the Scholar Success Program that helps them plan, prepare and pay for college success; achieve a cumulative high school Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; not use illegal drugs or alcohol, or commit a crime or delinquent act; and apply for college admission and financial aid on-time as a high school senior.

A central tenet of being a 21st Century Scholar is the pledge of good citizenship which is intended to reinforce positive behavior that will increase the student's opportunity for success.

[Indiana Code 21-12-6-5](#) requires that a Scholar not:

- illegally use controlled substances (as defined in IC 35-48-1-9);
- commit a crime or an infraction described in IC 9-30-5;
- commit any other crime or delinquent act (as described in IC 31-37-1-2 or IC 31-37-2-2 through IC 31-37-2-5).

A student will be considered as having violated the Scholar Pledge if he or she commits any of the following activities:

- The underage consumption of alcohol;<sup>1</sup>
- The illegal use of a controlled substance which includes a drug, substance, or immediate precursor in schedule I, II, III, IV, or V;<sup>2</sup>
- Operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol;<sup>3</sup>
- Committing an act that would be an offense if committed by an adult;<sup>4</sup>
- Before becoming eighteen (18) years of age, the child leaves the home of a parent, guardian, or custodian without reasonable cause and without permission of the parent, guardian, or custodian, who requests the child's return;<sup>5</sup>
- Before becoming eighteen (18) years of age, the child violates [IC 20-33-2](#) concerning compulsory school attendance;<sup>6</sup>
- Before becoming eighteen (18) years of age, the child habitually disobeys the reasonable and lawful commands of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian;<sup>7</sup>
- Before becoming eighteen (18) years of age, the child commits a curfew violation under [IC 31-37-3](#).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [IC 7.1-5-7-7](#)

<sup>2</sup> [IC 35-48-1-9](#)

<sup>3</sup> [IC 9-30-5](#)

<sup>4</sup> [IC 31-37-1-2](#)

<sup>5</sup> [IC 31-37-2-2](#)

<sup>6</sup> [IC 31-37-2-3](#)

<sup>7</sup> [IC 31-37-2-4](#)



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## Reporting a Pledge Violation

It is the responsibility of a Scholar and his or her parent to report potential pledge violations to the program as soon as they become aware of the violation. Pledge violations can be reported by a school official, social worker, case manager, counselor, or judicial officer.

Potential pledge violations should be reported to:

Indiana Commission for Higher Education  
ATTN: Student Support Center  
101 West Ohio Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Reports should include: 1) the full name of the Scholar, 2) a description of the potential violation, and 3) the name and contact information of the person making the report.