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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 10, 2026

Indiana Looks to Build on National Leadership in Early College Credit Opportunities for High School Students

(INDIANAPOLIS) — Indiana is taking strategic steps to explore how opportunities like the Indiana College Core (ICC) and priority Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses can be expanded at no cost to students and families. Indiana currently ranks first in the nation for students completing at least one college course in high school, with the average high school student earning 15 credits – often positioning students within just one to two courses from earning a credential of value. To advance this work—and in response to increasing demand for early college credit—the [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#) (Commission) has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to identify providers capable of expanding access to the ICC and priority CTE courses at no cost to high school students across the state.

“High school is a great time for students to get a jumpstart on the education and skills they’ll need to thrive in whatever path they choose,” said Governor Mike Braun. “When students are able to earn college credit in high school that supports their future goals, they and their families save money today and in the future. As a continued leader in early college credit opportunities, Indiana is helping students make more informed decisions about the career path and begin earning a paycheck even sooner.”

The Indiana College Core (ICC) is a 30-credit block of general education coursework that transfers seamlessly to all Indiana public colleges and universities and 11 participating private institutions. The ICC allows high school students to earn the equivalent of a full year of college credits at little to no cost, advancing Indiana’s goal of making higher education more affordable, accessible, and attainable for all Hoosiers. Students who complete the ICC are more likely to enroll in college, succeed academically, and graduate on time or early. The ICC also satisfies the credential of value requirement to earn the new Enrollment Honors Plus Seal, which guarantees students automatic acceptance to more than 40 Indiana campuses, including all Indiana public institutions and several private institutions that have opted in.

“Indiana is leading the nation when it comes to K-12 and higher education working together to maximize outcomes for students, including helping more students graduate high school with intentional college credit leading to a credential of value” said Indiana Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner. “When we consider how we can make higher education more affordable and increase educational attainment, we have an incredible opportunity to expand access to high-quality early college credit for every high school student. Providing no-cost early college credit is an essential step in helping more students find the path that’s right for them and improving their long-term outcomes.”

Currently [328 Indiana high schools](#) offer the ICC for the 2026-2027 school year, making it accessible to 78 percent of students in grades nine through 12. The number of high schools offering the ICC has increased rapidly over the last few years due to a combination of recently passed legislation, the adoption of new diploma requirements, dedicated statewide outreach, and increased collaboration between higher education institutions and Indiana high schools. Currently, approximately 300,000 Hoosier high school students have access to the ICC, leaving nearly 88,000 students who do not—presenting an opportunity to expand access for even more students and families.

Indiana is also a national leader in access to career and technical education, with more than 90% of last year's graduating class completing at least one CTE course. While some students were able to earn dual credit (both high school and college credit) for these CTE courses, many only earned high school credit for taking the same courses. Increasing the number of students who earn dual credit in priority CTE courses presents an opportunity for Indiana to increase the number of students earning a credential of value before high school graduation and ensure students are better prepared for what's next.

High schools partner with postsecondary institutions to offer the ICC and priority CTE courses that lead to other credentials of value. Courses are offered through a variety of methods, including traditional dual credit, dual enrollment on college campuses, and online options. However, the cost of these courses varies significantly. Institutions charge different rates across delivery models, and cost-sharing practices differ across school districts. As a result, students and families face inconsistent access to these opportunities.

The RFI seeks proposals from eligible postsecondary institutions and educational partners to address cost disparities, remove hidden fees, and eliminate barriers to early college credit participation in high school statewide. Respondents are asked to outline innovative, scalable, and sustainable strategies for expanding dual credit and dual enrollment opportunities, particularly in schools facing challenges such as insufficient teacher credentialing, low enrollment in specific course sections, scheduling constraints, and transportation limitations.

Leveraging the RFI responses and other feedback, per statute, the Secretary of Education will identify early college credit assets and opportunities, identify best practices from postsecondary institutions and partners, and develop recommendations for expanding access to early college credit for all Indiana high school students. The full RFI and submission instructions are available on the [Commission's webpage](#). Responses are due by Friday, October 16, at 5 p.m. ET.

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About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE, Commission) is the State's higher education coordinating agency, driven to improve economic and social mobility for fellow Hoosiers through postsecondary education and training, and is a part of Governor Mike Braun's Office of Education. The Commission also administers Indiana's state financial aid programs, including [21st Century Scholars](#), which celebrated 35 years in 2025.