

MEMORANDUM

**To:** CTE Directors, Principals, Superintendents, School Counselors

**From:** Anthony Harl, Assistant Director of Career and Technical Education - Programs

**Date:** February 21, 2020

**Re:** Technical Honors Diploma and Completing High School CTE Courses Prior to Grade 9

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**Technical Honors Diploma Requirements:** Recently, several questions have arisen about Technical Honors requirements due to changes made to align to Perkins V.

*For the Core 40 with Technical Honors designation, students must:*

*Earn 6 credits in the college and career preparation courses in a state-approved College & Career Pathway and one of the following:*

- 1. Pathway designated industry-based certification or credential, or*
- 2. Pathway dual credits from the approved dual credit list resulting in 6 transcribed college credits*

**Clarification and Guidance:**

- **What constitutes a state-approved College and Career Pathway?** Currently the state is operating under two different sets of state-approved college and career pathways. The Perkins IV pathways for the 2020-2022 Cohorts and the Perkins V pathways for the 2023 Cohort. The Perkins IV and Perkins V pathways may be found on the [GWC website](#).
- **Do all six (6) credits have to come from the same pathway?** Yes, all six credits must be earned in a singular college and career pathway.
- **What happens when there are only two courses listed for the Perkins V CTE Concentrator Course Sequences?** A version of the Perkins V CTE Concentrator Course Sequences has been posted that includes introductory courses and related and/or advanced courses for the Perkins V sequences. The introductory, related, and advanced courses do not count toward concentrator status but may be used to count toward the six credits for the Technical Honors Diploma. Additionally, many CTE courses may be taken for up to six credits. The six credits may be earned over multiple years.
- **What is a pathway designated industry-based certification or credential?** A pathway designated industry-based certification is any certification or bundle of certifications that is listed on the [Indiana Promoted Industry Certifications](#) list that counts toward Graduation Pathways. A postsecondary certificate, technical certificate, certificate of program completion, certificate of graduation, or postsecondary degree may count as a completed credential.
- **Will there be any changes made to the Technical Honors Diploma requirements to align to Perkins V?** The requirements for the Technical Honors Diploma are currently being

reviewed and may need to be revised to align with Perkins V or to be relevant with updated state-approved college and career pathways.

**Completing High School CTE Courses Prior to Grade 9:** We often receive questions as to whether or not High School CTE courses may be completed in middle school. The following language appears in the Indiana Elementary/Middle School Subjects and Descriptions for 2019-2020.

*The Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) does not restrict high school credit to courses completed in grades 9 through 12. Schools may elect to award high school credit to students who complete high school courses before entering Grade 9 if the course is equivalent to its high school counterpart. Local policies and procedures should be developed to govern credit for high school courses taught below grade nine. Multiple credits may not be awarded for the same course unless the high school course description permits multiple credits to be awarded. Guidance for implementing credit-bearing courses in the middle levels may be found [here](#).*

- **The following criteria must be met in order for a student to earn high school credit for a course completed before entering grade 9:**
  - A course offered for high school credit before Grade 9 must be equivalent to an existing high school course and comply with the approved course description; cover the same Indiana academic standards as its high school counterpart course, if such standards exist; require proficiency at or greater than that required to pass the end of course assessment(ECA)for courses where there is an accompanying ECA; and be taught by a teacher licensed to teach the high school course, as specified on the Assignment Code.
  - If the course is being used to fulfill a high school course or credit requirement, the grade and credits for the course must be included on the student’s high school transcript and factored into the student’s cumulative GPA.
  
- **Are high school CTE courses eligible for 30A funds if they are offered before ninth grade?** Based upon previously established policy, only three (3) high school CTE courses are eligible for funding if they are offered prior to grade nine (9). Those courses include:
  - Preparing for College and Careers (5394),
  - Introduction to Agriculture, Foods and Natural Resources (5056), and
  - Introduction to Engineering Design (4802).

While other secondary CTE courses may be offered prior to grade nine (9), they are not eligible to receive 30A CTE funding.