



INDIANA COMMISSION for
HIGHER EDUCATION

Press Release

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Accreditor Approves Five-Year Extension for Indiana Teachers to Meet New Dual Credit Requirements

The regional college accreditor designated by the federal government for Indiana and 18 other states, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), has approved a five-year extension for Indiana teachers to meet new requirements affecting dual credit teachers. On Monday, December 19, the accreditor notified Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers and officials from 22 public and private Indiana colleges that the application was approved for extension through September 1, 2022. ([Read the letter here.](#))

"We are pleased that the accreditor has granted our colleges this extra time to ensure Indiana's teachers have sufficient time to meet these new requirements," Commissioner Lubbers said. "We will spend the next five years working to make certain all Hoosier students continue to have access to high-quality dual credit opportunities."

In June 2015, the [regional college accreditor](#) HLC issued a policy change requiring all educators who teach dual credit courses to have master's degrees and at least 18 credit hours in the subject areas they teach. Indiana's Dual Credit Advisory Council, co-chaired by Indiana's Commissioner for Higher Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction, met five times over the past year to study Indiana's dual credit policies, determine the appropriate response, and explore potential solutions to maintain dual credit options for Indiana students.

"Indiana is a leader in providing dual-credit options to students," said Glenda Ritz, Indiana's Superintendent of Public Instruction. "With this flexibility from the Higher Learning Commission, Indiana can remain a leader in dual-credit education while transitioning to meet new requirements. Hoosier families, schools and communities can breathe a sigh of relief that our students will continue to benefit from rigorous, dual-credit courses in the coming years."

On November 23, 2016, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education submitted an application on behalf of Indiana's public and private colleges. Commissioner Lubbers offered a cover letter to accompany Indiana's application for extension, which outlined the importance of dual credit to Hoosier students and families as well as the state's efforts to help teachers meet the new requirements by 2022. ([Read Commissioner Lubbers' letter.](#))

Indiana high schools are required to offer students dual credit courses under state law, and the state pays for dual credit courses for low-income students. Furthermore, dual credit coursework has [proven benefits](#) on Indiana students' college going rates, GPAs, and likelihood to persist in college.

The new rules affect around 2,000 current dual credit teachers in Indiana—ranging from those needing a few credits in a subject area to those without master's degrees. Indiana's cover letter and application outline several efforts underway now to ensure current and future dual credit teachers are able to meet all credentialing requirements.

These efforts include but are not limited to the following:

- Indiana's public colleges are partnering to create an online one-stop-shop for teachers to find and enroll in the courses they need to teach dual credit.

- The Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) is working to expand its current STEM Teach initiative to Indiana’s public and private colleges to help dual credit teachers gain the credits they need.
- WGU Indiana, Indiana’s online university, is currently working to adapt its competency-based curriculum to meet new dual credit requirements.

Learn more about Indiana institutions’ efforts to help teachers meet new requirements within Indiana’s full application to HLC, [available online here](#).

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About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is a 14-member public body created in 1971 to define the missions of Indiana’s colleges and universities, plan and coordinate the state’s postsecondary education system, and ensure that Indiana’s higher education system is aligned to meet the needs of students and the state. Read the Commission’s strategic plan for higher education, “Reaching Higher, Delivering Value,” at www.che.in.gov.