

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 27-007

Solicitation For: Access to College Credit Opportunities

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Response Due Date: Friday, October 16, 2026

Sam Rourke, Assistant Commissioner for Career and Technical Education
Indiana Commission for Higher Education
101 W. Ohio St. Ste. 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

SECTION ONE

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUESTED PRODUCTS/SERVICES

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This is a Request for Information/Innovation (RFI) issued by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (Commission) regarding college credit access for Hoosier high school students.

It is the intent of the Commission to solicit responses to this RFI in accordance with the statement of work, specifications contained in this document and associated attachments. This RFI is being posted to the Commission's website (<http://www.in.gov/che/3171.htm>). Neither this RFI nor any response (proposal) submitted hereto is to be construed as a legal offer.

The State may elect to limit participation in any future competitive solicitation to providers that respond to this RFI.

1.2 BACKGROUND and PURPOSE

The Commission is seeking information from eligible postsecondary institutions and education partners to support a statewide goal: ensuring every Hoosier student has access to the Indiana College Core (ICC) and priority Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses at no cost, allowing more students to complete credentials of value while in high school. The purpose of this RFI is to identify and better understand entities' college credit programs and ability to meet this stated objective. The Commission intends to use the information collected through the RFI to determine future actions toward meeting the stated goal. This will include informing funding recommendations, including the potential of a later Request for Proposals (RFP).

This RFI is part of Indiana's coordinated effort to expand early college credit access under the state's new high school diploma and readiness seals requirements. Indiana is a national leader in college credit obtained by high school students and most high schools offer opportunities for students to earn college credit, yet student access is inconsistent depending on the high school. Common barriers that limit the access schools can provide students include cost, teacher credentialing, scheduling, and availability of high-quality course delivery models.

Through this RFI, the Commission seeks innovative, scalable, and sustainable strategies that eliminate these barriers and ensure consistent access for all students. The Commission invites respondents to provide detailed plans as to how they would address common barriers and achieve the stated objective through the scope of work shared below.

The services sought in this RFI are to support the Commission with its obligations under this project and this law, including the direct outreach, triage of responses, and the reporting of data to the General Assembly.

1.3 SUMMARY SCOPE OF WORK

Refer to Attachment A - Access to College Credit Opportunities RFI Questions - Response Template for information regarding the required services being requested by the Commission.

1.4 QUESTION/INQUIRY PROCESS

All questions/inquiries regarding this RFI must be submitted in writing by the deadline of 5 PM ET on Monday, September 21, 2026. Questions/inquiries must be submitted in Attachment B, Q&A Template, via email to ICC@che.in.gov and must be received by the time and date indicated above. Inquiries should only be directed to this email and not to individual staff members at the Commission, Indiana Department of Education, or other state agencies.

Following the question/inquiry due date, the Commission will compile all questions/inquiries received, and the Q&A document with responses will be posted to the Commission's website by the deadline listed below. Only answers posted on the Commission's website will be considered official and valid. No Respondent shall rely upon, take any action, or make any decision based upon any verbal communication with any State employee.

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFI, or if additional information is necessary for a clearer interpretation of provisions of this RFI prior to the due date for proposals, an addendum will be posted to the website as well. The Commission may extend the due date and time of proposals to accommodate such additional information requirements, if required.

1.5 RESPONSE FORMAT AND TIMELINE

All proposals must be received at ICC@che.in.gov no later than the Response Due Date listed below. Any information received after the due date and time may not be considered.

Respondents should submit responses to the RFI, utilizing Attachment A, describing how they will meet the specific requirements of this RFI and the deliverables included within. All narrative responses must be provided to the State in Microsoft Word format. **Responses are limited to no more than 10 pages.** As indicated in Attachment A, additional appendices should be included within the response and do not count toward the page limit.

The following timeline is only an illustration of the RFI process. The dates associated with each step are not to be considered binding. Due to the unpredictable nature of the evaluation period, these dates are commonly subject to change.

Key RFI Dates

Activity	Date
Issue of RFI	Thursday, September 10, 2026

Deadline to Submit Written Questions	Monday, September 21, 2026 by 5 PM ET
Deadline to Submit Intent to Respond	Wednesday, September 30, 2026 by 5 PM ET
Response to Written Questions/RFI Amendments	Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Due Date for Submissions	Friday, October 16, 2026 by 5 PM ET

No more than one response per Respondent may be submitted. The State accepts no obligations for costs incurred by Respondents in anticipation of being awarded a contract.

1.6 COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMISSION

All communication, including responses, questions concerning the information being requested, or the response requirements, should be directed to:

ICC@che.in.gov

1.7 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Respondents are advised that materials contained in proposals are subject to the Access to Public Records Act (APRA), IC 5-14-3 *et seq.*, and, after the contract award, the entire RFI file may be viewed and copied by any member of the public, including news agencies and competitors. Respondents claiming a statutory exception to the APRA must indicate so in the Cover Letter. Confidential Information must also be clearly marked. The Respondent must also specify which statutory exception of APRA that applies. The State reserves the right to make determinations of confidentiality. If the Respondent does not identify the statutory exception the Commission will not consider the submission confidential. If the State does not agree that the information designated is confidential under one of the disclosure exceptions to APRA, it may seek the opinion of the Public Access Counselor. Prices are not confidential information.

There are certain public records which are exempted from the APRA. A list of these items can be found at IC 5-14-3-4.

1.8 CLARIFICATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

The State reserves the right to request clarifications on information submitted to the State. The State also reserves the right to conduct discussions, either oral or written, with the Respondents. These discussions could include requests for additional information, requests for cost information or technical requirements, response attachment revision, etc. Additionally, in conducting discussions, the State may use information derived from the responses submitted by competing Respondents only if the identity of the Respondent providing the information is not

disclosed to others. The State will provide equivalent information to all Respondents which have been chosen for discussions.

Any information gathered through oral discussions must be confirmed in writing.

1.9 COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

Responses to this RFI serve as a representation that it has no current or outstanding criminal, civil, or enforcement actions initiated by the State, and it agrees that it will immediately notify the State of any such actions. The Respondent also certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently in arrears in payment of its taxes, permit fees or other statutory, regulatory or judicially required payments to the State. The Respondent agrees that the State may confirm, at any time, that no such liabilities exist, and, if such liabilities are discovered, that State may bar the Respondent from contracting with the State, cancel existing contracts, withhold payments to setoff such obligations, and withhold further payments or purchases until the entity is current in its payments on its liability to the State and has submitted proof such as payment to the State.

1.10 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Any person, firm or entity that assisted with and/or participated in the preparation of this RFI document is prohibited from submitting a proposal to this specific RFI. For the purposes of this RFI "person" means a state officer, employee, special state appointee, or any individual or entity working with or advising the State or involved in the preparation of this RFI proposal. This prohibition would also apply to an entity who hires, within a one-year period prior to the publication of this RFI, a person that assisted with and/or participated in the preparation of this RFI.