



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Flexibility from Indiana Graduation Requirements in Response to COVID-19

In accordance with Section 13.B. of Executive Order 20-05, the undersigned hereby adopt the attached policy document in order to provide flexibility with respect to Indiana's graduation requirements to schools and students for the 2020 graduation cohort. The attached document modifies the graduation requirements set forth in 511 IAC 6-7.1.

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Flexibility from Indiana Graduation Requirements in Response to COVID-19

2020 Graduating Cohort

This document is meant to clarify expectations and provide flexibility for school corporations as it relates to students in the 2020 graduation cohort. Under this approved flexibility, a school corporation may issue an Indiana diploma to a student who:

1. Has met all of the course and credit requirements for the specific diploma designation based on a **combination** of high school credits earned prior to and the courses in which a student was enrolled as of March 19, 2020, when the Governor issued the statewide school closure order; and
2. Meets any virtual or remote learning participation requirements established by the governing body of the local school corporation in response to the statewide school closure order issued by the Governor¹; and
3. Meets any additional graduation requirements established by the governing body of the local school corporation pursuant to IC 20-32-4-1.5(3) prior to the school closure order issued by the Governor.²

Additional details related to the requirements for a Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors, and General diploma are included later in this memo.

Graduation Examination & Graduation Pathways

In addition to the flexibility granted to determine whether a student has met the course and credit requirements for the Core 40 diploma, Core 40 with Academic Honors, or Core 40 with Technical Honors, the following requirements **have been waived** for students in the 2020 graduation cohort:

1. The successful completion of the graduation examination as required in IC 20-32-4-1.5(1); or
2. A graduation waiver pursuant to IC 20-32-4-4 for students who do not achieve a passing score on the graduation examination.

NOTE: Some students in the 2020 graduation cohort may be pursuing a graduation pathway pursuant to IC 20-32-4-1.5 and State Board of Education rule. Given the graduation pathway requirement was an alternative to the graduation examination, and the requirement to pass that examination has been waived, the student does not have to successfully complete the graduation pathway in order to earn any Indiana diploma.

NOTE: Students currently in grades 9-11, and students in lower grades enrolled in high school courses, must successfully complete the high school graduation requirements set forth in IC 20-32-5-1.5 and 511 IAC 6-7.1.

¹ Current and ongoing remote learning is encouraged to continue as determined by each local school corporation, and additional credits may be awarded if the school corporation determines that a student has demonstrated proficiency against the academic standards in that course as outlined in 511 IAC 6-7.1-1(d).

² The local governing body of a school corporation maintains their flexibility to waive these additional requirements in response to the COVID-19 outbreak at their discretion.

Course and Credit Requirements

English/ Language Arts	8 credits Including a balance of literature, composition and speech.
Mathematics	6 credits (in grades 9-12) 2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Geometry 2 credits: Algebra II Or complete Integrated Math I, II, and III for 6 credits. Students must take a math course or quantitative reasoning course each year in high school
Science	6 credits 2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Chemistry I or Physics I or Integrated Chemistry-Physics 2 credits: any Core 40 science course
Social Studies	6 credits 2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Economics 2 credits: World History/Civilization or Geography/History of the World
Directed Electives	5 credits World Languages Fine Arts Career and Technical Education
Physical Education	2 credits
Health and Wellness	1 credit
Electives*	6 credits (College and Career Pathway courses recommended)

40 Total State Credits Required

School corporations have the flexibility to issue an Indiana diploma to a student based on a **combination** of:

1. The number of high school credits earned

PLUS

2. The courses in which the student was enrolled
when school was closed due to the Governor's
executive order on March 19, 2020.

The current course and credit requirements for each diploma designation will not change; however, this additional flexibility will ensure that students who were on track to graduate prior to the closure of schools statewide will still be able to earn their high school diplomas on time.

School corporations may offer eLearning or expanded learning, or both, for all students, including those students who fall short of the course and credit requirements even with this additional flexibility so they are able to earn the additional credits needed to graduate on time.

Core 40 with Academic Honors

Under this approved flexibility, a school corporation may issue a Core 40 with Academic Honors to a student who:

1. Has met all of the course and credit requirements for the Core 40 with Academic Honors based on a **combination** of high school credits earned prior to and the courses in which a student was enrolled as of March 19, 2020. Other state honors diploma requirements must be met.
2. Has completed, or was on track to complete, at least one of the requirements outlined in A through F below.

School corporations may offer eLearning and/or expanded learning to continue to educate in pursuit of Indiana honors diploma requirements.

NOTE: Seniors who do not complete courses will be held harmless with respect to those courses for purposes of the grade requirements in the honors diploma.

CORE40 with Academic Honors *(minimum 47 credits)*

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

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- Earn 2 additional Core 40 math credits.
- Earn 6-8 Core 40 world language credits (6 credits in one language or 4 credits each in two languages).
- Earn 2 Core 40 fine arts credits.
- Earn a grade of a "C" or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- Have a grade point average of a "B" or better.
- Complete one of the following:
 - A. Earn 4 credits in 2 or more AP courses and take corresponding AP exams
 - B. Earn 6 verifiable transcribed college credits in dual credit courses from the approved dual credit list.
 - C. Earn two of the following:
 1. A minimum of 3 verifiable transcribed college credits from the approved dual credit list,
 2. 2 credits in AP courses and corresponding AP exams,
 3. 2 credits in IB standard level courses and corresponding IB exams.
 - D. Earn a composite score of 1250 or higher on the SAT and a minimum of 560 on math and 590 on the evidence based reading and writing section.**
 - E. Earn an ACT composite score of 26 or higher and complete written section
 - F. Earn 4 credits in IB courses and take corresponding IB exams.

Core 40 with Technical Honors

Under this approved flexibility, a school corporation may issue a Core 40 with Technical Honors to a student who:

1. Has met all of the course and credit requirements for the Core 40 with Technical Honors based on a **combination** of high school credits earned prior to and the courses in which a student was enrolled as of March 19, 2020. Other state honors diploma requirements must be met.
2. Has completed, or was on track to complete, at least one of the requirements outlined in A through D below.

School corporations may offer eLearning and/or expanded learning to continue to educate in pursuit of Indiana honors diploma requirements.

NOTE: Seniors who do not complete courses will be held harmless with respect to those courses for purposes of the grade requirements in the honors diploma.

CORE40 with Technical Honors *(minimum 47 credits)*

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

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- 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
- Earn a grade of "C" or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- Have a grade point average of a "B" or better.
- Complete one of the following,
 - A. Any one of the options (A - F) of the Core 40 with Academic Honors
 - B. Earn the following minimum scores on WorkKeys: Workplace Documents, Level 6; Applied Math, Level 6; and Graphic Literacy, Level 5.***
 - C. Earn the following minimum score(s) on Accuplacer: Writing 80, Reading 90, Math 75.
 - D. Earn the following minimum score(s) on Compass: Algebra 66 , Writing 70, Reading 80.

Indiana General High School Diploma

The completion of Core 40 is an Indiana graduation requirement. Indiana's Core 40 curriculum provides the academic foundation all students need to succeed in college and the workforce.

To graduate with less than Core 40, the following formal opt-out process must be completed:

- The student, the student's parent/guardian, and the student's counselor (or another staff member who assists students in course selection) must meet to discuss the student's progress.
- The student's Graduation Plan (including four year course plan) is reviewed.
- The student's parent/guardian determines whether the student will achieve greater educational benefits by completing the general curriculum or the Core 40 curriculum.
- If the decision is made to opt-out of Core 40, the student is required to complete the course and credit requirements for a general diploma and the career/academic sequence the student will pursue is determined.

Course and Credit Requirements (Class of 2016 & Beyond)

English/Language Arts	8 credits Credits must include literature, composition and speech
Mathematics	4 credits (in grades 9-12) 2 credits: Algebra I or Integrated Mathematics I 2 credits: Any math course <i>General diploma students are required to earn 2 credits in a Math course or a Quantitative Reasoning (QR) course during their junior or senior year. QR courses do not count as math credits.</i>
Science	4 credits 2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Any science course <i>At least one credit must be from a Physical Science or Earth and Space Science course</i>
Social Studies	4 credits 2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Any social studies course
Physical Education	2 credits
Health and Wellness	1 credit
College and Career Pathway Courses Selecting electives in a deliberate manner to take full advantage of college and career exploration and preparation opportunities	6 credits
Flex Credit	5 credits Flex Credits must come from one of the following: • Additional elective courses in a College and Career Pathway • Courses involving workplace learning such as Cooperative Education or Internship courses • High school/college dual credit courses • Additional courses in Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, World Languages or Fine Arts
Electives	6 credits Specifies the minimum number of electives required by the state. High school schedules provide time for many more elective credits during the high school years.

40 Total Credits Required

Schools may have additional local graduation requirements that apply to all students



The requirement to meet and discuss opting out of the Core 40 curriculum remains in place; however, that meeting may take place telephonically, via web conference, or through email communication.

After meeting the requirement to meet and discuss the option to opt-out of the Core 40 curriculum described above, school corporations have the flexibility to issue a General diploma designation to a student based on a **combination** of:

1. The number of high school credits earned

PLUS

2. The courses in which the student was enrolled when school was closed due to the Governor's executive order on March 19, 2020.

The current course and credit requirements for the General diploma remain in place; however, this additional flexibility will ensure that students who were on track to graduate prior to the closure of schools statewide will still be able to earn their high school diplomas on time.

School corporations may offer eLearning or expanded learning, or both, for all students, including those students who fall short of the course and credit requirements even with this additional flexibility so they are able to earn the additional credits needed to graduate on time.