Rethinking High School: The Future of the Indiana Diploma
March 2024
LEARNER-CENTERED, FUTURE-FOCUSED
CURRENT DATA: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

76% of Hoosier high school graduates said they intend to go on to some form of higher learning...

53% actually do.

99% of jobs created since the Great Recession go to Americans with some education beyond high school.

Overall, 53.3% of Hoosiers between the ages of 25 and 65 have a postsecondary credential or high-value industry certification beyond high school.
CURRENT DATA: **CREDENTIALS IN HIGH SCHOOL**

- Indiana ranks **#1 nationwide** in terms of students completing at least one college *course* in high school.*

- **64% of Indiana high school students** earn college credit.
  - These students graduate with an average of **13.5 college credits**.
  - A short-term credential in Indiana can be earned with **15-18 credits**, placing **thousands of students** just a few credits away from earning a credential…and many aren’t even aware!

- Almost **5% of these students** earn a college or career credential before graduation, **opening doors of future opportunity**.

*Source: NACEP Report*
**PARENT DATA: PERCEPTIONS OF FUTURE PREPAREDNESS**

According to parents: How prepared, if at all, is your child for life after high school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% Very prepared</th>
<th>% Prepared</th>
<th>% Not too prepared</th>
<th>% Not at all prepared</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophomores</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may sum to 100%, ±1 percentage point. Totals of combined categories presented in this report may also differ by ±1 percentage point due to rounding.

Source: 2022 Gallup Survey, Indiana Parents
A Student’s Increased Educational Attainment =

- Better quality of life
- Increased wages
- Healthier life
- Better jobs
Schools play a key role in preparing students for their future, including helping them to develop employability skills. This work is enhanced through high-quality work-based learning opportunities, which help students apply and hone their skills.

It’s about the entire education to workforce continuum.


- **PREK-GRADE 2**
  - Expanding quality, affordable, and accessible early learning

- **GRADERS 3-8**
  - Delivering educational fundamentals: emphasis on reading and STEM

- **GRADES 9-12**
  - Providing seamless transitions for Indiana students

- **GRADUATION AND BEYOND**
  - Supporting Indiana students for a brighter future
Stakeholders often say, “if” high school approached learning differently for students, “then” we could better connect them to what’s next.

The current structure of the American high school experience has not changed for most students in over a century.

In Indiana - our current diploma has not been significantly updated since the late 1980s.

While some aspects of our current high school experience work, there is a need to modernize many other aspects which are long outdated.

This is our opportunity to lead and ultimately, lift all our citizens to better lives through education.
Indiana is the **first state in the nation** to significantly redesign diplomas... which means, **there is no roadmap.** This will not be perfect, but **we must start somewhere.**

We will **learn** lessons, and we will **iterate to continuously improve education** for the betterment of our students, state, and country.

We all have a role to play in making this successful, including **educators, business/industry, families, and communities.**
To inform our efforts to rethink K-12 education in Indiana, IDOE continues to conduct extensive stakeholder outreach and engagement to seek feedback. These stakeholders represent:

- educators
- community organizations
- other state agencies
- colleges and universities
- philanthropy
- students
- parents
- advocacy groups
- business and industry
- Indiana General Assembly
- policy experts
MAJOR THEMES IN STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

1. Make the high school experience more learner-centric and relevant.

2. Streamline the overall number of diplomas while maximizing flexibility to personalize pathways and experiences.

3. Rebrand the diploma and consider a "diploma plus" approach that goes beyond a checklist of requirements.

4. Increase focus on skills and competencies that matter most to current and future employers, as opposed to just courses (i.e., the Carnegie unit).
Prioritize access to experiential and work-based learning.

Ensure credentials have value and relevance for students, as well as connect them to market-driven careers.

Evaluate and align existing policies and supports to help schools and teachers transition to a more learner-centric approach (diploma redesign is one part of rethinking high school).

Consider several applied math course sequences aligned to learner pathways, including data science.
Thoughts on Rethinking High School: Students
Timeline & Next Steps

March  
SBOE approval of request to initiate rulemaking

Spring  
Public comment period 1

Summer  
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Late Summer  
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Share Your Feedback Here!
The *Future* of Indiana’s Diplomas
Graduation: Every student is prepared for personal and professional success, regardless of their future path.
These options are in addition to the federally-required alternate diploma, designed for students with the most significant cognitive disability. (1% or less of special education students)
Through Graduation Pathways, Indiana’s class of 2023 was the first to individualize their graduation requirements to align to their future goals. This includes three components.
For the first time ever, Indiana’s diplomas will:

- Be aligned to the characteristics stakeholders consistently agree are essential for our graduates.
- Affirm that each graduate possesses the five key characteristics.
- Consider competencies...not just a checklist of courses and credits.

**ACADEMIC MASTERY**

**CAREER & POSTSECONDARY READINESS: CREDENTIALS & EXPERIENCES**

**COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION**

**WORK ETHIC**

**CIVIC, FINANCIAL & DIGITAL LITERACY**
Option 1: Indiana GPS Diploma
## COMPONENT 1
**Required Courses (and/or competencies)**

**FLEX 40**
- Foundational courses and competencies (grades 9-10)
  - Includes flexible options in courses and course levels
- Additional courses and competencies (i.e., “points”), aligned with the student’s graduation plan (grades 11-12)

## COMPONENT 2
**Employability Skills Ready Competencies**

- Project-Based Learning
- Service-Based Learning
- Work-Based Learning

*Same as current Component 2 requirements*

## COMPONENT 3
**Postsecondary-Ready Competencies**

- SAT
- ACT
- ASVAB
- Industry-Recognized Certification
- CTE Concentrator
- AP/IB/Dual Credit/Cambridge International/CLEP
- Locally-Created Pathway

*Same as current Component 3 requirements*
In addition to the foundational courses and competencies for all students, those pursuing the Indiana GPS Diploma will also complete a minimum of 20 additional courses and competencies ("points") during their 11th and 12th grade years.

- **Points** are a way to measure academic mastery and skill development, whether that learning occurs through credit attainment or competency-based education.
- At least **two** of these points must come from **Math** and **four** must come from **English**.

Students will use their individual graduation plan, completed in middle school, to determine course sequences.
Grades 11-12: Students may choose any combination of the following -

- Math credits (1 point each)*
- English credits (1 point each)*
- Science credits (1 point each)
- Social Studies credits (1 point each)
- World Language credits (1 point each)
- Fine Arts/Creative credits (1 point each)
- Elective credits (organized toward the intended pathway) (1 point each)

- Work-Based Learning - (1 point for every 60 hours; up to 2 points)
- Dual Credit (1 additional point per course)
- AP (1 additional point per course)
- SAT/ACT College-Ready Qualifying Score (3 points)
- JROTC or other military experience (4 points)

One of the following:
  ○ Credential of Value (4 points)
  ○ CTE Concentrator (4 points)
  ○ Locally-Created Pathway (4 points)

*At least two of these points must come from Math and four must come from English.
Employment - Flex 40

- Grades 9 - 10: Foundational courses and competencies

- Grades 11 - 12: Flexibility and Personalization (aligned to student's graduation plan)
  - English 11 & 12 (4 points)
  - Chemistry (2 points)
  - Quantitative Reasoning (2 points)
  - Critical Thinking and Argumentation (2 points)
  - Debate (2 points)
  - Technical Communication (2 points)
  - Plumbing Internship (2 points)
  - Plumbing and Pipefitting CTE Concentrator (4 points)
    - i. Principles of Plumbing and Pipefitting
    - ii. Plumbing and Pipefitting Fundamentals
    - iii. Advanced Plumbing and Pipefitting
    - iv. Plumbing and Pipefitting Capstone
Enrollment - Flex 40

- **Grades 9 - 10: Foundational courses and competencies**

- **Grades 11 - 12: Flexibility and Personalization (aligned to student’s graduation plan)**
  
  ○ AP Chemistry (science) (2 points)  
  ○ Physics I (science) (2 points)  
  ○ Journalism (ELA) (2 points)  
  ○ Digital Media (ELA) (2 points)  
  ○ Ceramics (fine arts) (2 points)  
  ○ WBL Internship - Abbott Labs: Marketing (72 hours – 1 point)  
  ○ Spanish I (world language) (2 points)  
  ○ Spanish II (world language) (2 points)  
  ○ Spanish III (world language) (2 points)  
  ○ Algebra II (math) (2 points)  
  ○ AP Pre-Calculus (math) (2 points)  
  ○ AP Psychology (social studies) (2 points)
Enlistment - Flex 40

- Grades 9 - 10: Foundational courses and competencies

- Grades 11 - 12: Flexibility and Personalization (aligned to student’s graduation plan)
  - Analytical Algebra II (2 points)
  - Probability and Statistics (1 point)
  - Principles of Biomedical Science (2 points)
  - Human Body Systems (2 points)
  - English 11 (2 points)
  - American Literature (2 points)
  - World History and Civilization (2 points)
  - Citizenship and Civics (1 point)
  - JROTC (4 points)
  - National Guard Split Training (WBL) (2 points)
Option 2: Indiana GPS Diploma Plus
**COMPONENT 1**
**Required Courses (and/or competencies)**
- Foundational courses and competencies (grades 9-10)
  - Includes flexible options in courses and course levels
- Additional courses and competencies necessary to complete a high-quality work-based learning opportunity and earn a credential of value, aligned with the student’s graduation plan (grades 11-12)

**COMPONENT 2**
**Employability Skills Ready Competencies**
- Work-Based Learning
  - **Level 2: WBL Capstone** (75 hours)
  - **Level 3: State Pre-Apprenticeship/Modern Youth Apprenticeship** (650 hours)
  - **Level 4: U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship** (2,000 hours)

**COMPONENT 3**
**Postsecondary-Ready Competencies**
- Credential of Value
  - Market-driven credentials
  - Includes core content and CTE coursework; each credential will be reviewed to ensure rigor
- Apprenticeship
- Indiana College Core (ICC)
- AP Scholar with Distinction
- Cambridge AICE Diploma
- IB Diploma Programme
Foundational Knowledge & Skills for All Students
FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS (GRADES 9-10)

20 credits, plus competencies aligned to Indiana GPS characteristics

- Reflective of **priority coursework** many students already complete
- **Flexible options** to satisfy each requirement (ex. AP, IB, Cambridge, dual credit)
- Opportunities for students to demonstrate **competency mastery**

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*Streamlined and strategically focused* on the knowledge and skills that really matter for students, thus allowing for **additional flexibility** and **personalization** in grades 11 and 12

Schools may **opt-in** beginning with completion of rule-making; effective for all students beginning with the **class of 2029** (current 7th graders).
FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS (GRADES 9-10)

**Academic Mastery**
- English
- Math
- Science

**Career & Postsecondary Readiness**
- College/Careers
  - Career Aptitude Test
  - Job shadowing or skills boot camp
  - Attend at least one college or job fair
  - 1 Dual Credit Course

**Communication & Collaboration**
- English
  - Verification of 4 competencies

**Work Ethic**
- PE, Health, or Co/Extracurriculars
  - 94% attendance
  - Marked improved attendance
  - Two seasons of a co-curricular
  - 3.0+ GPA cumulative at the end of grade 10
  - External, paid job
  - 1 external verification of competency

**Civic, Financial, & Digital Literacy**
- U.S. History
  - Government
  - Personal Finance
  - Computer Science
  - 1 verification of competency

* * must be external

*3 of 4 competencies

In addition to coursework aligned to student's future goals
12 credits in Academic Mastery

- 4 English credits
  - English 9, plus two additional ELA credits (Recommended examples - writing, speech, communications, theater, AP Seminar)

- 4 Math credits
  - Algebra 1, plus two additional math credits
  - If Algebra 1 is taken in middle school, student would take four additional math credits

- 4 Science credits
  - Includes Life Sciences and Physical Science

Students will have flexibility in how they satisfy these priority courses (ex. AP, IB, Cambridge, dual credit)

For students pursuing the Indiana GPS Diploma Plus, any courses taken to achieve a credential of value will be applied to their additional core coursework.
1 credit in Career & Postsecondary Readiness
- Includes one course (5394 Preparing for College and Careers), with additional opportunities to show competency mastery
- Schools may, and are encouraged, to offer 5394 Preparing for College and Careers in middle school.

Students will choose three of the four competencies shown in blue, and will have flexible options.
- Ex. students may take any dual credit course.

For students pursuing the Indiana GPS Diploma Plus, any courses taken to achieve a credential of value will be applied to their additional core coursework.
4 credits in Communication & Collaboration
  ○ These are the same four English credits required under Academic Mastery.

Students must also demonstrate four examples of competency mastery.
  ○ Three may be verified through coursework or other school-related activity (ex. debate team, school newspaper, FFA, student council)
  ○ One must be verified externally (ex. leading a boy/girl scout troop, church youth group, volunteering at a community organization, student-run enterprise)

For students pursuing the Indiana GPS Diploma Plus, any courses taken to achieve a credential of value will be applied to their additional core coursework.
**FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS (GRADES 9-10)**

- **2 credits in Work Ethic**
  - May be satisfied through a physical education course, health course, or through co/extracurriculars (ex. athletics, marching band, academic club)
  - This flexibility has existed for over a decade.

- **Students will choose three of the six competencies shown in blue, and will have flexible options.**

- **For students pursuing the Indiana GPS Diploma Plus, any courses taken to achieve a credential of value will be applied to their additional core coursework.**
Civic, Financial, & Digital Literacy

U.S. History
Government
Personal Finance
Computer Science

1 verification of competency

FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS (GRADES 9-10)

- 5 credits in Civic, Financial, & Digital Literacy
- Students will have flexibility in courses and course levels (ex. AP, IB, Cambridge, dual credit).
- Students must demonstrate competency mastery in one of the skill areas (civics, financial or digital literacy). Examples include:
  - Civic Literacy - We the People, election poll worker, serving as a statehouse page
  - Financial Literacy - DECA, student-led business, entrepreneurship, developing a personal budget
  - Digital Literacy - Robotics team, computer science or IT credential or certification
- For students pursuing the Indiana GPS Diploma Plus, any courses taken to achieve a credential of value will be applied to their additional core coursework.
Complementary Work to Rethink High School in Indiana
Last spring, the Carnegie Foundation and ETS announced a partnership designed to *transform education assessment* in the U.S. through a robust, scalable suite of assessment and analytic tools that captures the full range of skills needed to succeed in K-12 and beyond.

- Indiana is **1 in 4 states** selected to pilot this program.
- Indiana will be **engaged at each step**: developing, testing, implementation, determining impact
- Students, parents, employers, and educators will help to inform this work.

This collaboration will allow the nation to take a big leap forward in terms of what we assess, how we assess, and how the information is used to advance student learning.
Developing a plan for a statewide modern youth apprenticeship system

Cross-sector partnership between business, philanthropy, non-profit, government, and K-12 and higher education

Informed by experts in the highly-regarded Swiss apprenticeship model and leaders at ETH Zurich
Ongoing Considerations & Timeline
ONGOING CONSIDERATIONS

- How can we better utilize a student’s time in middle school, including increasing career exploration, to allow for additional flexibility in high school?
- How might we leverage career coaching to best support students’ unique paths?
- What supports are needed to help more schools shift the focus from courses to competencies?
- How might we redesign student transcripts to better reflect knowledge, skills, and experiences?
● How could a student **best demonstrate proficiency in the five Indiana GPS characteristics** prior to graduation? (ex. capstone proficiency project)

● What role do **families, students, educators, and employers** play in the high school model of the future?

● How might we enhance our **student information systems** statewide in order to measure progress and ensure quality?

● How will we **define success** in five, 10, 15 years?
Share Your Feedback Here!

**Timeline & Next Steps**

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@EducateIN
THANK YOU!

Share Your Feedback Here!