

**TO:** State Board of Education Members

**FROM:** Glenda Ritz, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Core 40 Subcommittee Co-Chair  
Teresa Lubbers, Commissioner for Higher Education, Core 40 Subcommittee Co-Chair

**DATE:** November 2, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Changes to New High School Diploma Proposals

The Core 40 Subcommittee reconvened Friday, October 30, 2015 to review the most recent responses to the Indiana high school diploma proposals. The committee discussed public comment and feedback received from numerous stakeholder groups during and since the regular State Board of Education (SBOE) meeting on October 14 and the special SBOE meeting on October 28.

The changes discussed and accepted by the Core 40 Subcommittee are detailed below:

- 1. Change “Technical Math” to “Applied math courses and/or state-approved alternatives.”**  
This phrase better reflects the committee’s intent regarding the many course options available to meet this requirement—both stand-alone applied mathematics courses (e.g., Tech Math) and courses in other subjects with significant embedded math content (e.g., Precision Machining). Note that the SBOE will be asked to review and approve any new or substantively revised high school math courses in spring 2016 (see “Next Steps” on following page).
- 2. Change “College & Career Readiness Sequence” to “College & Career Planning Focus.”**  
This group of electives aims to help students intentionally plan coursework aligned to their personal and/or career interests/aspirations without locking students into a specific pathway, which many perceived from the previous word ‘Sequence.’ Initial implementation guidance for the “College and Career Planning Focus” would be presented to the SBOE in the spring of 2016 (see “Next Steps” that follow).
- 3. Change “Arts and Culture” to “Arts and Languages” in the Honors Diploma choices.**  
The “Arts and Languages” label better reflects the coursework for this option.
- 4. Expand “Advanced Coursework” in the Honors Diploma to include AP, IB and dual credit.**  
The adjustment maintains the SAME level of flexibility as the current honors diplomas, which treats AP, IB, and dual credit as multiple options for fulfilling the same single requirement. Treating all forms of advance coursework as equivalents also provides greater clarity for students/counselors while ensuring maximum flexibility for local schools, especially in light of the Higher Learning Commission’s recent decision on teacher credentials for dual credit courses.

Related topics considered by the Subcommittee in response to recent feedback:

- 1. Workforce Ready Diploma**
  - The Subcommittee confirmed its support for replacing the current General Diploma with the proposed Workforce Ready diploma, asserting that the increased academic rigor and more deliberative career planning/preparation provided by the Workforce Ready diploma ensures more opportunities for students and greater currency with employers.

- The Subcommittee also passed a unanimous motion to support legislative action for ALL Indiana schools to offer both the Workforce Ready and College & Career Ready diplomas.
- 2. Character Education/Success Skills**
- Subcommittee members feel these essential skills are reflected in existing elements:
- State statute requires curriculum in both Anti-Bullying and Good Citizenship, which schools must already include as part of the school culture and climate.
  - *Preparing for College and Careers*, a course specified in the new diploma as a requirement for all students, include the relevant standards.
  - The *Health & Wellness* course standards and newly updated *School Counseling* standards include units on character and social/emotional development as another layer of support and access to these important life skills.
- 3. Physical Education:** The Subcommittee confirmed that two credits of Physical Education would continue as a requirement for all students.
- 4. Fine Arts and World Languages:** The Subcommittee confirmed its support of Fine Arts and World Languages as presented in the diploma proposals.

#### **Next Steps**

Following SBOE action on the proposed diplomas, anticipated next steps would include:

1. **December 2015/January 2016: Convene “Diploma Guidance & Implementation Taskforce.”** Composed of key representatives from K-12, higher education, workforce, and community leaders, the taskforce will review the work of committees that develop proposed new/revised math courses and implementation guidelines for the “College & Career Planning Focus,” graduation capstones, project-based/work-based learning experiences, e-transcript development, and special education transitions.
2. **March/April 2016: Committees begin presentation of draft diploma implementation guidance to SBOE for feedback.**
3. **May/June 2016: Present diploma implementation guidance to SBOE for review.**
4. **2016-2017 School Year:** Following SBOE review, key information developed for diploma implementation guidance will be used to create a “*Guide to Indiana’s New High School Diplomas*” and distributed to local schools and communities and made available for all stakeholders.

The Subcommittee appreciates the State Board of Education’s consideration of the revised diploma proposals and looks forward to working with SBOE members to ensure all Hoosier students graduate high school with the rigor and relevance needed for success in college, career and beyond.



Indiana's

# College & Career Ready\*

High School Diploma

**UPDATED DRAFT 11/1/15** (reflects feedback from

10/28/15 State Board of Education hearing and

10/30/15 Core 40 Subcommittee meeting)

Takes effect beginning with students who enter  
high school in 2018-19 (class of 2022)

## Minimum 44 Total Credits

<b>English/ Language Arts</b>	<b>8 credits</b> Including literature, composition, speech/communications <b>or</b> other state-approved alternative								
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>8 credits</b> (All Indiana students must be enrolled in a math course or state-approved alternative during each year of high school.) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Calculus Sequence</b></th> <th><b>Quantitative Reasoning Sequence</b></th> <th><b>Technical Math Sequence</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Geometry 2 credits: Algebra II 2 credits: Pre-Calculus <b>and</b> Trigonometry</td> <td>2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Geometry 2 credits: Algebra II 2 credits: Quantitative Reasoning <b>or</b> Probability &amp; Statistics</td> <td>2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Algebra II, Geometry <b>or</b> Math 10 (with teacher approval) 4 credits: Applied math courses <b>and/or</b> state-approved alternatives</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<b>Calculus Sequence</b>	<b>Quantitative Reasoning Sequence</b>	<b>Technical Math Sequence</b>	2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Geometry 2 credits: Algebra II 2 credits: Pre-Calculus <b>and</b> Trigonometry	2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Geometry 2 credits: Algebra II 2 credits: Quantitative Reasoning <b>or</b> Probability & Statistics	2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Algebra II, Geometry <b>or</b> Math 10 (with teacher approval) 4 credits: Applied math courses <b>and/or</b> state-approved alternatives
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	[NOTE: College-bound students who plan to attend (or transfer to) a four-year college should complete either the Calculus or Quantitative Reasoning sequence, depending on their postsecondary program of study. Integrated Math I, II and III may be completed as an alternative to Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II.]								
<b>Science</b>	<b>6 credits</b> 2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Chemistry I, Physics I <b>or</b> Integrated Chemistry-Physics 2 credits: Any science course <b>or</b> state-approved alternative [NOTE: Students in a <b>STEM Pathway**</b> should complete <b>8 science credits, including a laboratory component.</b> ] ]								
<b>Social Studies</b>									
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<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>	<b>3 credits</b> 2 credits: Physical Education 1 credit: Health & Wellness								
<b>College &amp; Career Readiness</b>	<b>8 credits</b> 1 credit: Preparing for College & Careers (Should be completed by the end of 9th grade.) 1 credit: Personal Financial Responsibility 6 credits: College & Career Planning Focus (with graduation capstone***) <p>[NOTE: A <b>College &amp; Career Planning Focus</b> may include <b>Academic</b> courses, <b>Career &amp; Technical Education</b> courses, <b>Early College</b> credits, <b>Fine Arts</b> courses, <b>Advanced Coursework</b> or other coursework aligned with a student's College &amp; Career Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College-bound students who plan to pursue a <b>One-Year Certificate</b> or <b>non-transferable Two-Year College Degree</b> should complete a College &amp; Career Planning Focus that includes Career &amp; Technical Education and/or Dual Credit courses.</li> <li>College-bound students who plan to pursue a <b>Four-Year College Degree</b> or <b>transferable Two-Year College Degree</b> should complete a College &amp; Career Planning Focus that includes Advanced Placement, Career &amp; Technical Education, and/or priority Dual Credit courses listed in Indiana's Core Transfer Library.]</li> </ul>								
<b>Directed Electives</b>	<b>5 credits</b> Fine Arts World Languages (College-bound students should complete <b>at least 4 credits</b> in the <b>same World Language</b> .) Additional Academic <b>and/or</b> Career & Technical Education courses								

## College & Career Ready Diploma with Honors

**College & Career Ready Diploma with Honors** graduates must complete a **minimum of 48 credits**, earn a cumulative **Grade Point Average of at least 3.0** on a 4-point scale, earn a **grade of "C" or better in all courses that count toward the diploma** and **complete at least two** of the following:

- 1) Advanced Coursework:** Earn at least 4 Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate credits **or** 6 transcribed college credits **or** a combination of 2 AP/IB credits and 3 transcribed college credits **and** take corresponding assessments
- 2) Arts & Languages:** Complete at least 2 Fine Arts credits **and** 6 World Language credits
- 3) Career Credential:** Complete an Industry-Recognized Certification, One-Year Certificate **or** state-approved alternative
- 4) College Entrance Exam:** Earn a minimum composite ACT **or** total SAT score established by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

\*Indiana's College & Career Ready Diploma is the default diploma track for all Hoosier students. Graduating with less than the default diploma requires formal parental consent and school principal certification.

\*\*Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) \*\*\*Graduation capstone could include a college/career credential, a project-based and/or work-based learning experience, or other state-approved alternative.



Indiana's

# Workforce Ready\*

High School Diploma

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high school in 2018-2019 (class of 2022).

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<b>English/ Language Arts</b>	<b>8 credits</b>  Including literature, composition, speech/communications or other state-approved alternative
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<b>Science</b>	<b>4 credits</b>  2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Any science course <b>or</b> state-approved alternative
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>4 credits</b>  2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Any social studies course <b>or</b> state-approved alternative
<b>College &amp; Career Readiness</b>	<b>8 credits</b>  1 credit: Preparing for College & Careers (Should be completed by the end of 9th grade.) 1 credit: Personal Financial Responsibility 6 credits: College & Career Planning Focus (with graduation capstone)  [NOTE: A <b>College &amp; Career Planning Focus</b> may include <b>Academic</b> courses, <b>Career &amp; Technical Education</b> courses, <b>Early College</b> credits, <b>Fine Arts</b> courses, <b>Advanced Coursework</b> or other coursework aligned with a student's College & Career Plan.]
<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>	<b>3 credits</b>  2 credits: Physical Education 1 credit: Health & Wellness
<b>Electives</b>	<b>5-7 credits</b>

## Graduation Capstone

**Workforce Ready Diploma graduates must complete at least one of the following (aligned with their chosen College & Career Plan):**

- 1) **Career Credential:** Complete an Industry-Recognized Certification, One-Year Certificate **or** state-approved alternative
- 2) **Career Experience:** Complete a project-based **and/or** work-based learning experience
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