



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

GRADUATION PATHWAYS PANEL

(Drafted 10/17/2017)

The goal for this Panel is to establish graduation pathway recommendations for the State Board of Education that create an educated and talented workforce able not just to meet the needs of business and higher education, but able to succeed in all postsecondary endeavors. To account for the rapidly changing, global economy, every K-12 student needs to be given the tools to succeed in some form of postsecondary education, whether that is an industry recognized certificate program, an associate's degree program, or a bachelor's degree program.

These recommendations seek to ensure every Hoosier student graduates from high school with 1) a broad **awareness** of individual career interests and associated career options, 2) a strong **academic** foundation and 3) relevant **applied learning** experiences that foster employability skills and lead directly to meaningful opportunities for postsecondary education, training, and gainful employment.

Students in the graduating class of 2022 must satisfy **all three** following Graduation Pathway Requirements. To satisfy a Requirement, students must complete one corresponding Graduation Pathway Options.

Graduation Pathway Requirements	Graduation Pathway Options
1) High School Diploma	Meet all state minimum credit and curricular requirements.
2) College & Career-Ready Competenciesⁱ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honors Diploma: Fulfill all requirements of either the Academic or Technical Honors diploma; • ACT: College-ready benchmarks; • SAT: College-ready benchmarks; • College Level Exam Program (CLEP): Earn a score of 50 on at least three exams; • ASVAB: Minimum qualifying score; • State- and Industry-recognized Credential (determined in consultation with DWD); • State- and Industry-recognized Apprenticeship (determined in consultation with DWD); • Career-Technical Education Concentrator: Must earn a C or higher in all courses; • Threeⁱⁱ AP/IB/Dual Credit courses: Must earn a C or higher in all courses;ⁱⁱⁱ <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally created pathway with State Board of Education approval and established guardrails
3) Applied Learning Experiences^{iv,v,vi}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-Based Learning Experience; • Service-Based Learning Experience; <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work-Based Learning Experience



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Recommended Implementation Timeline:

- For current high school students graduating in 2019, 2020, and 2021, ISTEP 10/End-of-Course Assessments will continue to be used as the graduation qualifying examination. However, students in these cohorts may elect to complete a Graduation Pathway in lieu of the current graduation qualifying examination.
- Once adopted by the State Board of Education, the Graduation Pathways will become effective for the graduating class of 2022 (freshmen entering high school in 2018-19).

Additional Items for the State Board of Education's Consideration:

- **Career Exploration:** The Graduation Pathways Panel recognizes the need for more robust career awareness and exploration for students throughout their entire academic lives. Students need greater exposure and understanding of the variety of employment opportunities to foster their postsecondary aspirations. The Panel recommends the inclusion of career awareness and exploration at the middle elementary (grades 3 thru 5) and middle school (grades 6 thru 8) levels. The Graduation Pathways—flexible through graduation—should be preceded by a series of purposeful activities during middle school and high school, including but not limited to: 1) **career exploration courses** (e.g., *Exploring College & Careers, Preparing for College & Careers*) 2) **career interest assessments** (e.g., *Indiana Career Explorer, Naviance, ASVAB Career Program*) and 3) **consultations with school counselors**.
- **Statewide Diploma:** The Graduation Pathways Panel and State Board of Education will further deliberate on credit and course requirements for the diploma
- **Waiver Options:** The Graduation Pathways Panel and State Board of Education will further deliberate on diploma waiver options.

ⁱ **End-of-Course Assessments:** Panel recommends that End-of-Course Assessments in Algebra I, English 10, and Biology would serve as final examinations for students in those courses.

ⁱⁱ At least one course must be in a core content area (e.g., English, math, science, or social studies).

ⁱⁱⁱ **AP/IB Exams:** Students must take any corresponding AP or IB exams for their courses.

^{iv} **Indiana's Employability Skills Benchmarks:** Experiences must include benchmarks regarding Mindsets, Self-Management Skills, Learning Strategies, Social Skills, and Workplace Skills.

^v **Applied Learning can occur over the course of a student's high school career.** Examples of applied learning include:

- a. Participation in at least 20 hours of meaningful service learning or civic engagement experiences,
- b. Obtaining leadership skills through school extracurricular activities,
- c. Application of classroom learning through an internship, project, or other work-based experience,
- d. Obtaining a work ethic certificate, or
- e. Work at an after-school job.

^{vi} Any applied learning experience needs to be validated locally by:

- Student Portfolio (or related work product);
- School Evaluation; **AND**
- Employer/Third-Party Evaluation.