

APRIL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

April 1, 2026



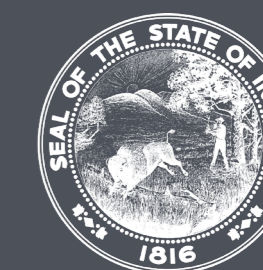
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TODAY'S AGENDA

- I. Elevating student success
- II. SEA 8-2024 legislative report: Indiana College Core
- III. 2026 legislative session recap
- IV. Overview of today's meeting
- V. Closing comments

ELEVATING STUDENT SUCCESS

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KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- I. Ensuring higher education is more **affordable and accessible** to Hoosier students and families;
- II. Increasing **educational attainment** for all Hoosiers to help every student achieve their unique goals and maximize their potential; and
- III. Streamlining public higher education degree programs to better **align knowledge and skills with industry demand**, as well as ensure students who graduate from our public institutions are prepared to contribute positively to our communities, state, and country.



2025 INDIANA COLLEGE CORE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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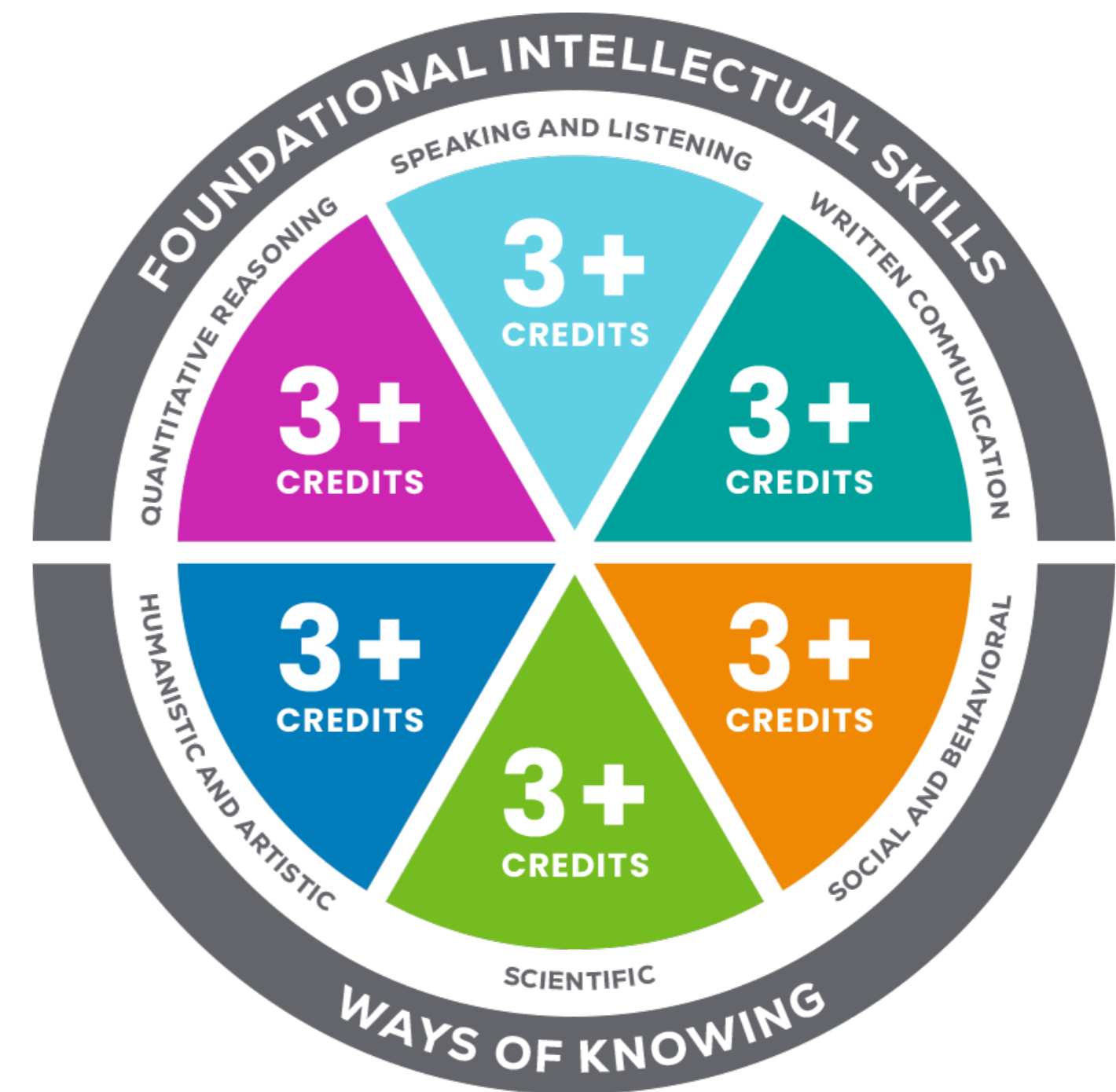
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INDIANA COLLEGE CORE



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- ▶ The Indiana College Core is a block of 30 credit hours of college-level general education coursework that applies and transfers seamlessly to all Indiana public higher education institutions and some private/independent institutions.
- ▶ Courses are in six competency areas:
 - ▶ Quantitative Reasoning
 - ▶ Speaking and Listening
 - ▶ Written Communication
 - ▶ Humanistic and Artistic
 - ▶ Scientific
 - ▶ Social and Behavioral



AWARDING & ACCEPTING INSTITUTIONS

While all public institutions in Indiana accept the Indiana College Core, the following public institutions **award** the Indiana College Core certificate to high school students.

- ▶ Ball State University
- ▶ Indiana State University
- ▶ Indiana University Bloomington
- ▶ Indiana University East
- ▶ Indiana University Indianapolis
- ▶ Indiana University Kokomo
- ▶ Indiana University Northwest
- ▶ Indiana University South Bend
- ▶ Indiana University Southeast
- ▶ Ivy Tech Community College
- ▶ Purdue University Fort Wayne
- ▶ Purdue University Northwest
- ▶ University of Southern Indiana
- ▶ Vincennes University

*Anderson University, Bethel University, Grace College, Huntington University, Indiana Wesleyan University, and Taylor University offer the NEW **Professional Pathway credential** - similar to the Indiana College Core.*

ACCEPTING INSTITUTIONS

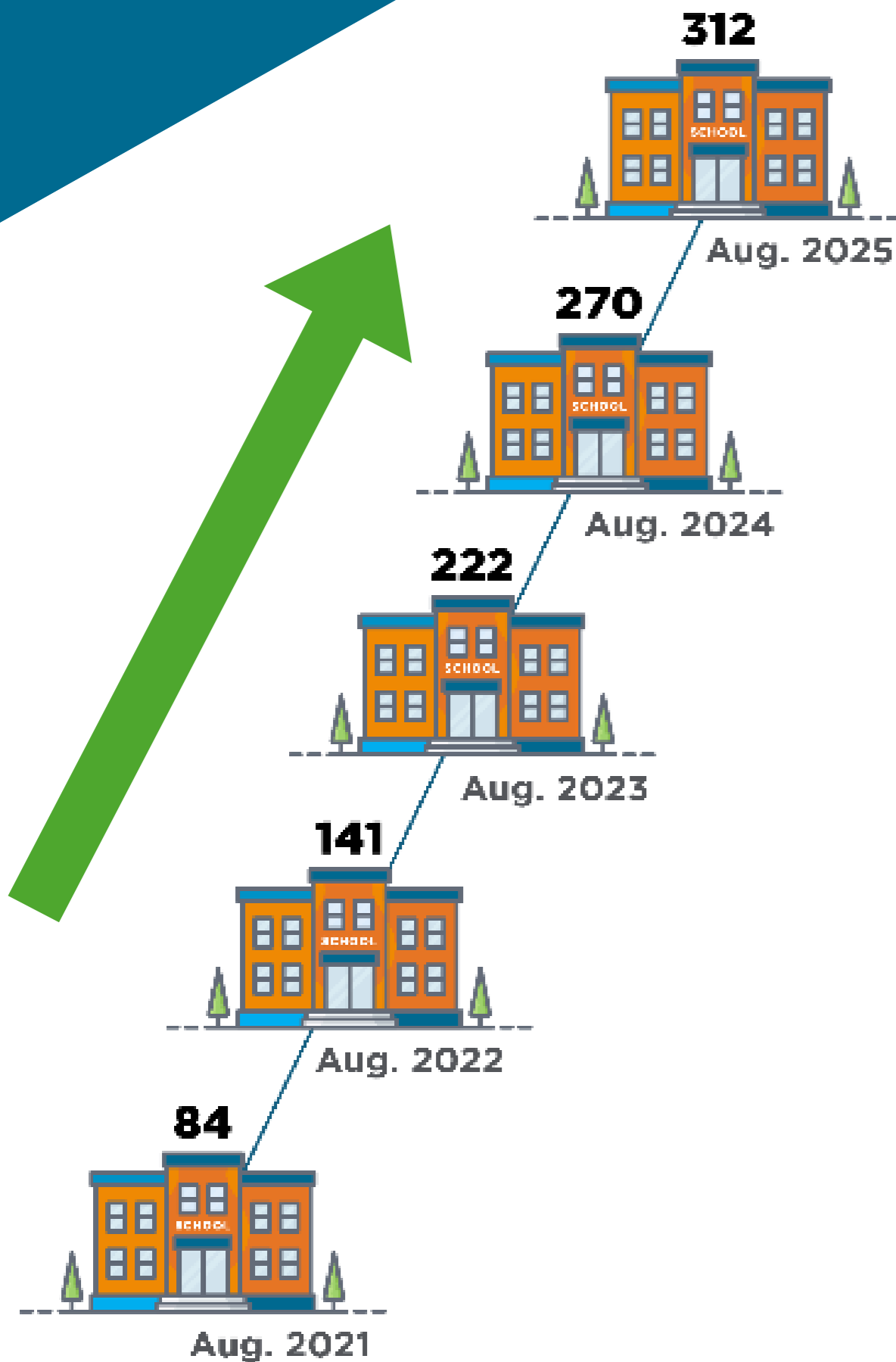
In addition to all public institutions accepting the Indiana College Core as a block, the following private/independent institutions have agreed to accept the Indiana College Core as a block.

- ▶ Anderson University
- ▶ Franklin College
- ▶ Goshen College
- ▶ Grace College
- ▶ Indiana Tech
- ▶ Indiana Wesleyan
- ▶ Manchester University
- ▶ Marian University
- ▶ Oakland City University
- ▶ Trine University
- ▶ University of Evansville
- ▶ University of Indianapolis



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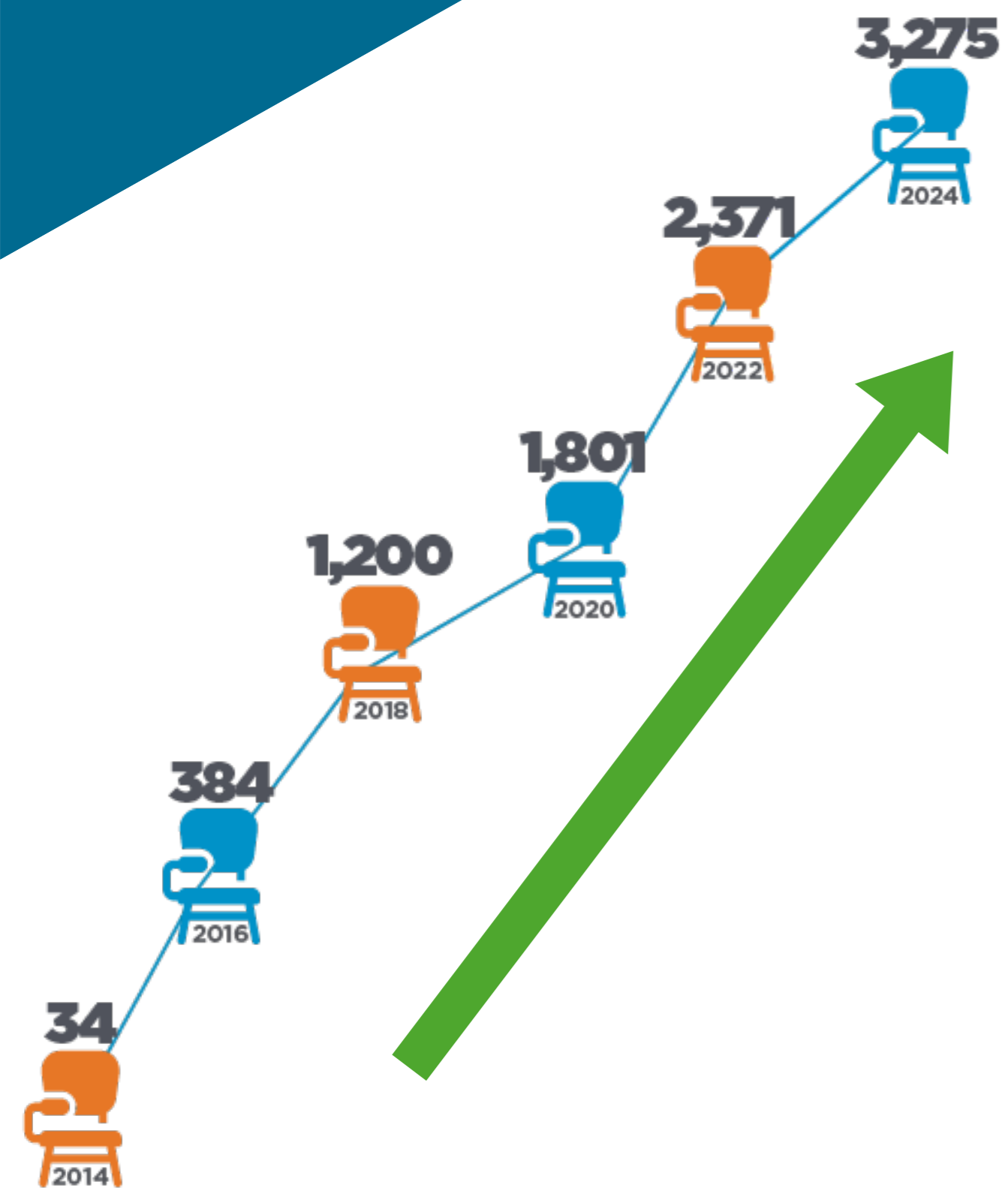
HIGH SCHOOLS OFFERING THE INDIANA COLLEGE CORE



- ▶ The number of high schools offering the Indiana College Core has grown dramatically.
- ▶ At the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, 312 high schools offered the Indiana College Core, representing **42 additional high schools** from the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.
- ▶ The most up-to-date list of high schools offering the Indiana College Core is maintained on MyCollegeCore.org.
 - ▶ There are currently **318** high schools as of April 1, 2026.
 - ▶ That represents a **279%** increase since August 2021 when the Commission began focusing on expanding access to the Indiana College Core.



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**Number of Students Earning the Indiana
College Core in High School**

STUDENTS EARNING THE INDIANA COLLEGE CORE

- ▶ Similarly, the number of high school students earning the Indiana College Core has grown significantly.
- ▶ Most recent data show **3,275 students** in the 2024 high school graduation cohort earned the Indiana College Core, representing an increase of 3,241 students from 2014.
 - ▶ **9,532%** increase since 2014
 - ▶ **56.5%** increase since 2021 when the Commission began focusing on expanding access to the Indiana College Core
 - ▶ We will really begin seeing results of those efforts in the data for the 2025 high school graduation cohort and beyond.

OUTCOME: AFFORDABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY



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- ▶ Students who earn the Indiana College Core are **more likely to enroll in college**.
 - ▶ **91%** of high school students who earned the Indiana College Core in 2023 enrolled in college, a much higher percentage than the statewide college-going rate (52%), as well as a higher percentage than any other group, such as:
 - ▶ Students who took and passed an AP Exam (86%),
 - ▶ Students who earned an Academic Honors Diploma (84%), and
 - ▶ Students who earned an associate degree while in high school (86%), a trend that has been true every year since 2015.
- ▶ Students who earn the Indiana College Core in high school complete essentially a full year of college **at little to no cost**.

91%

OUTCOME: ATTAINMENT



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- ▶ Students who earn the Indiana College Core **demonstrate academic success while in college.**
 - ▶ **91%** of Indiana College Core earners from the 2023 high school graduation cohort, who enrolled in an Indiana public college, persisted to the second year of college, compared to 78% of students overall.
 - ▶ Those same students earned an average of 27 credit hours and a 3.2 GPA during their freshman year in college, compared with overall statewide averages of 23 credit hours and a 2.8 GPA.

A large graphic showing the number "91%" in a light blue font. A grey arrow starts behind the "1" and points upwards and to the right, indicating growth or achievement.

OUTCOME: ATTAINMENT



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- ▶ Students who earn the Indiana College Core are more likely to **graduate on time from college**.
 - ▶ **67%** of Indiana College Core earners from the 2021 high school graduation cohort, who enrolled in an Indiana public college, graduated on time from college, compared to 42% of students overall.

67%



ENROLLMENT HONORS PLUS SEAL

- ▶ The Indiana Diploma with the Enrollment Honors Plus Seal **incentivizes completion** of the Indiana College Core.
 - ▶ The Indiana College Core counts as a **Credential of Value**, a requirement of the Enrollment Honors Plus Seal.
- ▶ Students who earn the Enrollment Honors Plus Seal receive **guaranteed admission** to **all seven** public colleges and universities (IC 21-40-4-7) and many private/independent institutions that have opted in.
- ▶ Students in the high school graduation classes of 2026, 2027, and 2028 can opt in early to the Indiana Diploma if they earn a readiness seal.
- ▶ The Indiana Diploma and optional readiness seals are required beginning with the high school graduating class of 2029.

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

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SEA 204-2026: CAPITAL PROJECTS & TRANSFER CREDIT

- ▶ Raises cost thresholds for higher education **capital project reviews** from \$2M to \$3M.
- ▶ Strengthens **transfer credit** rules for AP, Cambridge International, and Core Transfer Library courses so that students who receive a satisfactory exam score (AP score of 3 or higher) will receive course credit via the Core Transfer Library.

SEA 254-2026: IVY TECH

- ▶ Updates qualifications and representation for **Ivy Tech Community College's state and campus boards** to emphasize workforce, industry, and economic development expertise.
- ▶ Strengthens **campus boards' responsibilities** for analysing regional workforce needs, optimizing facilities, and collaborating with employers.
- ▶ Repeals **outdated statutory sections** and consolidates Ivy Tech's program approval and degree-granting authority under the updated structure.

SEA 199-2026: ACCREDITATION & DEGREE EARNINGS THRESHOLD

- ▶ Directs Commission staff to explore options for institutional and programmatic accreditation.
- ▶ Updates the annual degree review process to include an **earnings threshold** in addition to a **conferral threshold**.

SEA 256-2026: FOREIGN ADVERSARIES

- ▶ Prohibits universities, community colleges, and school districts from contracting with or providing benefits to entities tied to **foreign adversaries** or **foreign terrorist organizations**.
- ▶ Beginning August 15, 2026, state educational institutions must conduct a **foreign influence and research security review** *before admitting students* from designated foreign adversary nations into sensitive programs.
- ▶ Requires ongoing **disclosure of foreign contracts** or **changes in affiliation by these students** and mandates **reporting on past enrollment of foreign adversary nationals** in qualifying programs for all institutions.

HEA 1003-2026: BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

- ▶ The Commission absorbs the duties of the **Board for Proprietary Education** as of July 1, 2027.
- ▶ Consolidates the **Indiana Graduate Medical Education Board** and the **Indiana Medical Education Board** into the **Medical Graduate and Education Board**, effective July 1, 2027.

HEA 1003-2026: BOARDS & COMMISSIONS CONTINUED

- ▶ The Commission absorbs the powers, duties, and administrative responsibilities of the **Mental Health and Addiction Services Board**, as of July 1, 2027.
- ▶ The Commission will administer the **Mental Health Professional Loan Forgiveness Program** and the **Integrated Behavioral Health and Addiction Treatment Development Program Account**.
- ▶ The Commission will be responsible for designing, establishing, overseeing, and administering the **Integrated Behavioral Health and Addiction Treatment Training Track**.

OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S MEETING



TODAY'S MEETING

I. Indiana State University: Student Success

II. New Business

A. Approval of Capital Projects

B. Approval of Academic Degree Programs

C. Degree Program Review

III. Discussion

A. Reporting on Degrees - Program Costs

CLOSING COMMENTS





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