



MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana State Board of Education

FROM: Amy Horton, Assistant Superintendent

DATE: June 6, 2012

SUBJECT: Proposed Change to New Academic and Technical Honors Diploma Requirements

Proposal: We propose the following changes, highlighted in yellow, in the language for Academic and Technical Honors Diploma requirements for students who enter high school in 2012-2013:

For the **Core 40 with Academic Honors** diploma, students must earn 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 priority course list
- C. Earn two of the following:
 1. A minimum of 3 verifiable transcribed college credits from the priority course 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 combined score of 1750 or higher on the SAT critical reading, mathematics and writing sections and a minimum score of 530 on each
- 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.

The definition language currently states:

(h) "Priority Course List" means the list of Priority Dual Credit Liberal Arts Courses of the list of Priority Dual Credit Career and Technical Education Courses **published by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.**

Proposed Change:

(h) "Priority Course List" means the list of Priority Dual Credit Liberal Arts and Career and Technical Education Courses **developed and approved by the Indiana Department of Education.**

Rationale: The list of priority courses published by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education was developed with Liberal Arts courses only, and was intended for use by the Higher Education community. The secondary school community has needed wide translation of the list used by higher education faculty. A list developed by the Indiana Department of Education will use language, course titles, course codes and descriptions familiar to the secondary community. Further, should IDOE wish to expand this list, the responsibility to do so is housed within IDOE.

For the **Core 40 with Technical Honors** diploma, 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. State-approved, industry-recognized certification or credential, or
2. Pathway dual credits from the lists of priority courses resulting in 6 transcribed college credits

The language currently states:

For the **Core 40 with Technical Honors** diploma, 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 lists of priority courses resulting in 6 transcribed college credits

Rationale: The recently approved Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma requirements for 2012-2013 and beyond specify that the certifications or credentials must be designated in one of Indiana's newly developed College and Career Pathways and must be industry-based. This language severely limits schools and students in what they can use to meet this THD requirement. The proposed change will yield the following benefits:

- This will increase flexibility for schools and students to meet this requirement by using professionally relevant certifications that aren't currently reflected in a College and Career Pathway.
- This will facilitate current efforts to develop a master list of state approved certifications that meet THD requirements and College and Career Readiness metrics for the A-F school improvement model.