

High School Graduation Requirements

Section 1. Types of Diploma. The Corporation will award only one diploma to a student. No distinctions shall be made between various programs of instruction, except for students who meet the State and Corporation requirements for a Core 40 Diploma with Academic Honors or a Core 40 Diploma with Technical Honors.

Section 2. Certificate of Course Completion. The Corporation will award a Certificate of Course Completion to those students who meet the course requirements and all other requirements for graduation, but do not meet the State's graduation qualifying examination requirements. Each high school principal, no later than the start of the second semester of a student's senior year, shall notify, in writing, each student and the student's legal guardian (if the student is less than eighteen years of age), if the student has not passed the State's graduation qualifying examination. Said notice shall include information on how to qualify for a waiver under the State's graduation qualifying examination requirements and how to qualify for a certificate of course completion.

Section 3. General Diploma. To be eligible for a general diploma, all District students must earn at least 40 credits. The Corporation will award a regular high school diploma to every student who meets the requirements of graduation established by the Corporation and the State of Indiana, including the State's graduation qualifying examination requirements. To be eligible for a general diploma, the credits earned must be distributed as outlined in 511 IAC 6-7-6.1 or 511 IAC 6-7.1-4:

English/Language Arts (Credits must include a balance of Literature, Composition and Speech)	8 credits
Mathematics (2 credits in Algebra I or Integrated Math I and 2 credits in any other math course(s))	4 credits
Science (2 credits in Biology I and 2 credits in any other science course(s))	4 credits
Social Studies (2 credits in U.S. History, 1 credit in U.S. Government, and 1 credit on any other social studies course)	4 credits
Career Academics Sequence	6 credits
Flex Credit	5 credits

Physical Education	2 credits
(Only 1 credit required for those students graduating in 2008 and 2009)	
Health	1 credit
Qualifying Electives	6 credits
(7 credits required for those students graduating in 2008 and 2009)	

For all students who enter high school beginning in 2007-2008, the completion of Core 40 becomes a State graduation requirement. Under the Core 40 program, credits must be distributed as outlined in 511 IAC 6-7.1-5:

English/Language Arts	8 credits
(Credits must include a balance of Literature, Composition and Speech)	
Mathematics	6 credits
(6 credits in either sequence: Algebra I, Geometry, and, Algebra II; or, Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III)	
Science	6 credits
(2 credits in biology, 2 credits in chemistry, physics, or integrated chemistry-physics, and 2 credits in any other Core 40 science course(s))	
Social Studies	6 credits
(2 credits in U.S. History, 1 credit U.S. Government, 1 credit Economics, and either 2 credits in world history and civilization or 2 credits in geography and history of the world)	
Directed Electives	5 credits
(Any combination from the following: World Languages; Fine Arts; or, Career-Technical)	
Physical Education	2 credits
(Only 1 credit required for those students graduating in 2008 and 2009)	
Health	1 credit
Other Qualifying Electives	6 credits
(7 credits required for those students graduating in 2008 and 2009)	

The Core 40 student is encouraged to complete a Career Academic Sequence.

A Core 40 student must earn 2 mathematics credits or 2 physics credits during the student's last two years in high school.

Students who enter high school beginning in 2007-08 who intend to graduate without completing the Core 40 requirements must complete a formal opt-out process.

Section 4. Core 40 Diploma with Academic Honors. The Core 40 Diploma with Academic Honors was established as a part of the State's educational plan for academic excellence. Its purpose is to raise student achievement by encouraging and rewarding high school students who pursue rigorous, advanced courses of study. Each high school shall inform students, parents, and guardians of the availability of an academic honors program. Upon successful completion, the high school shall note the awarding of the Core 40 Diploma with Academic Honors on the student's grade transcript. To be eligible for the Core 40 Diploma with Academic Honors, a student must satisfy the requirements outlined in 511 IAC 6-7.1-6:

Complete all requirements of the Core 40 diploma;

Must have a grade point average of "B" or above;

Earn a grade of C or above in courses that will count toward the diploma;

Complete a minimum of 47 credits;

Earn two additional Core 40 math credits;

Earn 6-8 Core 40 world language credits;

Earn two Core 40 fine arts credits; and

Complete one of the following supplemental requirements:

4 credits in 2 Advanced Placement courses and corresponding AP exams;

Academic, transferable dual high school/college courses resulting in 6 college credits;

2 credits in 1 AP course and corresponding AP exam and academic transferable dual high school/college course(s) resulting in 3 college credits;

Score 1200 or higher combined SAT math and verbal;

Score a 26 composite ACT; or.

An International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Section 5. Core 40 Diploma with Technical Honors. To be eligible for the Core 40 Diploma with Technical Honors, a student must satisfy the requirements outlined in 511 IAC 6-7.1-7:

Meet all Core 40 diploma requirements;

Earn a grade point average of "B" or above;

Earn a grade of "C" or above in courses that will count toward the diploma;

Complete a minimum of 47 credits;

Complete a career-technical program resulting in 8-10 credits; and,

Earn a state-recognized certification or certificate of technical achievement in the career-technical program.

Section 6. Correspondence Credit. A student desiring to complete courses by correspondence must first obtain the approval of the building principal. The maximum number of correspondence credits permitted to meet graduation requirements is eight (8) credits. Correspondences credits submitted to meet graduation requirements must meet the standards outlined in 511 IAC 6-7.1-8.

Section 7. Early Graduation. Students must attend 8 semesters of high school to graduate; however, that timeframe may be reduced by one or two semester(s) upon successful completion of required coursework. A written request for early graduation must be made by the student and legal guardian (if the student is less than eighteen years of age) no later than November 15 preceding the student's final semester of attendance. The deadline for requesting early graduation may be waived by the building principal in the event the principal determines reasonable and just cause exists and also determines that the student's early graduation would be in the best interest of the student and school. Application forms for early graduation shall be available at the Guidance Office at each high school. The building principal and the Superintendent's designee must approve the request. All decisions on requests for early graduation shall be documented in writing.

Section 8. Participation in Commencement Exercises. Commencement exercises will include only those students who have successfully completed requirements for graduation and who will receive a diploma or a certificate of course completion, as certified by the student's high school principal. A student may also be denied participation in commencement exercises by the student's high school principal if the student's personal conduct so warrants.

Section 9. Withholding Diploma or Certificate of Completion. No student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma or a certificate of course completion as a disciplinary measure.