

A green, curved line representing a hill. On the hill, there are five black silhouettes of people walking from left to right. The first is a small child, followed by a person, then a person carrying a bag, then a person, and finally a person in a graduation cap and gown.

## Indiana Department of Education

Glenda Ritz, NBCT  
Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

TO: Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Jenny Berry, Director, College and Career Readiness

DATE: May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

RE: Dual Credit Credentialing

As many schools are aware, high school teachers who are teaching **priority liberal arts** dual credit courses in Indiana must now meet, or make plans to meet by 2022, the recently revised [credentialing guidelines](#), as set forth by the [Higher Learning Commission](#). HLC is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central region, including Indiana.

There are several reasons accreditation is necessary besides assurance of quality and adherence to academic standards. Accreditation determines a higher education institution's eligibility for participation in federal (Title IV) and state financial aid programs, as well as eligibility for employer tuition assistance. Proper accreditation is integral for the acceptance and transfer of college credit, and is a prerequisite for many graduate programs. In addition, degrees attained from a school without regional accreditation may not be as accepted for professions that require licensure.

As of October 2016, state education leaders have been examining the impact of these guidelines on Indiana's students, schools and teachers. The **Dual Credit Advisory Council** has been re-established to specifically address this issue of dual credit credentialing and is co-chaired by both the Commissioner of Higher Education, Teresa Lubbers, and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Glenda Ritz. Other members include representatives from IASP, ISTA, IAASP, Early College, the state legislature, and Higher Education Institutions. Additionally, a smaller, working group of this council has been formed and includes IDOE representation. This group meets regularly and informs the Council as needed.

While the Council works to ensure dual credit stays intact in Indiana, there will be a transition period as the state implements a plan to move toward compliance of the guidelines by 2022. The following points may be helpful to schools as the Council determines next steps:

- The Commission for Higher Education will apply for an extension on behalf of the State in Mid/Late fall of 2016, to allow time for teachers to meet additional credentialing requirements by 2022;
- Teachers currently teaching **priority liberal arts** dual credit courses should check with their higher education institution to find out next steps going forward as it pertains to meeting the credentialing guidelines;
- Title II funding may be used by schools to assist in providing stipends to teachers needing additional coursework;



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- Focus and Priority schools may use a portion of their turnaround funding to provide stipends to teachers needing additional coursework;
- Many public universities are teaming up to create degree programs (online, hybrid, face-to-face) for teachers and are working to streamline the application and transfer process;
- More information regarding these degree programs is coming soon, please stay tuned-in to the conversation around dual credit in the state and check with local institutions of higher education in your region to find out the latest regarding programming.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction will continue to champion ideas that will result in maintaining or growing student opportunities for accessing dual credit, while seeking to lessen the burden of the new HLC credential requirements for classroom teachers.

If you have any questions please contact Jenny Berry at [jberry@doe.in.gov](mailto:jberry@doe.in.gov).