



INDIANA COMMISSION
for
HIGHER EDUCATION

The Honorable Arne Duncan
US Secretary of Education
The United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20202

May 28, 2014

Re: Certification of Indiana's Adoption of College- and Career- Ready Standards

Dear Secretary Duncan:

As representatives of Indiana's public education system from k-12 to higher education, we are pleased to confirm that Indiana has completed its work in adopting college and career ready 2014 Indiana Academic Standards in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics (herein after "2014 Indiana Academic Standards"). Indiana's ESEA Flexibility waiver was approved in 2012, in part, because of Indiana's demonstrated expectation that all students graduated college- and career- ready. We assure you Indiana's demonstrated expectations remain high for each student with the adoption of the 2014 Indiana Academic Standards.

In April 2013, with the passage of P.L. 286-2013 (HEA 1427), Indiana's legislature required that before July 1, 2014, "the state board shall adopt college- and career- readiness educational standards." Despite the legislative charge to develop new standards, Indiana always aimed to not only maintain commitments made in the waiver but also aimed to exceed those same commitments.¹

Following the charge to develop new academic standards, Indiana's Department of Education, Indiana's Commission for Higher Education, the Indiana State Board of Education and Education Roundtable worked collaboratively to create the most transparent standards review process in Indiana history, which was informed by experts from throughout the state and nation. This process of evaluation, and subsequent adoption of standards, was the first time in Indiana's history that the standards adoption process included the involvement of representatives from institutions of Higher Education.

¹ "The state board shall implement educational standards that use the common core standards as the base model for academic standards to the extent necessary to comply with federal standards to receive a flexibility waiver under 20 U.S.C. 7861. However, higher academic standards may be adopted that supplement or supplant the common core standards if the higher educational standards would qualify for a flexibility waiver under 20 U.S.C. 7861 because the higher educational standards meet United States Department of Education flexibility waiver requirements that ensure college- and career-readiness of students." I.C. sec. 20-19-2-14.5(c)

The work of creating new standards was multi-layered, purposeful in design, considered multiple perspectives, and was transparent and inclusive. A linear process was developed, which included four layers of educator and stakeholder involvement. The layers included a technical review team, advisory team, an evaluation team and ultimately a college and career ready panel. The teams evaluated and revised standards for Indiana based on the following definition of College- and Career- Readiness designed by the Indiana Department of Education, Indiana Education Roundtable, Department of Work Force Development, Indiana Works Council, Commission for Higher Education and Center for Education and Innovation: Indiana college-and career- readiness means that each student graduates from high school with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed in post-secondary education and obtain economically-viable career opportunities.

Each layer of evaluation included review of the adopted standards, which were the Common Core Standards (2010), the Indiana Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics from 2000, 2006, and 2009, as well as national standards for learning from National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NTCM), and National Councils of Teachers of Language Arts (NTCE).

The new law required the review to include Common Core Standards. This statutory requirement permitted the evaluation teams to build upon these college and career standards. Accordingly, many Common Core concepts remain with additional strengths as shown below:

- Every source standard evaluated, discussed, edited as needed for college- and career- readiness
- Addition of standards if progression or skill gaps were identified
- Inclusion of strong reading, English/ Language Arts across Content Standards
- Media Literacy Standards
- Individual Math Course Standards
- Core Transfer Library Alignment (between high school and higher education institutions)

The Standards have been recommended and endorsed by each member of our college- and career-ready panel, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Education Roundtable, the Indiana Center for Education and Innovation and Achieve. Achieve President Michael Cohen summarized the findings of review in a letter to the Indiana Education Round Table:

“In both English Language Arts and Mathematics the standards are anchored in the research that identifies the knowledge and skills necessary for college- and- career readiness, including research for the American Diploma Project in which Indiana participated. The draft standards are rigorous and present appropriate challenges at every grade level with a clear progression from grade to grade. They provide the focus, clarity, and specificity teachers need to help guide effective classroom instruction.”

With the adoption of the 2014 Indiana Academic Standards by the Indiana State Board of Education on April 28, 2014, and in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education’s ESEA Flexibility Waiver requirements, “the State [of Indiana] has adopted college- and career- ready standards in at least reading/language arts and mathematics that have been approved and certified by a State network of institutions of higher education (IHEs), consistent with part (2) of the definition of college- and career- ready standards; certifying that students who meet these standards will not need remedial coursework at the postsecondary level.”

We respectfully submit the college- and career- ready 2014 Indiana Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics from the offices of Indiana Department of Education and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education as college- and career- ready standards for the students of Indiana. We thank the U.S. Department of Education for its guidance in this endeavor.

Kind Regards,



Glenda Ritz, NBCT
Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction



Teresa Lubbers
Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education