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Indiana Department of Education

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Three Ways to Meet Indiana's Graduation Examination Requirements

IC 20-32-4

Prior to the 2011-12 school year, all high school students were required to meet the requirements of the state's Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) in order to graduate. The last administration of the GQE was in the spring of 2011. The GQE was replaced by the Algebra I and English 10 End of Course Assessments (ECAs) for the graduating classes of 2012 – 2018. The new graduation examination requirement for students who entered high school in 2015-16 (graduating class of 2019) and after is to take and pass the Grade 10 ISTEP+ in English/Language Arts and Mathematics. As part of No Child Left Behind, Indiana students are also required to participate in the ISTEP Science assessment, but the Science assessment is not part of the graduation exam requirement.

Indiana's graduation examination requirement can be met in three ways:

1. Pass the graduation exam (Algebra I and English 10 ECAs for graduating classes of 2012 through 2018; or Grade 10 ISTEP+ starting with the graduating class of 2019);
2. Fulfill the requirements of the Evidence-based waiver; or
3. Fulfill the requirements of the Work Readiness waiver.

(IC 20-32-4-4)
Students who are unsuccessful in passing the graduation exam by the end of their senior year may be eligible for one of two state waivers by:

1. Fulfilling the requirements of the **Evidence-based Waiver**:
    - Take the graduation examination in each subject area in which the student did not achieve a passing score at least one time each year after the school year in which the student first took the examination.
    - Complete help sessions offered each year by the school in preparation for the graduation examination retest opportunities.
    - Maintain a school attendance rate of 95% or better over the course of the high school experience (excused absences are not counted against a student's attendance rate).

- Maintain a grade point average of “C” or better in the courses required for graduation (a total of 34 credits – see attached list).
- Satisfy local graduation requirements. *Note that students with IEPs are not required to meet requirements beyond state requirements (effective 2016).*
- Obtain a written recommendation from a teacher of the student in the subject area(s) not passed. The recommendation must provide documentation that the academic standards have been met, either through other tests or classroom work, be aligned with the governing body's relevant policy and must be agreed upon by the principal.

2. Fulfilling the requirements of the **Work Readiness Waiver**:
    - Take the graduation examination in each subject area in which the student did not achieve a passing score at least one time each year after the school year in which the student first took the examination.
    - Complete help sessions offered each year by the school in preparation for the graduation examination retest opportunities.
    - Maintain a school attendance rate of 95% or better over the course of the high school experience (excused absences are not counted against a student’s attendance rate).
    - Maintain a grade point average of “C” or better in the courses required for graduation (a total of 34 credits – see attached list).
    - Satisfy local graduation requirements. *Note that students with IEPs are not required to meet requirements beyond state requirements (effective 2016).*
    - Complete all of the following:
        - Meet the course and credit requirements for a General Diploma (including the career academic sequence);
        - Complete a workforce readiness assessment; and
        - Complete at least one industry certification from the state board’s approved industry certification list.*
          **Starting with students who entered high school during the 2013-14 school year (class of 2017), the requirement to complete a career exploration internship, cooperative education course OR earn a workforce credential was replaced with, “complete at least one industry certification from the state board’s approved industry certification list”.*

Children with disabilities (IC 20-32-4-5)
If a student with a disability (as defined in IC 20-35-1-2) does not achieve a passing score on the graduation examination, the student’s case conference committee (CCC) may determine that the student is eligible to graduate if the CCC finds the following:

- The student's teacher of record, in consultation with a teacher of the student in each subject area in which the student has not achieved a passing score, makes a recommendation to the CCC. The recommendation must:
    - be agreed upon by the principal of the student's school; and supported by documentation that the student has attained the academic standard in the subject area based on:
        - tests other than the graduation examination; or
        - classroom work.
- The student meets all of the following requirements:
    - Retakes the graduation examination in each subject area in which the student did not achieve a passing score as often as required by the student's individualized education program (IEP).
    - Completes remediation opportunities provided to the student by the student's school to the extent required by the student's IEP.
    - Maintains a school attendance rate of 95% or better over the course of the high school experience to the extent required by the student's IEP (excused absences are not counted against a student's attendance rate).
    - Maintains a grade point average of "C" or better in the courses required for graduation (a total of 34 credits – see attached list).
    - Satisfies all state graduation requirements.

Credits and Courses that Count for the
"Evidence-based" and "Work Readiness" Waivers

For students entering high school in the 2006-07 school year or after, the "courses required for graduation" in computing the "C" average for the "evidence-based" and "work readiness" waivers include the following 34 credits:

(1) Language Arts – 8 credits (including a balance of literature, composition, and speech).

(2) Social Studies – 4 credits (must include 2 credits in US History, 1 credit in US Government and 1 credit in "another social studies course, Global Economics or Consumer Economics").

(3) Mathematics – 4 credits (must include 2 credits in Algebra I or Integrated Mathematics I and 2 additional mathematics credits. All 4 credits must be earned after the student enters high school). 2 credits of math or quantitative reasoning have to be earned during the junior or senior year.

(4) Science – 4 credits (must include 2 credits in Biology and credits from at least one additional science category – Physical or Earth/Space Science).

(5) Health and Wellness – 1 credit

(6) Physical Education I & II – 2 credits

(7) Career-academic sequence – 6 credits

(8) Flex credits – 5 credits

***Note that while a "C" average is needed in the 34 credits noted above to earn a waiver; students must still earn a minimum of 40 credits to earn an Indiana diploma.**