

MEMORANDUM

To: School Superintendents and Principals

From: Robin LeClaire, Director
Office of School Improvement

Date: July 12, 2019

Re: UPDATED House Enrolled Act 1426 – Various Education Matters (IC 20-19-2-21)
Series: 1 of 4

Note: Updates to this guidance are highlighted.

Background:

The Indiana General Assembly recently passed legislation pertaining to graduation requirements. IC 20-19-2-21 states that the State Board of Education (Board) will establish one standard Indiana diploma with four designations. IC 20-30-10-2.5 provides the Board the authority to consider math course requirements other than Algebra II for the Core 40 designation. Additionally, IC 20-32-9-2 was amended to remove the requirement of the administration of the Accuplacer Exam to determine remediation needs. Some of the changes in this legislation are effective immediately. Others will be effective in the future.

Guidance:

Effective immediately, there is one Indiana diploma. Each diploma awarded will have one of four designations; General, Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors, or Core 40 with Technical Honors.

At this time, the requirements for each diploma designation remain the same. However, the Board has initiated rule making regarding the requirement of Algebra II for the Core 40 designation. Any new course(s) that the Board adopts must have the appropriate rigor to prepare students for postsecondary opportunities. The Board has not yet determined this new math course. When the Board's determination is final, additional guidance will be provided.

Once the Board determines this new math course, if a student enrolls in a math course other than Algebra II to satisfy the Core 40 designation requirements, both the parent and the student must provide consent to the school to enroll in that course. The Board, in conjunction with the Commission for Higher Education, will develop this consent form. This consent form will inform both student and parent that the enrollment in the alternate course might affect the student's acceptance into particular postsecondary programs or institutions.

Additionally, HEA 1426 gives the Board the authority to examine science requirements for the Core 40 designation. To date the Board has not yet taken any formal action regarding science requirements. When such action is taken additional guidance will be provided.

Finally, schools are no longer required to administer the Accuplacer Exam to determine the remediation needs of 11th grade students. Schools are encouraged to provide the PSAT to students. However, it is not a requirement for schools to offer the PSAT to every student. Schools are now required to notify students before the fall semester of their junior year if they are in need of remediation in order to be considered College and Career Ready. This requirement is now in effect and applies for the 2018-2019 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jennifer Jensen at (317) 232-6673 or email jjensen@doe.in.gov.