

**Meeting Indiana's Graduation Exam Requirements**  
***Waiver Options for the Graduation Exam or***  
***Postsecondary-Ready Competencies for the Graduation Pathways***  
**IC 20-32-4-1.5**

Historically, the graduation exam has included:

- The Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE), required for the graduating classes of 2002 - 2011. The last administration of the GQE was in the spring of 2011.
- Algebra I and English 10 End of Course Assessments (ECAs) for the graduating classes of 2012-2018.
- Grade 10 ISTEP+ in English/Language Arts and Mathematics for the graduating classes of 2019 - 2022.

*As part of federal requirements, Indiana students are also required to **participate** in the ISTEP Science assessment, but the Science assessment is not part of the graduation exam requirement.*

Students in the class of 2023 and beyond will be required to demonstrate postsecondary-readiness through completion of the graduation pathways developed by the State Board of Education. Graduation Pathway requirements will take the place of the graduation exam requirements for the graduating class of 2023 and beyond. Students in prior year cohorts may opt-in to the graduation pathways to satisfy graduation requirements.

Indiana's graduation examination requirement can be met in any of the following ways:

1. Pass the English 10 and Algebra I End of Course Assessments (*expiring with the graduating class of 2018*);
2. Pass the Grade 10 ISTEP+ in English/Language Arts and Mathematics (graduating classes of 2019 - 2022);
3. Qualify for one of two graduation exam waiver options; or
4. Meet the Graduation Pathways requirements (required for the graduating class of 2023 but allowable for students in prior cohorts). *Note that a waiver option is available for students who don't meet the postsecondary readiness competency requirement.*

### **Waiver Options**

**Graduation Exam Waiver Options** (expire June 30, 2022):  
(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 the Evidence-based or Work Readiness waiver, which include the following criteria.

**Evidence-based Waiver:**

1. 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.
2. Complete remediation opportunities provided to the student by the school.
3. 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).
4. Maintain a grade point average of "C" or better in the courses required for graduation (a total of 34 credits – see attached list).
5. Satisfy local graduation requirements. *Note that students with IEPs are not required to meet requirements beyond state requirements (effective 2016).*
6. 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.

**Work Readiness Waiver:**

1. 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.
2. Complete remediation opportunities provided to the student by the school.
3. 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).
4. Maintain a grade point average of "C" or better in the courses required for graduation (a total of 34 credits – see attached list).
5. Satisfy local graduation requirements. *Note that students with IEPs are not required to meet requirements beyond state requirements (effective 2016).*
6. Complete all of the following:
  - a. Meet the course and credit requirements for a General Diploma (including the career academic sequence);
  - b. Complete a workforce readiness assessment; and

- c. 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 20-35-1-8) does not achieve a passing score on the graduation examination (before July 1, 2022) or fails to meet a postsecondary readiness competency requirement, 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 on the graduation exam (before July 1, 2022) or successfully completed a postsecondary readiness competency, makes a written recommendation to the CCC. The recommendation must be:
  - aligned with the governing body's relevant policy;
  - 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 or competencies other than the graduation examination (before July 1, 2022) or postsecondary readiness competencies established by the State Board; 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). This expires July 1, 2022.
  - 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 and local graduation requirements.

*Per IC 20-26-5-37, a school corporation shall not require a student with a disability to complete locally required credits that exceed state credit*

*requirements to receive a diploma unless otherwise required as part of the student's IEP.*

**Waiver for the Postsecondary Readiness Competency Requirement for the Graduation Pathways** (effective July 1, 2018):

(IC 20-32-4-4.1)

A student may receive a waiver from the postsecondary readiness competency requirements

- 1) if:
  - a. the student was unsuccessful in completing a postsecondary readiness competency requirement by the conclusion of the student's senior year, including a student who was in the process of completing a competency at one school that was not offered by the school to which the student transferred; **and**
  - b. the student attempted to achieve at least three separate postsecondary readiness competencies; **or**
- 2) if a student transfers to a school during the senior year from a nonaccredited nonpublic school or an out-of-state school and the student:
  - a. attempted to achieve at least one postsecondary readiness competency requirement; and
  - b. was unsuccessful in completing the attempted postsecondary readiness competency.

To receive a waiver, the student must:

- 1) maintain at least a "C" average, or its equivalent, throughout the student's high school career in courses comprising credits required for the student to graduate;
- 2) maintain a school attendance rate of at least 95% with excused absences not counting against the student's attendance;
- 3) satisfy all other state and local graduation requirements beyond the postsecondary readiness competency requirements; and
- 4) demonstrate postsecondary planning, including:
  - a. college acceptance;
  - b. acceptance in an occupational training program;
  - c. workforce entry; or
  - d. military enlistment;that is approved by the principal of the student's school.

### **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.**

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