



## The state’s proposed changes to high school graduation requirements would be a hardship on schools, families, and students for multiple reasons:

1) While the proposed GPS (Graduate Prepared to Succeed) diplomas are touted as adding flexibility for high school students, the opposite is actually true. Students will lose access to core academic classes once diploma requirements are gutted (while districts would be allowed to still offer world history, world languages, fine arts, and CTE courses,

none of these things would be required for graduation. With limited and already inadequate state funding for public schools, districts will not be able to offer these “unnecessary” courses). The GPS proposal cuts back on rigor and academics in order to emphasize workplace learning and job training at local industries/businesses. An Indiana student graduating with the GPS diploma would not meet the basic college entrance requirements and would need to take remedial classes to make up for what they didn’t get in high school (and what they have available with the current diploma structure).

2) Indiana currently offers 4 diploma types: General Designation, Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors, and Core 40 with Technical Honors. The new proposal has two basic options – GPS and GPS+. The GPS+ is intended to fill the “honors” role, but it requires at least 75 hours of workplace learning, an apprenticeship, and earning career “credentials” on top of meeting AP Scholar with Distinction or International Baccalaureate

requirements. This would not be a viable option for most students, even those who currently have chosen to pursue Academic or Technical Honors. And while, on the surface, it seems like there would be just a couple GPS diploma options to manage, students can earn various “seals” to add to their diplomas to indicate readiness for enrollment, employment, or enlistment: considering the seals, there would actually be 32 different diploma options under the GPS proposal. This is much more cumbersome than the current structure, and the current structure allows credits for workplace learning and internships already.

### Current Core 40

- 6 Science Credits (including 2 in bio and 2 in chemistry, physics, or ICP)
- 6 Math Credits (2 credits in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)
- 6 Social Studies Credits (2 credits in U.S. History, 1 credit in Government, 1 credit in Econ, and 2 in either World History or Geography/History of the World)
- 5 Directed Electives (options in World Languages, Fine Arts, and CTE)
- 3 PE & Health Credits (2 credits in PE and 1 in Health – waiver is available for 1 PE credit for specific qualifying sports/activities)

### GPS

- 4 science credits (no requirement for any specific classes)
- 6 Math Credits (only Algebra I is required)
- 3 Social Studies Credits (only USH and Government are required and these are both designated as 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes – NOT 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade as they are now)
- No longer required (will decrease staffing needs as these will not be required courses any longer)
- 2 PE and Health Credits (in addition to waiver, PE requirement could be fulfilled in middle school)

The state passed legislation that requires some changes to the HS diploma, but those could easily be incorporated into the current structure (that has only been in place for two years and appears to be meeting goals for both college readiness and workplace experience opportunities).