

Foster Youth and Education



**ADULT & CHILD
THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE LICENSING
PROGRAM**

ADVOCACY BASICS

[HTTPS://WWW.PLICKERS.COM/LIVEVIEW](https://www.plickers.com/liveview)

Poor Education



More than one-third of foster youth



have 5 or more school changes.



Youth with one fewer placement change per year



are almost twice as likely to graduate high school before leaving care.



Foster youth repeat a grade twice as often as their peers,



and only 1.8% of foster youth will go on to complete a bachelor's degree,



compared to 24% among the general population.



Unfortunately, poor education is just the beginning. Alumni of the foster care system face several troubling odds.

HOMELESS

65% of youth leaving foster care need immediate housing upon release,



and 22.2% experience homelessness after age 18.



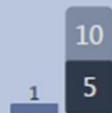
NO MONEY

33.2% of foster alumni have household incomes at or below the poverty line.



IN PRISON

Foster youth are 5 to 10 times more likely to enter the juvenile justice system,



and 25% are incarcerated within the first two years of emancipation.



MENTAL HEALTH

25.2% of foster alumni are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder,



which is nearly double the rate of U.S. war veterans.

Foster care numbers in the U.S. have fallen 21.8% since 2002.



Youth in Foster Care

But in Indiana, children in foster care have increased by 44.8%.



Troubling Statistics



- Educational outcomes for foster youth are poor even **compared** to other at-risk youth (ELL, low income, etc.).
- Youth in foster care are more likely to change schools (= **3+ months** lost each transition) and receive lower grades than youth who are not in foster care.
- More than **one-third** of school-age youth in foster care have low levels of engagement in school.
- Youth in foster care who attend public schools score **16-20 percentile points lower** than their peers on statewide standardized tests at grades 3, 6, and 9.
- Only **54%** of foster care alumni complete high school. **20%** of youth who age out of foster care do not have a high school diploma or a GED by age 25.
- Foster youth are **50%** less likely to be employed at age 24, and they earn significantly less than their peers. The difference in median annual earnings between the groups is **more than \$18,000**.

Tips to help your foster youth succeed in school:



- **Develop a partnership with your child's teachers and school staff.**
 - Get to know these key players and keep in touch.
- **Support your child academically.**
 - Find out how your child is doing. Keep up with your child's progress reports. Know what grades he/she is making. (Get a school log-in.)
 - Apply for special services if you think your child may need it. (Sylvan)
 - Make sure that your child gets homework done. Review your child's homework each day and find homework help if needed.
 - Help your child prepare for tests.
 - Encourage your child with approval. Praising the good behaviors is a way to keep him/her incentivized to succeed.
- **Get involved with your child's school.**
 - Learn what the school offers and volunteer or join parent-teacher groups.

Tips cont'd.



- **Get informed and be an advocate for your child.**
 - Ask questions. Learn about your rights. Let the school know your concerns. (Teacher, counselor, dean, principal, etc.)
- **Support your child's learning at home.**
 - Demonstrate a positive attitude about education to your children.
 - Find a quiet place for your child to study at home. Work together to make it a place to enjoy, but keep it free from distractions.
 - Monitor your child's television, video game, and Internet use.
 - Encourage your child to read or read together regularly.
 - Talk with your child. Show interest in his/her thoughts and ideas. Discuss career and college plans.
 - Encourage your child to use the library and educational websites/apps.
 - Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently. Give your child specific tasks to complete, and make sure he/she is participating and contributing in his/her own way.
 - Promote active learning. Draw connections to real life. (Kids want to understand how they can use the knowledge they are learning.)

Tips for talking to teachers:



- Make an appointment. Don't just drop in.
- Document what your child has done, said, or read.
- Plan what you're going to say.
- Choose your words carefully. Try to start with something positive.
- Build a partnership and negotiate solutions. Work as a team.
- Be diplomatic, tactful, and respectful.
- Focus on what your child needs.
- Listen.
- Bring along your sense of humor.
- Summarize what you have discussed and a time line. Plan a follow-up meeting.

IEP Basics



- SPED law calls for a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.
- IEPs are legally binding documents that specify the type and frequency of services that will be provided.
- Foster youth applications:
 - 10 day rule – The CCC must meet within 10 days of transition to new district for existing IEP (services begin immediately); the school must respond (in writing) to request for initial evaluation.
 - Consent is required for initial testing & implementation of services.

McKinney-Vento Act



- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (1987) was created to give children some rights as they are navigated to a permanent housing situation (**awaiting foster placement**). These rights include:
 - **The right to enroll immediately, even if you don't have all the required paperwork.**
 - ✦ Schools normally require parents to have birth certificates, proof of residency, school records, and medical records with them, but you can enroll children without these documents (although you may need to get some of them later).
 - **The right to school placement at the school in their best interest.**
 - ✦ Children may go to the school they attended when they were permanently housed, also called their school of origin, even if you are not living in that district. Alternatively, children may attend the school where you are living. This right lasts the entire duration of the homelessness or until the end of the school year after they achieve permanent housing. (Applies to **all foster youth** via Fostering Connections Act 2008)
 - **The right to transportation services.**
 - ✦ Schools must provide children with transportation to their school, if feasible. Parents who need this service for their children should request it from the McKinney-Vento Liaison. (Specifics on next slide for foster youth)
 - **The right to other services.**
 - ✦ The fees for breakfast and lunch are to be provided by the school. The fees for textbooks should be waived. Children are automatically eligible for Title I services, which may include before- and after-school programs, tutoring programs, or other assistance such as graphing calculators required for math classes.
 - **The right to appeal decisions regarding enrollment and services.**
 - ✦ If the school district makes a decision about the child's school enrollment or the services that the child receives (such as transportation) that you disagree with, you have the right to appeal that decision. The school's McKinney-Vento Liaison should be contacted immediately to assist you with the appeal. While the dispute with the school district is being resolved, the child has the right to attend the school or receive the services in question.
 - **The right to attend school and school activities without the fear of being singled out.**
 - ✦ Children in unstable housing situations cannot be separated from their peers just because of their housing situation. They have the right to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities just like any other student.

Right to Transportation Services



- **IC 20-50-3-5 Transportation of students in foster care**

Sec. 5. (a) If a student in foster care temporarily stays in the student's original school corporation but outside the attendance area of the student's school of origin, the original school corporation shall provide transportation for the student from the place where the student is temporarily staying to the school of origin and from the school of origin to the place where the student is temporarily staying.

(b) If:

(1) the school of origin of a student in foster care is located in a school corporation other than the school corporation in which the student is temporarily staying;

(2) the school of origin is located in a school corporation that adjoins the school corporation in which the student is temporarily staying; and

(3) the student does not elect to attend a school located in the school corporation in which the student in foster care is temporarily staying;

the original school corporation and the transitional school corporation shall enter into an agreement concerning the responsibility for and apportionment of the costs of transporting the student to and from the school of origin.

(c) If the original school corporation and the transitional school corporation described in subsection (b) are unable to reach an agreement under subsection (b), the responsibility for transporting the student in foster care to and from the school of origin is shared equally between both school corporations, and the cost of transporting the student to and from the school of origin is apportioned equally between both school corporations.

School Fees



- **Textbooks, supplies, & other required class fees**
 - A school system cannot legally collect these fees charged for a foster child. This is the case whether or not the student was eligible when the district filed for textbook reimbursement.
 - ✦ Textbooks = books, hardware, computer software, digital content
 - ✦ Supplies required for completion = workbooks, art supplies, PE uniforms, etc.
 - ✦ Additionally, public schools are not permitted to withhold school books or supplies, require any special services from a child, or deny the child any benefit or privileges because the fees were not paid
 - Fees associated with the repair or replacement of textbooks, devices, or musical instruments only will now be paid directly to the school corporation by DCS.
 - ✦ If you receive a bill for this, submit it to FCM to be paid
- **Free/reduced lunch**
 - All out-of-home foster youth (including relatives) are categorically eligible for the free/reduced lunch program.
 - The eligibility for free meals only starts at the point the eligibility determination is made. Any charges prior to that determination, even in the same school year, would not be waived.
- **Alternative Education enrollment fees/tuition**
 - If a public school system offers an alternative education program, that program is considered a “public school.” Indiana statute does not permit a school system to charge an enrollment fee or tuition for a child to attend.

Tutoring



- Indiana Administrative Code states that **if a school representative determines that a student who is currently in foster care has demonstrated a need for tutoring**, the corporation has the obligation to provide tutoring for that student.
 - IC 20-50-2-3 Tutoring of children who are in foster care or are homeless
 - ✦ Sec. 3. Each school corporation shall provide tutoring for a child enrolled in a school operated by the school corporation who is:
 - (1) in foster care; or
 - (2) a homeless child;
 - ✦ if the school corporation determines the child has a demonstrated need for tutoring.

Child Care Development Fund



- CCDF is a federal program that assists low-income families in obtaining child care so that they can work or attend school.
 - <https://secure.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/3900.htm>
 - To identify intake agent:
https://secure.in.gov/fssa/files/20150928_CCDF_Intake-Policy_Map_8-2015_-_Color.pdf
 - Apply for CCDF funds then identify child care provider
 - ✦ Foster parents are automatically eligible – do not have to meet income requirements

Indiana Graduation Requirements



- Determine local requirements in addition to those required by the state
- Core 40 vs. General Diploma
 - Formal opt-out process
 - ✦ Meet to review Graduation Plan & student progress
 - ✦ Discuss effects on career & postsecondary opportunities
 - ECA failure 2x
 - Indiana Online Academy for credit recovery - \$\$ by district
- Assessments to pass/take:
 - For current 10-12th graders: ECAs for Alg 1 & Eng 10 (course content)
 - For current 9th graders (& lower): ISTEP+ 10 (ELA & Math content, will take as sophomores)
 - PSAT (10th), ACCUPLACER (11th), SAT/ACT (11th, 2x for baseline)
- Fee waivers for AP Exams, SAT, ACT, college applications
 - To be completed through school guidance counselor
- Indiana's Double-Up Program
 - Tuition waiver for dual enrollment in college courses for students in 11th and 12th grade

Course and Credit Requirements	
English/ Language Arts	8 credits Including a balance of literature, composition and speech.
Mathematics	6 credits (in grades 9-12) 2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Geometry 2 credits: Algebra II <small>Or complete Integrated Math I, II, and III for 6 credits. Students must take a math or quantitative reasoning course each year in high school.</small>
Science	6 credits 2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Chemistry I or Physics I or Integrated Chemistry-Physics 2 credits: any Core 40 science course
Social Studies	6 credits 2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Economics 2 credits: World History/Civilization or Geography/History of the World
Directed Electives	5 credits World Languages Fine Arts Career and Technical Education
Physical Education	2 credits
Health and Wellness	1 credit
Electives*	6 credits <small>(College and Career Pathway courses recommended)</small>
40 Total State Credits Required	

Schools may have additional local graduation requirements that apply to all students

* Specifies the number of electives required by the state. High school schedules provide time for many more electives during the high school years. All students are strongly encouraged to complete a College and Career Pathway (selecting electives in a deliberate manner) to take full advantage of career and college exploration and preparation opportunities.

CORE40 with Academic Honors (minimum 47 credits)

For the Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma, students must:

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- Earn 2 additional Core 40 math credits.
- Earn 6-8 Core 40 world language credits (6 credits in one language or 4 credits each in two languages).
- Earn 2 Core 40 fine arts credits.
- Earn a grade of a "C" or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- Have a grade point average of a "B" or better.
- Complete one of the following:
 - A. Earn 4 credits in 2 or more AP courses and take corresponding AP exams
 - B. Earn 6 verifiable transcribed college credits in dual credit courses from the approved dual credit list.
 - C. Earn two of the following:
 1. A minimum of 3 verifiable transcribed college credits from the approved dual credit list,
 2. 2 credits in AP courses and corresponding AP exams,
 3. 2 credits in IB standard level courses and corresponding IB exams.
 - D. Earn a combined score of 1750 or higher on the SAT critical reading, mathematics and writing sections and a minimum score of 530 on each
 - E. Earn an ACT composite score of 26 or higher and complete written section
 - F. Earn 4 credits in IB courses and take corresponding IB exams.

CORE40 with Technical Honors (minimum 47 credits)

For the Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma, students must:

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- Earn 6 credits in the college and career preparation courses in a state-approved College & Career Pathway and one of the following:
 1. State approved, industry recognized certification or credential, or
 2. Pathway dual credits from the approved dual credit list resulting in 6 transcribed college credits
- Earn a grade of "C" or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- Have a grade point average of a "B" or better.
- Complete one of the following,
 - A. Any one of the options (A - F) of the Core 40 with Academic Honors
 - B. Earn the following scores or higher on WorkKeys; Reading for Information – Level 6, Applied Mathematics – Level 6, and Locating Information–Level 5.
 - C. Earn the following minimum score(s) on Accuplacer: Writing 80, Reading 90, Math 75.
 - D. Earn the following minimum score(s) on Compass; Algebra 66, Writing 70, Reading 80.

New Graduation Requirements: Indiana's College & Career Ready High School Diploma

- Takes effect beginning with students who enter high school in 2018-2019 (Class of 2022).
- Final Draft approved 8/15 by Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Minimum 44 Total Credits			
English/ Language Arts	8 credits		
	Including literature, composition, speech/communications or other state-approved alternative		
Mathematics	8 credits [All Indiana students must be enrolled in a math course or state-approved alternative during each year of high school.]		
	Calculus Sequence	Quantitative Reasoning Sequence	Technical Math Sequence
	2 credits: Algebra I	2 credits: Algebra I	2 credits: Algebra I
	2 credits: Geometry	2 credits: Geometry	2 credits: Algebra II, Geometry or Math 10 [with teacher approval]
	2 credits: Algebra II	2 credits: Algebra II	4 credits: Technical Math or state-approved alternative
	2 credits: Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry	2 credits: Quantitative Reasoning or Probability & Statistics	
[NOTE: College-bound students who plan to attend (or transfer to) a four-year college should complete either the Calculus or Quantitative Reasoning course sequence, depending on their postsecondary program of study. Integrated Math I, II and III may be completed as an alternative to Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II.]			
Science	6 credits		
	2 credits: Biology I		
	2 credits: Chemistry I, Physics I or Integrated Chemistry-Physics		
2 credits: Any science course or state-approved alternative			
[NOTE: Students in a STEM Pathway** should complete 8 science credits, including a laboratory component.]			
Social Studies	6 credits		
	2 credits: U.S. History		
	2 credits: World History/Civilization or Geography/History of the World		
	1 credit: U.S. Government		
	1 credit: Economics, Consumer Economics or Global Economics		
Health & Wellness	3 credits		
	2 credits: Physical Education		
1 credit: Health & Wellness			
College & Career Readiness	8 credits		
	1 credit: Preparing for College & Careers [Should be completed by the end of 9th grade.]		
	1 credit: Personal Financial Responsibility		
	6 credits: College & Career Readiness Sequence [with graduation capstone**]		
	[NOTE: College & Career Readiness Sequences may include Academic courses, Career & Technical Education courses, Early College credits, Fine Arts courses, Advanced Coursework or other coursework aligned with a student's College & Career Pathway Plan. Students may earn 6 credits in a single sequence or 8 credits in two sequences.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College-bound students who plan to pursue a One-Year Certificate or non-transferable Two-Year College Degree should complete a College & Career Readiness Sequence that includes Career & Technical Education and/or Dual Credit courses. • College-bound students who plan to pursue a Four-Year College Degree or transferable Two-Year College Degree should complete a College & Career Readiness Sequence that includes Advanced Placement, Career & Technical Education, and/or priority Dual Credit courses listed in Indiana's Core Transfer Library.] 			
Directed Electives	5 credits		
	Fine Arts		
	World Languages [College-bound students should complete at least 4 credits in the same World Language.]		
Additional Academic and/or Career & Technical Education courses			
College & Career Ready Diploma with Honors			
College & Career Ready Diploma with Honors graduates must complete a minimum of 48 credits , earn a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale, earn a grade of "C" or better in all courses that count toward the diploma and complete at least two of the following:			
1) Advanced Coursework: Earn at least 4 Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate credits and take corresponding exams			
2) Arts & Culture: Complete at least 6 World Language credits and 2 Fine Arts credits			
3) Career Credential: Complete an Industry-Recognized Certification, One-Year Certificate or state-approved alternative			
4) College Credit: Earn at least 6 transcribed college credits			
5) College Entrance Exam: Earn a minimum composite ACT or total SAT score [established by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education]			
*Indiana's College & Career Ready Diploma is the default diploma track for all Hoosier students. Graduating with less than the default diploma requires formal parental consent and school principal certification.			
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) *Graduation capstone could include a college/career academic, a project- or work-based learning experience, or other state-approved alternative.			

New Graduation Requirements: Indiana's Workforce Ready High School Diploma

- The College & Career Ready Diploma is the default diploma track for all Hoosier students.
- Graduating with the Workforce Ready Diploma requires formal parental consent and school principal certification.

Minimum 40 Total Credits	
English/ Language Arts	8 credits Including literature, composition, speech/communications or other state-approved alternative
Mathematics	6-8 credits (All Indiana students must be enrolled in a math course or state-approved alternative during each year of high school.) 2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Algebra II, Geometry or Math 10 (with teacher approval based on diagnostic results) 2-4 credits: Technical Math or state-approved alternative <small>(NOTE: Students who must retake a math course in high school may graduate with 6 credits in math courses or a state-approved alternative. Integrated Math I, II and III may be completed as an alternative math sequence to Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II.)</small>
Science	4 credits 2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Any science course or state-approved alternative
Social Studies	4 credits 2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Any social studies course or state-approved alternative
College & Career Readiness	8 credits 1 credit: Preparing for College & Careers (Should be completed by the end of 9th grade.) 1 credit: Personal Financial Responsibility 6 credits: College & Career Readiness Sequence (with graduation capstone) <small>(NOTE: College & Career Readiness Sequences may include Academic courses, Career & Technical Education courses, Early College credits, Fine Arts courses, Advanced Coursework or other coursework aligned with a student's College & Career Pathway Plan. Students may earn 6 credits in a single sequence or 8 credits in two sequences.)</small>
Health & Wellness	3 credits 2 credits: Physical Education 1 credit: Health & Wellness
Electives	5-7 credits
Graduation Capstone	
Workforce Ready Diploma graduates must complete at least one of the following (aligned with their chosen College & Career Pathway Plan): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Career Credential: Complete an Industry-Recognized Certification, One-Year Certificate or state-approved alternative 2) Career Experience: Complete a project-based capstone or work-based learning experience 3) College Credit: Earn at least 3 transcribed college credits 	

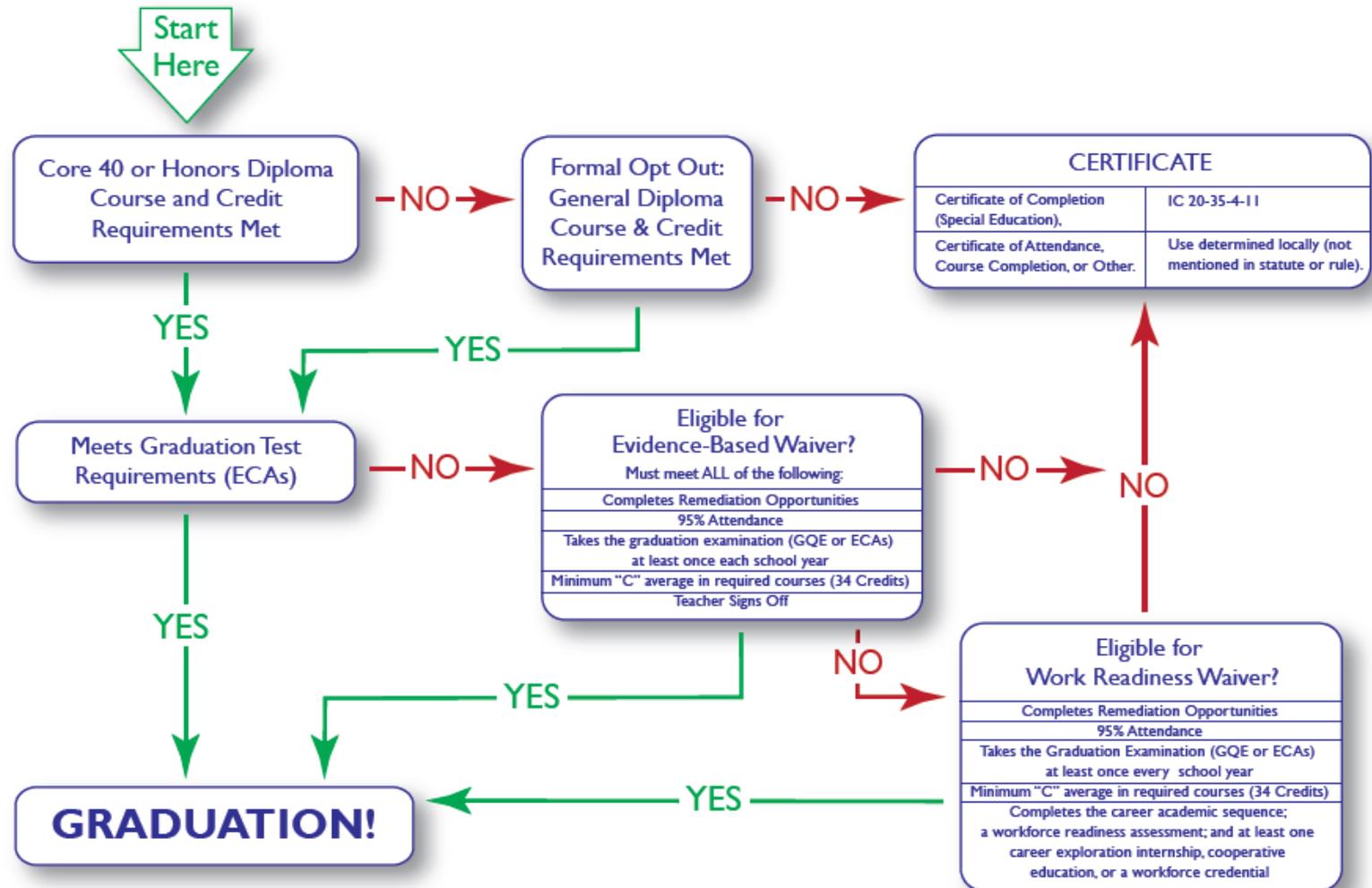
- Unless a student's IEP indicates otherwise, determinations that permit a student to graduate with the Workforce Ready Diploma should be made no earlier than the end of 10th grade.

Graduation Waiver - ECAs



- Reading, writing and math are essential life skills, and students must demonstrate a basic understanding of English/language arts and mathematics as part of the requirements for graduation. The assessment requirement for graduation can be met in three ways:
 - Pass the English 10 and Algebra I End of Course Assessments (ECAs).
 - Fulfill the requirements of the GQE Evidence-based waiver:
 - ✦ Take the ECAs in each subject area in which you did not achieve a passing score at least one time every school year after the school year in which you first took the ECA.
 - ✦ Complete any extra help sessions offered each year by the school to prepare for the ECA retests.
 - ✦ Maintain a school attendance rate of 95 percent or better over the course of your high school experience (excused absences are not counted against your attendance rate).
 - ✦ Have at least a "C" average, over the course of your high school career, in the courses required for graduation.
 - ✦ Satisfy any other state and local graduation requirements.
 - ✦ Get a written recommendation from the teacher(s) in the subject area(s) not passed, as well as one from the school principal, and show proof that the academic standards have been met, whether through other tests or classroom work.
 - Fulfill the requirements of the GQE Work-readiness waiver:
 - ✦ Take the ECAs in each subject area in which you did not achieve a passing score at least one time every school year after the school year in which you first took the ECA.
 - ✦ Complete any extra help sessions offered each year by the school to prepare for the ECA retests.
 - ✦ Maintain a school attendance rate of 95 percent or better over the course of your high school experience (excused absences are not counted against your attendance rate).
 - ✦ Have at least a "C" average, over the course of your high school career, in the courses required for graduation.
 - ✦ Satisfy any other state and local graduation requirements.
 - ✦ Complete the course and credit requirements for a general diploma, including the career academic sequence; a workforce readiness assessment; and one of the following: complete a career exploration internship course, complete a cooperative education course or earn a workforce credential (recommended by the school).
 - 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 will be replaced with, “complete at least one industry certification from the state board’s approved industry certification list”. Click [here](#) for the applicable industry certification list, effective for the class of 2017. Note that this list will be updated annually.

Diploma & Certificate Considerations



21st Century Scholars Program



- **Enroll & complete Scholar Success program @ <http://www.in.gov/21stcenturyscholars/>**
 - 7th/8th but through HS for foster youth
 - If FY enroll in the program and fulfill pledge of good citizenship, they are guaranteed to receive up to 4 years of undergraduate tuition at any participating public college or university in Indiana
 - ✦ No illegal drugs/alcohol, crimes/delinquent acts
 - ✦ Cumulative 2.5/4.0 GPA
 - ✦ Core 40 (+ with Academic or Technical Honors)
 - ✦ Annual FAFSA starting senior year through college
 - ✦ Enroll within 1 year, complete 30 credit hours/year (maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress as defined by college), finish within 8 years, \$ equivalent of 4 years at full time
 - Can also help finding free tutoring, a mentor and a part-time job, and support to finish postsecondary degree (once in college)
- **Other scholarship/grant opportunities: Horatio Alger, Letendre Education Fund, FastWeb, College Board, Pell Grant**

Utilize your resources:



- Indiana Department of Education (DOE) <http://www.doe.in.gov/>
- Indiana Youth Institute (IYI) <http://www.iyi.org/>
- About Special Kids (ASK) <http://www.aboutspecialkids.org/>
- IN*Source <http://insource.org/resources/>
- National Resource Center for Permanency & Family Connections <http://www.nrcpfc.org/is/education-and-child-welfare.html>
- Learn More Indiana <http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/>
- Connected by 25 http://www.fostersuccess.org/programs_services
- Indiana Afterschool Network <http://www.indianaafterschool.org/>
- Indiana Student Financial Aid Association <http://www.isfaa.org>
- Academic websites/remediation:
 - ABCya, Cool Math, Edutopia, International Children's Digital Library, Khan Academy, National Geographic, PBS for Kids, Read to Me, Scholastic, Storyline Online, TIME for Kids, etc.
- Adult & Child
 - Tracie Mansfield - tmansfield@adultandchild.org, 317-635-3306 (work), 317-800-9871 (cell)

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