



## Indiana Association of School Principals

11025 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street • Indianapolis, IN 46229 • 317/891-9900 • 800/285-2188 • Fax 317/894-9807  
www.iasp.org • iasp-info@iasp.org

The Indiana Association of School Principals leads in the advocacy and support of all principals in their commitment to every child.

August 12, 2024,

Dear Dr. Jenner,

IASP has considered the draft diploma requirements and is in support of this approach to allow students more flexibility as they seek to earn their Indiana High School diploma. Our students should have high expectations for their K-12 education and the diploma should be the link to opportunities past high school that matches their interests and career goals. Having one diploma with two tiers of seals as an option is a positive step for our system. We appreciate Dr. Jenner and all those that worked to bring this new draft to the State Board of Education as it is clear they have taken feedback and provided a model with greater clarity and simplicity.

The credits that are required for graduation include the essential content so students are prepared for multiple paths we know they will pursue as young adults. Having the ability to earn these credits from a variety of courses within an academic content area is an essential part of this diploma design and one that should continue to be emphasized as the final requirements are set.

The Enrollment, Employment and Enlistment Seals all provide a roadmap that help guide a student in their course selection, while also not being prescriptive of what courses must be taken to attain the seal. The second level of each seal elevates expectations which will enhance the high school experience. It is key that the seals serve as meeting components of the graduation pathway, thus aligning our diploma requirements with post high school opportunities. And, a student is not required to earn a seal, but may still earn a diploma by completing those components, albeit with more limited options.

We would seek clarification and advise continued flexibility around the development of an attendance goal as included in the Employment and Enlistment Seals. IASP believes the attendance goal can be developed through a work-based learning agreement, thus ensuring all parties are understanding of expectations. We see this as an opportunity to lead and work with families as the attendance goal attainment may be met through school attendance guidelines and metrics. We also see great opportunity in infusing work-based learning into the Enrollment Seal to demonstrate the achievement level that is currently outlined solely through academic attainment.

The attainment of the two additional Social Studies credits should be examined to ensure clarity. The interplay of these credits with what is stated in the Enrollment Seal may not be clear and we desire that students have the ability to successfully attain credits that align with future outcomes.

### Principal Services

- Awards & Recognition
- Business Partnerships
- Climate Audits
- Conferences
- District Activities
- Electronic Communications
- Emergency Assistance
- Federal Relations
- Legal Advice
- Legislation
- Principal for a Day
- Principals Service Corps
- Publications
- Research & Information
- Superintendents' Advisory
- Vacancy Listings
- Workshops

### Student Programs

- Academic Competitions
  - Academic Spell Bowl
  - Academic Super Bowl
  - Academic M.A.T.H. Bowl
  - Academic Science Bowl
- Academic Coaches
  - Conference
- E Sports Bowl
- Cheerleading Coaches
  - Conferences
- Indiana Cheer
  - Championship
- Indiana Academic All-Stars
- Day at the Legislature
- MLK Jr. Essay Contest
- Quiz Bowl
- Riley Kids Caring & Sharing
- Youth Philanthropy
  - Advocacy

While not stated in this diploma draft, license flexibility will be a key point as implementation occurs. We are confident in the ability of our principals to innovate within the flexible structure this diploma provides. We can then elevate successful practices leading to greater student achievement and success as models for other school leaders. A strong example of this is by allowing the seals to be modified through approved processes. This will allow greater crossover and permeability between each seal, and will emphasize to students that our futures and careers do not operate in a silo, but are linked to successful preparation and demonstration of skills and abilities.

We look forward to working with the Indiana Department of Education and the State Board of Education on the diploma requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd D Bess". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Todd D. Bess, Ph.D.  
IASP Executive Director