



Graduation Pathways - Option to Use in Lieu of Graduation Examination with School Board Approval

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The Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted the Graduation Pathways in December 2017. A state law passed last year required the SBOE to establish graduation pathways requirements. See IC 20-32-4-1.5 – the Graduation Pathways law. During the 2018 Indiana General Assembly, a bill was passed clarifying when these pathways take effect. HEA 1426, P.L. 192-2018, amended the Graduation Pathways law, making the requirements effective beginning with the class of 2023, the grade 8 students during the 2018-2019 school year. Students in grade 9 and above are subject to the current graduation requirements, which include passing the graduation examination.

HEA 1426 also added a provision to the Graduation Pathways law. The additional provision allows schools to “voluntarily elect” to use a graduation pathway adopted by the SBOE as a graduation requirement instead of the current graduation examination requirement. See IC 20-32-4-1.5(f). (The Act may be found [HERE](#).) This new law provides school corporations with an opportunity and the flexibility to provide students an option to graduate without taking the current graduation examination. Under the new law, a school may use one of the graduation pathways for students graduating prior to the 2022-2023 school year who have not or are not likely to pass the graduation examination or who do not want to take the graduation examination. Some of the pathways that can be used in lieu of passing the graduation examination requirement for these students to graduate are:

1. meeting either the ACT or the SAT college-ready benchmark score;
2. earning a minimum score to qualify for placement into one of the United States military branches on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB);
3. receiving a state and industry-recognized credential or certification;
4. completing a state, federal, or industry-recognized apprenticeship;
5. earning a C average or higher in at least three courses in any of the following types of courses – Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Credit, or Cambridge International; **or**
6. completing a locally-created pathway approved by the SBOE.

(The entire SBOE-approved Graduation Pathway requirements may be found [HERE](#).)

Because using one of the Graduation Pathways as an alternative to the graduation examination is a graduation requirement that is not required by the SBOE for current high school students, it is an additional graduation requirement. Any school principal or administrator who chooses to use this option for its current high school students’ graduation requirements must have it approved by the school board, as by law the school board must establish any additional graduation requirements. The board may approve the use of one or more graduation pathway in general for any student not passing the graduation examination or who does not want to take the graduation examination and/or may provide criteria required to be met by graduating students who use this option, i.e., failed the graduation examination on their first try. If a locally created pathway is used, the local school board must approve it and it must be approved by the SBOE before it can be used as a graduation requirement. Additional information and resources regarding the Graduation Pathways requirements may be found at <https://www.in.gov/sboe/> under the What’s New heading on this webpage.



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