



# Pathways to College



64% of IN High School Graduates Enter College Directly



43% Remain Enrolled for Their 2nd Year



32% Graduate within 6 Years



Indiana Ranks 42nd in U.S. Higher Education Attainment

Sources: Indiana Commission for Higher Education, 2010 & 2012

In Indiana, college-educated adults are hard to find. Less than 3/4 of our 9th-graders graduate high school on time and, of those who do, only 64% will enter college the following fall. Sadly, approximately three in five of those students will never become sophomores, and a mere 32% will earn a college degree within six years.<sup>1</sup>

**The difficulties associated with the transition from high school to college are cited in many accounts of failure at the postsecondary level.**

Students can feel unprepared for college on emotional, financial, social and, most notably, academic grounds. In fact, nearly 1/5 of Indiana's four-year public university students recently required course remediation.<sup>2</sup>

**To better prepare students for this trying time, it is important to expose them to postsecondary experiences while they are still in high school.** Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual credit programs; Common Core State Standards and assessments; the Core 40 curriculum; and Early College and New Tech high school models all create early exposure opportunities. To learn more about supporting these efforts—and propelling our students toward high-wage, high-demand jobs—read on.

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Sources: <sup>1</sup>Indiana Commission for Higher Education, 2010; <sup>2</sup>Ibid.

# Pathway Nuts & Bolts

## Pathway Benefits

Decrease college costs

Advance workforce preparedness

Motivate students to achieve college success

Increase the rigor of the high school curriculum

Decrease time to achieve a postsecondary degree

Increase number of first-generation college-goers

Connect students to resources for postsecondary preparation

Increase college accessibility for minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged students

## Pathway Fast Facts

**AP** participants are **15-30% more likely** to **graduate** from college

**87.5%** of **dual credit** earners persist **beyond the 1st year** of college; only 43% of Indiana students do

**88%** of **IB** students **finish college** in 6 yrs.; a mere 32% of Hoosiers can say the same

**86%** of **Early College** High School graduates **enroll in college** immediately; 58% of Indiana students join them

**98%** of **New Tech** students are **accepted** to 2- or 4-year universities

Sources: Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning, College Board, Early College High School Initiative, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indiana Department of Education, International Baccalaureate Organization, National Center for Educational Accountability, New Tech Network, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## EASING THE TRANSITION

Because the transition from high school to college is challenging, interventions exist to reduce its shock. The following programs introduce high school students to postsecondary expectations, and help address the urgent need for higher education in Indiana.

### Classroom Level

**Advanced Placement (AP):** A curriculum of advanced high school classes that equate to undergraduate college courses in subject matter and rigor. AP classes culminate in an exam; students passing the exam may qualify for college credit.

**Dual Credit:** Courses taken by high school students that can satisfy requirements for earning both a high school diploma and a college degree.

**International Baccalaureate (IB):** A series of rigorous education programs focused on developing the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills required to live and work in a globalized world. Those passing IB course exams may qualify for college credit.

### School Level

**Early College High School Model:** An educational model blending high school and college into a rigorous, yet supportive program, that compresses the time it takes to complete a high school diploma and an associate degree, or the first two years of credit toward a bachelor's degree.

**New Tech School Model:** A model renowned for its focus on project-based learning that requires students to earn at least 12 college credits prior to graduation.

### State Level

**Common Core State Standards:** A set of standards adopted by 45 states (including Indiana) that defines the knowledge and skills students should have in order to graduate from high school prepared to succeed in academic college courses and workforce training programs.

**Core 40 Curriculum:** Indiana's required high school curriculum. Core 40 is meant to prepare students for success in college, apprenticeship programs, the military and the workforce.

# Pathway Players & Best Practices

## PATHWAY BEST PRACTICES

### *Advanced Placement*

#### **Zionsville Community Schools**

In 2011, 62.8% of this district's high school students took an AP exam. More than half (51.4%) of those students passed, outperforming all other districts in the state. Zionsville offers approximately 20 AP courses from which students can choose.

### *Early College High School*

#### **Ben Davis University High School**

Ben Davis University High School (BDUHS) is one of only three endorsed Early College schools in Indiana. During the 2010-2011 school year, BDUHS celebrated a 100% graduation rate, the state's best. The school recruits 21st Century Scholars and requires a mere 2.2 GPA for admission. Its success demonstrates the true potential of at-risk students enrolled in rigorous coursework.

### *International Baccalaureate*

#### **Goshen High School**

More than 25% of Goshen High School's 2011 graduating class participated in the IB program and took an IB exam. Nearly every student passed the exam, exhibiting the strength of Goshen's IB program.

# 25%

One of the Indiana Department of Education's major goals involves having 25% of all high school students earn:

- a passing score on an AP exam;
- a passing score on an IB exam; or
- three college credits prior to graduation.

## PATHWAY PLAYERS

Click on any program (in italics) or advocate for more.

### *Providers & Their Programs*

Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning

*Indiana Early College High School Network*

*New Tech School Network*

College Board

*Advanced Placement Courses*

Indiana College & University  
Dual Credit Leaders

*Indiana University*

*Ivy Tech Community College*

*Vincennes University*

Indiana Department of Education

*Common Core State Standards*

*Core 40 Curriculum*

International Baccalaureate Organization

*International Baccalaureate  
Diploma Programme*

### *Advocates*

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Indiana Department of Education

Jobs for the Future

Lumina Foundation for Education

# Getting Involved & Learning More

## Analyzing Pathway Proposals

How many students does this proposal help to bridge the gap between high school and college?

Does this proposal aid in ensuring students will be college-ready?

Is professional development for teachers and/or guidance counselors included?

## HOW TO HELP

- Mentor students typically under-represented in higher education; help them understand the importance, rewards and attainability of postsecondary training and coursework
- Collaborate with local schools to offer dual credit classes counting toward the degrees most needed in your community
- Invest in professional development and post-graduate education for high school guidance counselors and teachers; the knowledge gained can lead to improved dual credit offerings
- Offer to subsidize or pay AP and IB exam fees

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click on any of the resources below to learn more.

### Research, Articles & Reports

- AP Report to the Nation
- AP Research Summaries
- A Common Core of Readiness
- Dual Enrollment Research & Readings
- Early College Case Study Report
- Early College High School: Modest Experiment or National Movement?
- Indiana College Readiness Reports
- International Baccalaureate: Program Impact and Quality Assurance Research
- New Tech Network Outcomes 2010-2011

### Videos

- Early College High School: Increased Rigor, Enhanced Support
- Reflections on International Baccalaureate in Indiana
- Why AP?

*Want to learn more about helping students get a jump-start on college?*

**Contact the experts at the University of Indianapolis Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at [cell@uindy.edu](mailto:cell@uindy.edu) or (317) 791-5915.**