



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Bennett continues to challenge students with more AP opportunities

A bill passed during the 2010 legislative session enhances Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett's increased efforts to have more students participating and passing Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams. House Bill 1135, signed into law on March 18, allows students who earn a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam to receive college credit toward a degree if they attend an Indiana public institution of higher education.

"This bill is a win-win for students and education stakeholders across the state," Bennett said. "An additional 10,000 AP exams passed by Hoosier students would now be eligible for an estimated 44,000 college credit hours that were not awarded in the past. Not only will students benefit, but their parents will realize the monetary savings, as well."

Sponsored by state Reps. Porter and Behning and state Sens. Kruse and Rogers, HB 1135 does provide Indiana public institutions of higher education the option of requiring a score higher than 3 to award credit for a highly dependent sequence course that is a part of a student's major, but the student will still receive college credit that counts toward their overall degree requirements needed to graduate. The bill will take effect in time for the 2011 AP exams.

Additionally, IDOE recently announced yet another AP option for students. Beginning this fall (2010-2011), students in Indiana can enroll in virtual AP courses with Pearson K-12 Virtual Learning Powered by Florida Virtual School (FLVS). The partnership will supplement current AP course offerings at schools around the state, and provide a discounted cost to schools and parents from a demonstrated provider of student success. FLVS delivers courses with flexible start and end dates to offer schools and students the greatest opportunity to participate. The cost per-pupil per-semester credit is \$400, including the instructor and all books and materials associated with the course.

"The importance of a rigorous academic course load cannot be overlooked. Students that enroll in these challenging classes — in person or virtually — see a much higher rate of success in college and beyond, and we must continue to make AP classes a clear priority," Bennett said. "This bill and new partnership is a clear sign that state officials and the Indiana General Assembly are ready to make that happen."

In 2009, 20.7 percent of Indiana graduates took an AP exam in high school. Of those graduates, about 50 percent passed an AP exam, equating to 10.4 percent of graduates passing an exam during high school. Bennett has made it his goal to have 25 percent of all graduates taking an AP course and passing an AP test in the next three years.

For more information on HB 1135, go to: <http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2010/HE/HE1135.1.html>

For more information on FLVS Global School, go to: <http://www.flvs.net/areas/flvscourses/Pages/APCourses.aspx>