

CORE 24 Implementation Task Force Discussion and DRAFT Phase-In Recommendations

For Discussion:

Why should funding graduation requirements be a priority in education reform?

Recommendation #1

Make the 24 graduation requirements funding a priority in the overall basic education funding reform. Begin the funding needed to support the increased instructional hours July 1, 2011 for all high school students to enable the Class of 2016 to graduate under the State Board of Education's CORE 24 requirements.

Recommendation #2

The overall basic education funding needs to provide systemic support for struggling students, comprehensive counseling and guidance, curriculum, and materials. Support in these areas for prototypical high schools should be a priority.

Advantages

- Conveys a strong message that funding the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the state-established graduation requirements, established in ESHB 2261 as instruction that provides students the opportunity to complete 24 credits for high school graduation, should be a high priority in basic education reform.
- Funding that begins in 2011 will enable the SBE to achieve its intent to implement CORE 24 requirements for the graduating class of 2016.
- Most districts are already providing the minimum of six instructional hours needed to offer "instruction that provides students the opportunity to complete 24 credits for high school graduation." (ESHB 2261) However, they must use levy money to supplement the state's resources to do so.
- Five years allows one-year of planning for implementation, which the ITF believes is needed to prepare for the more rigorous requirements

Disadvantages

- Funding to support additional instructional hours alone is sufficient to begin implementing CORE 24, but funding for struggling students, comprehensive guidance, and curriculum and materials will need to be phased in, as well.