



“It’s not just about graduation. It’s about preparation.”

–Governor Bob Taft, State of the State, January 25, 2006

Governor Taft’s plan to set Ohio on the right path to future prosperity starts with giving all high school students the academic foundation needed for success in an entry-level job, apprenticeship, the military or college. Here’s the plan:

- ① **Require all students to take the Ohio Core, a rigorous high school curriculum that will prepare them for success in Ohio’s workforce or in college, including:**
 - Four years of mathematics, including Algebra II;
 - Four years of English;
 - Three years of lab-based science, including physical science and biology and one year selected from the disciplines of chemistry, physics or higher-level biology;
 - Three years of social studies; and
 - Two years of foreign language.
- ② **Make completing the Ohio Core a requirement for admission into Ohio’s state-funded four-year colleges and universities.**
- ③ **Focus remedial and developmental education on Ohio’s two-year college campuses, where costs are lower and more focused support systems can be put in place for students.**
- ④ **Require all students in their junior year to take a college and work ready assessment to indicate if they are on track for future success.**
- ⑤ **Add a measure to the School Report Card to indicate how well graduates are prepared for college and work.**

The Ohio Core should be the standard curriculum for all students beginning with the class of 2011. To address unique circumstances, parents should have the option to sign a waiver opting their child out of the rigorous core curriculum.

To enhance the plan, Governor Taft proposes to:

- Provide students with the opportunity to earn at least one semester of college credit while still in high school through dual enrollment, advanced placement or other means;
- Work with the *Higher Education Funding Study Council* to determine ways to fund colleges and universities based upon student course and program completion, not simply student enrollment;
- Support efforts to provide college tuition incentives to increase the number of math and science graduates, including math and science teachers;
- Require schools of education to publish data on the effectiveness of their graduates;
- Challenge schools of education to redesign educational leadership programs;
- Support efforts to distribute workforce dollars based upon industry-recognized credentials; and,
- Focus high school career and technical education state funding on programs that will better meet current workforce needs.