



Acronyms and Glossary

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Acronyms Used in this Document

ACT	American College Test
AEP	American Electric Power
AP	Advanced Placement
AV	Assessed Valuation
BZA	Board of Zoning Appeals
CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation
CDD	Construction/Demolition Debris
CECD	Center for Economic and Community Development
CIS	Community in Schools
CR	County Road
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CTA	Certificate of Technical Achievement
ECCVB	Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau
ED	Economic development
EDC	Economic Development Corporation
FIRE	Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GQE	Graduation Qualifying Exam
IACT	Indiana Association of Cities and Towns
IMPACT	Indiana Manpower and Comprehensive Training
ISO	Insurance Standards Organization
ISTEP+	Indiana Statewide Test for Educational Progress
IT	Information technology
IUPUI	Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis
LQ	Location quotient
MACOG	Michiana Area Council of Governments
MGD	Million gallons per day
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NCLB	No Child Left Behind
NIPSCO	Northern Indiana Public Service Corporation
P-12	Preschool through 12th Grade
RR	Rural residential
RV	Recreational vehicle
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
TAG	Tourism Action Group
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TIF	Tax Increment Finance

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Glossary of Terms and Programs

Blight

Under Indiana law, a “blighted area” means an area in which normal development and occupancy are undesirable or impossible because of: lack of development; cessation of growth; deterioration of improvements; character of occupancy; age; obsolescence; substandard buildings; or other factors that impair values or prevent a normal use or development of property.

Brownfields

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management defines a brownfield site as a parcel of real estate that is abandoned or inactive; or may not be operated at its appropriate use; and on which expansion, redevelopment, or reuse is complicated; because of the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, a contaminant, petroleum, or a petroleum product that poses a risk to human health and the environment.

Certificate of Technical Achievement

The certificate of Technical Achievement is an open transcript that warrants the application of knowledge and skill over time and across venues. A cumulative Certificate of Technical Achievement can follow the learner/worker from high school, into technical college or occupational education, and through a career.

Certified Technology Park

Indiana’s Certified Technology Park program encourages the location of high-technology businesses within areas identified by local redevelopment commissions. Portions of tax revenues generated by tenants are reinvested into the park and used for improvements, operation and maintenance of facilities, payment of interest and principal on bonds and other business-generating activities.

Any city, town or county with a redevelopment commission is eligible to have an area designated as a Certified Technology Park if certain requirements are met, including: demonstrating the significant support of a research university; a commitment to the commercialization of products; access and utilization of public and private resources in the park; the existence of, or proposed development of, a business incubator; the development of a business plan or the assurance that the park will be used for high technology business activity. In addition, a firm commitment must be shown from at least one business primarily engaged in a high-technology activity creating a significant number of jobs that will locate within the park.

Commodity Credit Corporation

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is a Government-owned and operated entity that was created to stabilize, support, and protect farm income and prices. CCC also helps maintain balanced and adequate supplies of agricultural commodities and aids in their orderly distribution.

The CCC Charter Act, as amended, aids producers through loans, purchases, payments, and other operations, and makes available materials and facilities required in the production and marketing of agricultural commodities.



The CCC Charter Act also authorizes the sale of agricultural commodities to other government agencies and to foreign governments and the donation of food to domestic, foreign, or international relief agencies. CCC also assists in the development of new domestic and foreign markets and marketing facilities for agricultural commodities.

Communities in Schools Program

Communities in Schools is a national community-based organization that helps kids succeed in school and prepare for life.

CIS champions the connection of needed community resources with schools. By bringing caring adults into the schools to address children's unmet needs, CIS provides the link between educators and the community. The result: Teachers are free to teach, and students - many in jeopardy of dropping out - finally have the opportunity to focus on learning.

Communities In Schools believes that every child needs and deserves these "Five Basics":

1. one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
2. safe place to learn and grow
3. healthy start and a healthy future
4. marketable skill to use upon graduation
5. chance to give back to peers and community

CIS school-based programs are designed to provide students with at least one of these real basics - building communities of help, hope and care.

Conservation Reserve Program

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistance to farmers and ranchers in complying with Federal, State, and tribal environmental laws, and encourages environmental enhancement. The program is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency, with NRCS providing technical land eligibility determinations, Environmental Benefit Index Scoring, and conservation planning.

The Conservation Reserve Program reduces soil erosion, protects the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

Graduation Qualifying Exam

Indiana high school graduates must meet the Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) requirement in addition to earning the course credits required to qualify for an Indiana high school diploma. The GQE measures Grade 9 skills in English/language arts and mathematics. The GQE was added to

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state law in 1992 by the Indiana General Assembly as a response to concerns expressed by parents, employers, and the higher education community. These groups saw that some recent graduates were leaving high school and entering the workforce and postsecondary education without the skills needed to succeed. Passing the GQE academic standard will ensure that your child has mastered the basics in reading, writing, and mathematics, and will guarantee that your child's diploma means more. Indiana's GQE is a continuation of the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) program and consists of two sections: English/language arts and mathematics.

Incubator

A company or facility designed to foster entrepreneurship and help startup companies, usually technology-related, to grow through the use of shared resources, management expertise, and intellectual capital.

Infill development

Development of vacant parcels within the urban area. Typically single structure development, as opposed to residential subdivision development, industrial park or business park development.

Indiana Manpower and Comprehensive Training

Provides services designed to help recipients of Food Stamps and TANF achieve economic self-sufficiency through education, training, job search and job placement activities.

IMPACT services are a component of Indiana's Welfare-to-Work program—a critical element of Indiana's welfare reform initiatives—which places an increasing emphasis on “work first”. “Work First” means that individuals are expected to accept a job when it can be secured with their existing education and skills.

Labor Force

The labor force is the number of people in a county who work, regardless of where they work (in the county of residence or in another county).

Learning Generation Initiative

The Learning Generation Initiative (LGI) is a local organization brought about by a coalition between the community foundations of Elkhart and LaGrange Counties through a \$10 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. Community Alliances to Promote Education (CAPE) Initiative. The CAPE Initiative's purpose is to measurably improve educational attainment in Indiana. The CAPE application process provided stringent criteria by which the community foundations had to identify local needs and develop programs and approaches to addressing them.

The Learning Generation Initiative (LGI) will initiate, coordinate, and promote learning programs that foster and support a “lifestyle of learning” in Elkhart and LaGrange counties. LGI will bring learning alive in its bi-county community, providing a wide range of learning opportunities that are widely valued and widely used by the population it serves. LGI's strategic, targeted, and focused



learning programs will center on the educational needs identified for three important segments of its community: infants and children up to seven years of age, adolescents ranging from thirteen to eighteen years of age, and adults nineteen years of age and older.

No Child Left Behind

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* is an education reform designed to improve student achievement and change the culture of America's schools. With passage of *No Child Left Behind*, Congress reauthorized the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*—the principal federal law affecting education from kindergarten through high school. In amending *ESEA*, the new law represents an overhaul of federal efforts to support elementary and secondary education in the United States. It is built on four pillars: accountability for results; an emphasis on doing what works based on scientific research; expanded parental options; and expanded local control and flexibility.

PL 221

Indiana Code 20-10.2 (P.L.221-1999, Indiana's school accountability law) defines public school as any school, including an alternative school, operated by a school corporation (Indiana's term for school district) and any charter school. Indiana Code 20-10.2-5-2 requires the IDOE to compare performance of each school and school corporation to its prior performance as a part of the accountability system.

Indiana must align with the No Child Left Behind Act in order to receive federal funding. NCLB includes many concepts that are a part of PL221, the Indiana accountability law, including high academic standards, assessment through testing, accountability for achievement, data-based decision-making, and focusing on the needs of all children.

Tax Increment Financing

Tax increment financing (TIF) is an economic development financing tool used to capture property tax revenue attributable to increases in assessed value (AV). Increases in AV occur when private development takes place in a defined geographical area designated by local government. When a TIF area is created the AV is frozen. As development occurs, the property taxes paid on the increase in the AV is captured and can be used to pay for infrastructure improvements, debt payments on bonds issued to facilitate the development, and a variety of other costs incurred to generate additional development in the designated area.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) is a program that provides cash assistance to children under age 18 who are deprived of financial support of a parent. Eligibility requires a child who is living with a parent or relative such as a grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc., and deprived of financial support from a parent by reason of death, absence from the home, unemployment, or a physical or mental incapacity. A family may not possess assets valued in excess of \$1,000 at the time application for assistance is made. The house, which is the usual residence, is exempt.

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Value-added

The enhancement added to a product or service by a company before the product is offered to customers.

Venture Capital

Funds made available for startup firms and small businesses with exceptional growth potential. Managerial and technical expertise are often also provided.

Work force

The work force is the number of people who work in a county, regardless of their county of residence.

WorkKeys®

WorkKeys®, is ACT's comprehensive system for improving the workforce. The system includes job profiling and assessment to match student's skill levels and interests with the needs of employers.

WorkKeys® job profiles accomplish the key task of job analysis, helping employers identify the levels of skills current and prospective employees need in order to be successful on the job. Job profiles also provide individuals with a clear picture of the skill levels they need to qualify for and be successful in the jobs they want.

The job profiling component, combined with WorkKeys® assessments, instruction, and reporting, allows students and workers to make appropriate decisions about jobs and to identify their strengths and weaknesses as they pursue their education and career goals.

WorkKeys® assessments give students and workers reliable information about their workplace skill levels. Combined with information about skill levels required for jobs, assessment information can enable users to make better career and educational decisions.