

# A SINGLE, RIGOROUS CURRICULUM FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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P-16 Council  
Agenda Item E-3  
September 21, 2001

## Discussion

At its March and June meetings, the P-16 Council reviewed recent research on the benefits of aligning high school graduation requirements with statewide minimum postsecondary admissions requirements. The benefits might include better academic achievement by students who do not normally take college preparatory courses. The P-16 Council reviewed the relation of educational attainment to earnings capacity and discussed the increase in jobs requiring preparation beyond high school. In June, Kati Haycock, Executive Director of The Education Trust, presented *Achievement in America: 2001*, highlighting both the academic benefits and the economic implications of preparing all high school graduates for some postsecondary study.

In August, the Board of Education asked the staff to continue looking at the implementation of the alignment team recommendations, which would directly affect the Program of Studies.

At this point, the P-16 Council may wish to provide direction and identify options for proceeding in this policy area. Possible P-16 Council actions include:

- Exploring local options for reducing the current practice of "tracking" students into either a pre-college curriculum or a non-college preparatory curriculum.
- Directing the staff of the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Department of Education to develop together a single core "default" curriculum to serve as a high school graduation and minimal postsecondary admission standard for consideration by the two boards.