

## Description of HB 1400 Three-Tiered Diploma System

Go to <http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/61-2009/bill-text/JARF0500.pdf>  
(Sections 9 – 14 for a more complete description)

**Diploma with Academic Honors** – In order to receive a diploma with academic honors a student must meet the basic graduation requirements specified in HB 1400 plus some additional requirements in order to qualify for a \$750 per semester college scholarship, plus an Opportunity Grant. Those additional requirements would include the completion of Algebra II and one additional math course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite, 2 units of a language, 1 unit of fine arts or career and technical education, and 1 unit of either a language or fine arts, career and technical education, receiving at least a "C" in each required unit and a 3.0 GPA overall, a score of 24 on ACT or equivalent score on SAT, and completes AP or dual-credit course.

**Diploma with Technical Honors** – In order to receive a diploma with technical honors and qualify for a \$750 per semester postsecondary scholarship, a student must complete the basic high school graduation requirements specified by HB 1400 plus some additional requirements. These include, 3 units of math with Algebra II being one of those units, 3 of science, two units of a plan of study recommended by the state department of career and technical education, an additional 3 units with 2 of those being career and technical credits, a grade of at least a "C" in each required unit, and 3.0 GPA overall, a score of 24 on ACT or equivalent SAT, or a score of at least five of each three WorkKeys assessments recommended by the department of career and technical education and approved by the superintendent of public instruction

**Optional High School Diploma** - If after at least two years of high school a student has failed to pass at least 1/2 unit of courses required for graduation or has a GPA that is below the 25th percentile of other students in the district in the same grade, **the student can request that the student's career advisor, guidance counselor, or principal meet with the student and the student's parents to see if the student should be permitted to pursue an optional high school curriculum.** In order to graduate, the student would have to successfully complete 4 units of English, 2 math, 2 science, 3 social studies, 2 units of a language, fine arts, 7 other credits in addition to physical education and health.