

## Graduation Requirements

In support of student development goals set out in [KRS 158.6451](#) and the Kentucky Academic Expectations, each student shall complete an individual learning plan which focuses on career exploration and related postsecondary education and training needs and shall complete a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits, including demonstrated performance-based competency in technology for high school graduation. All required courses shall include content contained in the [Kentucky Academic Standards](#), and electives shall address academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences, including four (4) credits in an academic or career interest based on the student's individual learning plan.

Beginning July 1, 2018, students wishing to receive a regular diploma must pass a civics test made up of one hundred (100) questions selected from the civics test administered to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens and prepared or approved by the Board. A minimum score of sixty percent (60%) is required to pass the test and students may take the test as many times as needed to pass. Students that have passed a similar test within the previous five (5) years shall be exempt from this civics test. This shall be subject to the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program or a Section 504 Plan.

Those credits shall include the following:

English	four (4) credits
Mathematics	four (4) credits*
Science	four (4) credits*
Social Studies	three (3)
Health	one-half (1/2) credit
Physical Education	one-half (1/2) credit
Visual and Performing Arts	one (1) credit
Vocational Studies	one (1) credit
Electives	six (6) credits

\* Students may fulfill their fourth math and fourth science credit requirements upon successful completion of a vocational program (six credits) through the KY Tech-Carroll County Area Technology Center.

Students must meet additional requirements as established in [704 KAR 003:305](#), including a requirement to take at least one (1) language arts and one (1) mathematics class each year of high school in order to graduate. Students that do not meet the college readiness benchmarks for English and language arts and/or mathematics shall take a transitional course or intervention before exiting high school.

### **ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the twenty-four (24) credits required for high school graduation students must demonstrate mastery of essential mathematical skills at each grade level.

### **DUAL CREDIT**

Dual credit may be granted for college courses taken according to Board policy.

## **Graduation Requirements**

### **PERFORMANCE-BASED CREDIT**

In addition to Carnegie units, students may earn credit toward high school graduation through the District's standards-based, performance-based credit system that complies with requirements of Kentucky Administrative Regulation. Procedures for the developing and amending the system shall address the following:

1. Conditions under which high school credit will be granted under the system that allow students to demonstrate proficiency and earn credit for learning acquired outside the normal classroom setting, outside of school, or in prior learning;  
Performance-based credit may be earned while the student is still "in school," but the instructional setting will look different from a traditional "seat time" environment.
2. Performance descriptors and their linkages to State content standards and academic expectations;  
At the high school level, performance descriptors and evaluation procedures shall be established to determine if the content and performance standards have been met.
3. Assessments and the extent to which state-mandated assessments will be used;
4. An objective grading and reporting process; and
5. Criteria to promote and support school and community learning experiences, such as internships and cooperative learning, in support of a student's individual learning plan. Such experiences shall be supervised by qualified instructors and aligned with State and District content and performance standards.

The high school student handbook shall include complete details concerning specific graduation requirements.

### **TRANSFER STUDENTS**

Within thirty (30) days of a student's transfer, an Individual Graduation/Learning Plan will be developed to reflect the student's graduation requirements. Credits will be granted from within the above framework.

### **HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES**

To differentiate the curriculum to meet the needs of all students, the District shall offer selected courses of study for which a middle school student may earn high school credit. A grade of B or above earned by students who choose to participate in these courses shall be transferred to the high school, be included in the calculation of a student's high school grade point average (GPA), and become part of the student's official high school transcript.

A middle school student may enroll in a high school course for high school credit provided the following criteria are met:

1. The student has demonstrated mastery of the middle school content as specified in the Kentucky Academic Standards, before enrolling in the high school course.
2. The content of the course offered to the middle school student is the same as that defined in the Kentucky Academic Standards and the Core Content for the high school course and the same textbook shall be used.

## **Graduation Requirements**

### **HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES (CONTINUED)**

3. The District/school has made a reasonable determination that the middle school student is capable of success in the high school course. Reasonable determination may include, but not be limited to, consideration of the student's previous success in the content area, recommendation of a teacher, recommendation of a parent, and/or satisfactory performance on a norm- or criterion-referenced assessment in the content area.
4. The course at the middle school level is taught by a teacher with either secondary or middle school certification with the appropriate content specialization.

In keeping with statutory requirements, the District shall accept for credit toward graduation and completion of high school course requirements an advanced placement or a high school equivalent course taken by a student in grades 5, 6, 7, or 8 if that student attains performance levels expected of high school students in the District as determined by achieving a score of "3" or higher on a College Board Advanced Placement examination or a grade of "B" or better in a high school equivalent.<sup>2</sup>

### **GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

Graduation ceremonies shall be held at 2:30 p.m. on the first Sunday immediately following the last student attendance day of each school year.

### **OTHER PROVISIONS**

The Board may grant different diplomas to those students who complete credits above the minimum number as established by the Kentucky Board of Education. In addition, the Board may award a diploma to a student posthumously indicating graduation with the class with which the student was expected to graduate.

No student shall be permitted to participate in graduation exercises until all graduation requirements determined by the Principal and staff are fulfilled.

The Board, Superintendent, Principal, or teacher may award special recognition to students.

If the severity of an exceptional student's disability precludes a course of study leading to receipt of a diploma, an alternative program shall be offered. Alternative programs shall be based upon the student's needs as identified/specified in the IEP or individual learning plan and shall be reviewed at least annually. Consistent with the District's graduation practices for all students, an alternative high school diploma shall be awarded to students with disabilities in compliance with applicable legal requirements. In addition, former students may submit to the Superintendent a request that the District provide them with an alternative high school diploma to replace the certificate of attainment they received at time of graduation from the District.<sup>3</sup>

A student who is at least seventeen (17) years of age and who is a state agency child, as defined in [KRS 158.135](#), shall be eligible to seek attainment of a High School Equivalency Diploma.

## **Graduation Requirements**

### **EARLY GRADUATION CERTIFICATE**

Students who meet all applicable legal requirements shall be eligible for early graduation in relation to receipt of an Early Graduation Certificate. Students wishing to follow an early graduation pathway shall notify the Principal of their intent prior to the beginning of grade nine (9) or as soon thereafter as the intent is known, but within the first thirty (30) school days of the academic year in which they wish to graduate. A Letter of Intent to Apply shall be entered into the student information system by October 1 of the year the student declares intent to graduate early.<sup>4</sup>

Students working toward receipt of an Early Graduation Certificate shall be supported by development and monitoring of an individual learning plan.

Students who meet all applicable legal requirements shall be awarded a diploma and an Early Graduation Certificate.

### **DIPLOMAS FOR VETERANS**

In keeping with statute and regulation, the Board shall award an authentic high school diploma to an honorably discharged veteran who was enrolled in, but did not complete, high school prior to being inducted into the United States Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam War.<sup>1</sup>

### **REFERENCES:**

<sup>1</sup>[KRS 40.010](#); [KRS 158.140](#); [704 KAR 007:140](#)

<sup>2</sup>[KRS 158.622](#)

<sup>3</sup>[KRS 156.160](#); 20 U.S.C. sec. 1414

<sup>4</sup>[KRS 158.142](#); [704 KAR 003:305](#)

[KRS 156.027](#); [KRS 158.135](#)

[KRS 158.141](#); [KRS 158.143](#); [KRS 158.183](#); [KRS 158.281](#)

[KRS 158.302](#); [KRS 158.645](#)

[KRS 158.6451](#); [KRS 158.860](#)

[013 KAR 002:020](#)

[702 KAR 007:125](#); [703 KAR 004:060](#)

[704 KAR 003:303](#); [704 KAR 003:306](#)

[OAG 78-348](#); [OAG 82-386](#)

[Kentucky Academic Standards](#)

### **RELATED POLICIES:**

08.1131; 08.14; 08.22; 08.222

09.126 (re requirements/exceptions for students from military families)

Adopted/Amended: 8/24/2017

Order #: 61461