

LEGAL: SB 61 AMENDS KRS 158.142 TO REMOVE BENCHMARK SCORES FOR END-OF-COURSE EXAMINATIONS AND THE ACT AS REQUIREMENTS FOR EARLY GRADUATION.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: NONE ANTICIPATED

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

08.113

### **Graduation Requirements**

In support of student development goals set out in KRS 158.6451 and the Kentucky Academic Standards, students must complete a minimum of twenty-two (22) credits, including demonstrated performance-based competency in technology, and all other state and local requirements in order to graduate from high school in the District.

#### **CIVICS EXAM REQUIREMENT**

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 (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan.<sup>5</sup>

#### **INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLAN (ILP)**

Students shall complete an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) that focuses on career exploration and related postsecondary education and training needs.

#### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOARD**

In addition to the content requirements established by the Kentucky Academic Standards, and the credits required by the minimum requirements for high school graduation in 704 KAR 3:305, the Board may impose other requirements for graduation from high school. However, the Board shall not adopt any graduation requirements that include achieving a minimum score on a statewide assessment.

### Graduation Requirements

#### **FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE NINE (9) ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Credits shall include content standards as provided by the Kentucky Academic Standards established in 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

Language Arts	Four (4) Credits (English I, II, III, and IV) taken each year of high school. Students that do not meet the college readiness benchmarks for English and language arts shall take a transitional course or intervention, which is monitored to address remediation needs, before exiting high school.
Social Studies	Three (3) Credits
Mathematics	Three (3) Credits (Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II); An integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, occupational, or technical course that prepares a student for a career path based on the student's ILP may be substituted for a traditional Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II course on an individual student basis if the course meets the content standards in the Kentucky Academic Standards, established in 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 Chapter 8. A mathematics course or its equivalent as determined by the District shall be taken each year of high school to ensure readiness for postsecondary education or the workforce. Any mathematics course other than Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II shall be counted as an elective. Students that do not meet the college readiness benchmarks for mathematics shall take a transitional course or intervention, which is monitored to address remediation needs, before exiting high school.
Science	Three (3) Credits incorporating lab-based scientific investigation
Health	One-half (1/2) Credit
P.E.	One-half (1/2) Credit
Visual and Performing Arts	One (1) Credit or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's ILP
Academic and Career Interest Standards-based Learning Experiences	Seven (7) Credits total (Three (3) plus four (4) standards-based credits in an academic or career interest based on the student's ILP)
Technology	Demonstrated performance-based competency

**Graduation Requirements****FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE NINE (9) ON OR AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Credits shall include content standards as provided by the Kentucky Academic Standards established in 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

English/Language Arts	Four (4) Credits total (English I, <del>II, III, and IV</del> ) <del>and II plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP</del>
Social Studies	Three (3) Credits total – <del>Including World History, U.S. History, and Government</del> <del>(Two (2) plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)</del>
Mathematics	Four (4) Credits <del>must be taken in high school. (Graduation Requirements include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II at minimum.)</del> <del>total (Algebra I and Geometry plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)</del>
Science	Three (3) Credits total <del>—(Two (2) credits incorporating lab-based scientific investigation experiences plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)</del>
Health	One-half (1/2) Credit
P.E.	One-half (1/2) Credit
Visual and Performing Arts	One (1) Credit or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's ILP
Academic and Career Interest Standards-based Learning Experiences	Six (6) Credits total <del>(Two (2) plus four (4) standards-based credits in an academic or career interest based on the student's ILP)</del>
Technology	Demonstrated performance-based competency

**Graduation Requirements****FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE NINE (9) ON OR AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Credits shall include content standards as provided by the Kentucky Academic Standards established in 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

English/Language Arts	Four (4) Credits total (English I, <del>and II, III, and IV</del> ) <del>plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP</del>
Social Studies	Three (3) Credits total – <u>Including World History, U.S. History, and Government</u> <del>(Two (2) plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)</del>
Mathematics	Four (4) Credits total <u>must be taken in high school. (Graduation requirements include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II at minimum.)</u> <del>(Algebra I and Geometry plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)</del>
Science	Three (3) Credits total <del>— (Two (2) credits</del> incorporating lab-based scientific investigation experiences <del>plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)</del>
Health	One-half (1/2) Credit
P.E.	One-half (1/2) Credit
Visual and Performing Arts	One (1) Credit or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's ILP
Academic and Career Interest Standards-based Learning Experiences	Six (6) Credits total <del>(Two (2) plus four (4) standards-based credits in an academic or career interest based on the student's ILP)</del>
Technology	Demonstrated performance-based competency
Financial Literacy	One (1) or more courses or programs that meet the financial literacy requirements pursuant to KRS 158.1411.

## **Graduation Requirements**

### **ACADEMIC LOAD**

All high school students shall be enrolled in at least six (6) subjects, unless assigned as a student assistant for one (1) period.

### **PERFORMANCE-BASED CREDITS**

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 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 standards;

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 ILP. 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, including courses that meet the minimum requirements.

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>

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

Middle school students may take designated courses that will count toward graduation requirements. However, the following requirement shall apply:

- Middle school student taking such courses must earn at least a B average and pass the final exam in the class for the course to count toward graduation.
- Grades earned in those courses shall not be used to calculate a student's high school grade point average (GPA).

## **Graduation Requirements**

### **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

In order to graduate, seniors must successfully complete requirements of the Student Assessment Program.

In collaboration with department chairs, the SBDM Council shall determine the courses that meet credit requirements.

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

### **OTHER PROVISIONS**

Diplomas shall be presented at Commencement. The Board, Superintendent, Principal, or teacher may award special recognition to students. (See Policy 08.2211.)

Only those senior students who meet all requirements of this policy shall be permitted to participate in graduation activities, except that, under procedures developed by the Superintendent, academically accelerated students assigned to a senior homeroom shall be permitted to participate in Commencement.

Seniors participating in Commencement shall wear caps and gowns approved by the Board.

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.

The Board may substitute an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, occupational, technical, or higher-level course for a required course if the alternative course provides rigorous content.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT CAPSTONE DIPLOMA**

Students who wish to earn the Capstone Diploma must meet the following requirements:

- Complete the requirements of Kentucky's Pre-college curriculum;
- Complete the College Board courses titled AP Seminar and AP Research and the accompanying exams; and
- Complete and earn a passing score of three (3) or better on four (4) additional Advanced Placement courses.

Students who meet the above criteria shall be awarded the Capstone Diploma and recognized at the Highlands High School Commencement. Students who earn a three (3) or better in both AP Seminar and AP Research as well as a three (3) or better in four (4) additional AP courses shall be awarded the AP Capstone Diploma through the College Board. Those who meet the requirements but not on four (4) additional courses will earn a Capstone Certificate through the College Board.

## **Graduation Requirements**

### **EARLY GRADUATION CERTIFICATE**

Students who meet all applicable legal requirements shall be eligible for early graduation in relation to receipt of a graduation diploma and 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 ILP to support their efforts.

To graduate early and earn an Early Graduation Certificate, a student shall [successfully complete the requirements for early high school graduation as established in administrative regulation by the Kentucky Board of Education.](#)<sup>5</sup>

~~1. Score proficient or higher on the state required assessments; and~~

~~1. Meet the college readiness exam benchmarks established 13 KAR 2:020 for placement in credit bearing courses without the need for remediation.~~

A student who has indicated an intent to graduate early may participate in the student's state administration of the college readiness exam prior to the junior year, if needed. Students who meet all applicable legal requirements shall be awarded a diploma and an Early Graduation Certificate.

### **TRANSCRIPTS**

Upon graduation, each student shall receive an official transcript of his/her secondary school record. Additional copies shall be provided for a minimal fee upon student request.

### **DIPLOMAS FOR VETERANS**

In keeping with statute and regulation, the Board shall award an authentic high school diploma to an honorably discharged veteran who 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 7:140

<sup>2</sup>KRS 158.622

<sup>3</sup>KRS 156.160; 20 U.S.C. § 1414

<sup>4</sup>KRS 158.142; 704 KAR 3:305

<sup>5</sup>KRS 158.141

KRS 156.027; KRS 158.135

KRS 158.1411; KRS 158.143; KRS 158.183; KRS 158.281

KRS 158.302; KRS 158.645; KRS 158.6451

KRS 158.860

13 KAR 2:020; 702 KAR 7:125; 703 KAR 4:060

704 KAR 3:303; 704 KAR 3:306; 704 KAR 7:090; 704 KAR Chapter 8

OAG 78-348; OAG 82-386

Kentucky Academic Standards

**Graduation Requirements**

**RELATED POLICIES:**

08.1131; 08.14; 08.22; 08.2211; 08.222; 08.4  
09.126 (re requirements/exceptions for students from military families)

**RELATED PROCEDURE:**

09.12 AP.25