

**Waiver is requested for the following Kentucky Administrative Regulation:**

**704 KAR 3:305 Minimum Requirements for High School Graduation – Section 2**

**Please describe the justification for your waiver request. Please include the specific language that you wish to have relief from and what your expected outcome is. Also, include your plan to measure the effectiveness of the initiative you propose. Please reference the administrative regulation in your response and complete a separate text box for each regulation for which you are requesting a waiver.**

704 KAR 3:305(2) states:

*Beginning with the graduating class of 2012, each student in a common school shall have a total of at least twenty-two (22) credits for high school graduation. Those credits shall include the content standards as provided in the Kentucky core academic standards, 704 KAR 3:303. Additional standards-based learning experiences shall align to the student's individual learning plan and shall consist of standards-based content. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:*

*(1) Language arts - four (4) credits (English I, II, III, and IV) to include the content contained in the Kentucky core academic standards for English and language arts.*

*(a) Language arts shall be taken each year of high school.*

*(b) If a student does not meet the college readiness benchmarks for English and language arts as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13 KAR 2:020, the student shall take an English and language arts transitional course or intervention, which is monitored to address remediation needs, before exiting high school;*

*(2) Social studies - three (3) credits to include the content contained in the Kentucky core academic standards for social studies;*

*(3) Mathematics - four (4) courses of mathematics, including three (3) credits that shall include the content contained in the Kentucky core academic standards for mathematics and include the following minimum requirements:*

*(a) 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 individual learning plan 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 core academic standards, 704 KAR 3:303;*

*(b) 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; and*

*(c) If a student does not meet the college readiness benchmarks for mathematics as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13 KAR 2:020, the student shall take a mathematics transitional course or intervention, which is monitored to address remediation needs, before exiting high school; and*

*(d) Prealgebra shall not be counted as one (1) of the three (3) required mathematics credits for high school graduation but may be counted as an elective;*

*(4) Science - three (3) credits that shall incorporate lab-based scientific investigation experiences and include the content contained in the Kentucky core academic standards for health;*

*(5) Health - one-half (1/2) credit to include the content contained in the Kentucky core academic standards for health;*

*(6) Physical education - one-half (1/2) credit to include the content contained in the Kentucky core academic standards for physical education;*

- (7) *History and appreciation of visual and performing arts (or another arts course which incorporates this content) - one (1) credit to include the content contained in the Kentucky core academic standards for arts and humanities or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's individual learning plan;*
- (8) *Academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences - seven (7) credits including four (4) standards-based learning experiences in an academic or career interest based on the student's individual learning plan; and*
- (9) *Demonstrated performance-based competency in technology.*

The districts named in this waiver request, seek certain relief from this section of the regulation and wish to add a second method for determining high school graduation. This option would allow these districts to award a high school diploma to students who complete a specific set of criteria regardless of when they complete the criteria so that they may pursue their next level of educational attainment. Specifically, the districts would like waiver of this section to do the following:

**Section 1. Any student in a district covered under this waiver who completes the requirements listed below, may be considered to have met the high school graduation requirements of 704 KAR 3:305 and may, in accordance with local board policy and having completed at least their second year of high school, be eligible for a high school diploma and admission to an accredited two or four year open enrollment college or university. These requirements make up the “lower division” of high school:**

- 1) Obtain a qualifying benchmark score, as determined by the Kentucky Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education after advice from the National Center on Education and the Economy’s Technical Advisory Committee, on ACT® Quality Core Assessments in seven content areas:**
  - Algebra I and Geometry
  - English I and II
  - Biology and Chemistry
  - U.S. History
- 2) Achieve the status of “college and/or career ready” based on successful completion of one of the pathways outlined in 703 KAR 5:200; students pursuing this alternate pathway to graduation may receive their state mandated administration of the PLAN assessment and ACT on an accelerated schedule.**
- 3) Provide evidence of successful completion, as determined by district policy and approved by the Kentucky Department of Education, of a World History course;**
- 4) Provide evidence of successful completion, as determined by district policy and approved by the Kentucky Department of Education, of a performance assessment in one or more of the visual or performing arts or completion of a course that incorporates the arts and humanities content from the Kentucky Core Academic Standards.**

**Section 2. A student who pursues this alternative to the credit-based graduation outlined in 704 KAR 3:305 and is successful in completing the requirements at the end of their second year of high school, or any time thereafter, shall have two options available to them and shall choose an option after consultation with family, guidance and other counselors and school teachers and administrators. Those options are:**

- 1) Take advantage of the early graduation option and leave high school and pursue their postsecondary education. Choosing this option will result in the student receiving a Kentucky high school diploma; or
- 2) Remain at the high school and pursue an “upper division” of a highly rigorous instructional program (including career pathways programs) that is addressed in local board policy. These programs may contain dual credit and other advance credit opportunities.

In addition, to providing all the requirements listed above for the “lower division, the district agrees to provide the following:

- 1) sufficient “safety-net” programs for students in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade who are not succeeding in the “lower division”.
- 2) sufficient interventions for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to improve the likelihood of mastering the lower division requirements prior to the completion of high school.
- 3) allow any student who has not satisfied the “lower division” requirements to retake the assessment for any of the “lower division” requirements at any future School-specified time such assessment is being administered;

Each district requesting this waiver also agrees to:

- 1) keep detailed records showing evidence that these criteria have been met and to make available these records as requested by the Kentucky Board of Education.
- 2) Participate in a national study through the University of Michigan looking at the effectiveness of this alternative model.
- 3) At the request of the Kentucky Board of Education and after an appropriate length of time, report to the KBE on the postsecondary success of the students who participate in this alternate pathway.