

Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements specified by state regulations and by the Board shall be completed before a student is awarded a high school diploma or alternative high school diploma certificate of achievement for qualifying students with disabilities. The Superintendent/designee shall develop procedures to give reasonable prior notification of graduation requirements to all students.

In support of student development goals set out in [KRS 158.6451](#) and the Kentucky Academic Expectations, 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. 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.

In addition to the credits required by the Kentucky's Core Academic Standards, the Board may impose other credit requirements for graduation from high school. Students shall complete an individual learning plan that focuses on career exploration and related postsecondary education training needs.

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 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.

Graduation Requirements

PERFORMANCE-BASED CREDITS (CONTINUED)

The high school student progression, promotion, and grading handbook shall include complete details concerning specific graduation 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.²

GRADUATION EXERCISES

Students shall complete all requirements for graduation before taking part in graduation exercises. Summer graduation exercises may be provided for pupils completing requirements in summer school. Students are not required to participate in graduation exercises. Schools shall comply with state regulations regarding participation of students with disabilities in graduation exercises.

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.

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

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 the time of graduation from the District.³

EARLY GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

~~Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, s~~Students who ~~complete an early high school graduation program and~~ meet all applicable legal requirements shall be ~~awarded an~~eligible for ~~early graduation in relation to receipt of an~~ Early Graduation ~~Scholarship~~Certificate. Students ~~planning to complete~~wishing to follow an early graduation ~~program~~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.~~⁴

~~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.~~

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**DIPLOMAS FOR VETERANS**

In keeping with statute and regulation, upon request, 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.¹

REFERENCES:

¹[KRS 40.010; KRS 158.140; 704 KAR 7:140](#)

²[KRS 158.622](#)

³[KRS 156.160; ~~704 KAR 3:305~~](#); 20 U.S.C. sec. 1414

⁴[KRS 158.142](#)

~~[KRS 158.140; 704 KAR 7:140](#)~~

[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](#)

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

[Kentucky's Core Academic Standards](#)

RELATED POLICIES:

08.1131; 08.14, 08.22

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

Adopted/Amended: 01/13/2014

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Early Hardship Graduation**HARDSHIP REQUESTS**

Students who experience extreme health or economic hardship may apply for assistance with graduation requirements for hardship reasons. In the case of extreme hardship, the District may provide alternative methods for the student to complete District graduation requirements which may allow for early graduation. Methods may include, but are not limited to, regular classroom instruction, alternative classroom instruction, online courses, performance-based opportunities, college programs, consideration of waiver of District requirements that exceed state minimums (the District cannot waive state minimums), or credit recovery.

~~Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, students who complete an early high school graduation program and meet all applicable legal requirements shall be awarded an Early Graduation Scholarship Certificate. Students planning to complete an early graduation program shall notify the Principal of their intent prior to the beginning of grade nine (9) or as soon thereafter as the intent is known.~~

~~Otherwise, the Board shall encourage students to obtain a diploma/certificate through a four (4) year program. However, students wishing to complete all state and local graduation requirements prior to the four (4) year program, may declare their intent before the end of the tenth (10th) grade.~~

~~The local requirement for the fourth (4th) year of language arts may be satisfied by successful completion of a freshman English course in an accredited college or university provided prior approval of the Principal/designee is obtained.~~

REFERENCE:

KRS 158.142704 KAR 3:305

RELATED POLICY:

08.113

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School Calendar

DEVELOPMENT OF CALENDAR

The Superintendent shall annually develop the school calendar in cooperation with a representative group from the school community. The Superintendent shall appoint the committee, which shall include a member of the Board, no later than October 1 of the preceding year. The calendar shall be presented for Board consideration and approval on or before May 15th and shall include provisions for a reasonable number of make-up days. The Superintendent/designee shall develop procedures for requests to the Board by schools desiring to deviate from the District school calendar.

The calendar shall establish the following:

1. Opening and closing dates of the school term,
2. Beginning and ending dates of each school month,
3. Number and minimum length of instructional student attendance days,
4. Instructional time required for kindergarten if in excess of the minimum three (3) hours of daily instruction,
5. Any instructional time to be banked to make up for full days that may be missed due to an emergency,
6. Days on which schools shall be dismissed, and
7. A testing window in accordance with [KRS 158.6453](#) and [KRS 164.302](#) to accommodate state-mandated assessments.

The Board may amend the school calendar after it is adopted due to an emergency. The Board may lengthen or shorten any remaining student attendance days by thirty (30) minutes or more, as necessary provided it meets at minimum, a student instructional year as defined in statute. No student attendance day may contain more than seven (7) hours of instructional time unless the District submits and receives approval from the Commissioner of Education for an innovative alternative calendar.

The Board may schedule days for breaks in the calendar that shall not be counted as part of the minimum school term.

Schools shall be closed on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in Presidential election years.

Schools shall be closed on the day of a regular or primary election, and those days may be used for professional development activities, professional meetings, or parent-teacher conferences.

REFERENCES:

[702 KAR 7:130](#); [702 KAR 7:140](#)
[KRS 2.190](#); [KRS 118.035](#)
[KRS 157.360](#); [KRS 158.070](#)
[KRS 158.6453](#); [KRS 164.302](#)

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School Term

The school term shall include at least four (4) days to be used for professional development and collegial planning activities for the professional staff as directed by statute, regulations, and policy. Additional days permitted by statute and authorized by the Board may be used for professional development and planning activities for the professional staff. Four (4) days may be used for holidays, and two (2) days may be used for planning activities.

If schools are scheduled to operate during days designated for statewide professional meetings, the District shall permit ~~teachers~~employees who are delegates to attend in keeping with statutory requirements.¹

REFERENCES:

¹[KRS 158.070](#)
[702 KAR 7:125](#); [704 KAR 3:035](#)
[KRS 2.110](#); [KRS 156.095](#)
[OAG 97-25](#)

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Adult/Community Education

The Board through the District's Adult Education Department shall provide programs and classes including basic education and occupational education for adults of the community.

Programs and classes shall be offered to provide for special interests and to meet the needs of adults in the community using tuition and funds from grants and awards to cover the cost. The classes shall be offered at appropriate times and locations to meet the needs of the adult population of Jefferson County.

SECONDARY GED PROGRAM

~~Through the end of the 2013-2014 school year and provided prior approval has been secured from the Kentucky Department of Education, the District may establish a Secondary GED Program.~~

SCHOOL FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

The Board authorizes the use of school facilities and resources for conducting these programs and further authorizes the acceptance of other agency funds for their operation.

REFERENCES:

[KRS 164.0064](#)

[KRS 160.155; KRS 160.156; KRS 160.157](#)

[13 KAR 3:010](#)

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