

**704 KAR 3:340. Commonwealth Diploma Program.**

RELATES TO: KRS 156.070, 156.160

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 156.070, 156.160

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 156.070 authorizes the Kentucky Board of Education to prescribe courses of study, curriculums, and programs as it deems necessary for the common schools. KRS 156.160 requires the Kentucky Board of Education to promulgate administrative regulations determining the courses of study for the different grades and the requirements for graduation from offered courses. This administrative regulation implements a Commonwealth Diploma Program and sets forth the conditions and criteria under which a Commonwealth Diploma shall be issued.

Section 1. (1) The Kentucky Board of Education shall award to each student in the public schools of this state completing a Commonwealth Diploma Program a Commonwealth Diploma.

(2) The diploma shall be printed by the Kentucky Department of Education and sent to the appropriate district upon verification of program completion to the Department of Education by the local district. The diploma shall be issued in the name of the student.

(3) A student receiving a Commonwealth Diploma shall be cited as a recipient at graduation ceremonies.

Section 2. The requirements for obtaining a Commonwealth Diploma shall include:

(1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including all the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation established in 704 KAR 3:305 and any additional units specified by the applicable local board of education;

(2) Successful completion of all minimum requirements of the Precollege Curriculum established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13 KAR 2:020;

(3)(a) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at least four (4) courses, which contain essential content as described in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program Course Description booklets of the College Entrance Examination Board and which include:

1. English - one (1) course;

2. Science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from biology, chemistry, or physics, or mathematics);

3. World language - one (1) course (selected from French, German, Latin, or Spanish); and

4. One (1) additional AP course (selected from English, science, foreign language, history, computer science, political science, music, or art);

(b) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at least four (4) courses, which contain essential content as described in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program course description booklets and which include:

1. English - one (1) course;

2. Natural or experimental science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from biology, chemistry, physics, or mathematics);

3. World language - one (1) course (selected from French or Spanish); and

4. One (1) additional IB or AP course; or

(c) A combination of AP and IB courses that address the content areas specified in this section; and

(4) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least three (3) of the AP or IB areas specified in subsection (3) of this section, without regard to score.

Section 3. (1) The Commonwealth Diploma shall not be awarded by the Kentucky Board of Education after the 2012-2013 academic year.

(2) Local districts may develop policies and procedures to award local recognitions. (11 Ky.R. 1105; Am. 1267; eff. 3-12-1985; 14 Ky.R. 1965; eff. 5-9-1988; 17 Ky.R. 2243; eff. 3-13-1991; 35 Ky.R. 639; 1462; eff. 1-5-2009; 38 Ky.R. 1909; 39 Ky.R. 34; eff. 7-13-2012.)