

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 that focuses on career exploration and related secondary education and training needs and shall have a total of at least twenty-two (22) credits for high school graduation, including demonstrated performance-based competency in technology.

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.

Those credits shall include the following minimum requirements:

Four (4) credits in language arts -English I, II, III, and IV (to include the content strands of reading, writing, listening, observing, inquiry, conventions, analysis, and using technology as a communication tool.)

Three (3) credits in social studies -to include the strands of historical perspective, including U.S. History, Economics, Government, and Civics, Cultures and Society

Three (3) credits in mathematics - Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (An integrated, applied, interdisciplinary or technical/occupational 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 Academic Standards. Pre-Algebra 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.)

Three (3) credits in science – Credits shall incorporate lab-based scientific investigation experiences and include the content strands of biological science, physical science, earth and space science, and unifying concepts One-half (1/2) credit in health – Credit to include the content strands of individual well-being, consumer decision, personal wellness, mental wellness, and community services

One-half (1/2) credit in physical education – Credit to include the content strands of personal wellness, psychomotor, and lifetime activity

One (1) credit in visual and performing arts – History and appreciation of visual and performing arts or a performing arts course which incorporates such content (Credit to include the content strands of arts, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's Individual Learning Plan.)

Seven (7) electives – Academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences (to include four (4) standards-based learning experiences in an academic or career interest based on the student's Individual Learning Plan; and Demonstrated performance-based competency in technology.)

Zero (0) technology – Demonstrated performance-based competency in technology

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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.

BOONE COUNTY BASIC DIPLOMA (STATE MINIMUM)

As noted above, a student must meet or exceed all credits in the prescribed domains and meet or exceed all SBDM requirements to be granted a traditional Diploma from one of the high schools in Boone County. While it is anticipated that all students will meet this standard, the Board recognizes there may be extenuating circumstances that prevent some students from successfully completing all the standards. In an effort to meet the needs of the total student population, students may apply for a Boone County Basic High School Diploma that meets the State minimum requirements as set forth in [704 KAR 003:305](#) if they meet the following criteria:

1. Receive their Principal's recommendation for participation in the program;
2. Receive the recommendation of the Alternative School Screening Committee;
3. Review all Credit Recovery/Alternative School/Remediation options;
4. Meet the Kentucky Minimum High School Graduation Requirements as outlined in [704 KAR 003:305](#).

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 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.

Graduation Requirements**PERFORMANCE BASED CREDITS (CONTINUED)**

The Board may approve graduation requirements for a high school in the District that exceeds the state minimum requirements upon submission and review of such requirements.

The Board may approve substitution of an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, or higher level course for a required course if the alternative course provides rigorous content and addresses the same applicable components of [703 KAR 004:060](#). If a substitution is made, the requesting school must complete an "Alternative Course Documentation" form that provides a rationale and course description. This shall be filed with the Department of Education. This applies to substitute courses for students with disabilities.

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS

The Board may approve the completion of high school credits in middle school if the following criteria are met:

- The student demonstrates mastery of middle school level content as specified in the [Kentucky Academic Standards](#) and criteria are in place to make a reasonable determination that the middle level students are capable of success in the high school course.
- The content of the course offered at the middle school level is the same as that defined in the [Kentucky Academic Standards](#) for the high school course.
- The middle school level course is taught by teachers with either secondary or middle school level certification with the appropriate content specialization.
- The school must collaborate with the high school to assure seamless transition and student preparation.

The middle school council or Principal, if a school is exempt from having a council, shall submit requests to the Board by May 1 of each year for approval to offer high school credits. Such requests shall document how the specified criteria are being met.

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

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CLASS RANK

Class rank shall be calculated using quality points earned in grades nine (9) through twelve (12). All quality points regarding class rank and grade point average will be calculated after the students' promotion from the 8th grade until final graduation of the student. All course work (summer school, dual-credit and online opportunities) taken during the students' enrollment in the high school will count toward graduation requirements, GPA calculation, and class rank, using only the first eight (8) semesters of a student's high school transcript, with the number of courses included each semester not to exceed the total number a student could complete at the regular school site. Any course taken for enrichment such as correspondence or summer courses will not be used to compute class rank or grade point average. Courses taken for remedial purposes will be used to compute grade point average and class rank. Recognition of valedictorian, salutatorian, and other school level awards will be determined by criteria established in SBDM policy or by the Principal in absence of an SBDM council.

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TRANSFER OF CREDITS

Credits transferring from a non-accredited school will be reflected as Pass or Fail on the student transcript and will not be used in the computation of class rank and grade point average. Transferring students may be required to demonstrate proficiency in course material before credit is applied toward graduation requirements. Credits transferring from an accredited school will be reflected on the student's transcript. ~~In calculating class rank, grade point average, graduation requirements, and grade placement, transfer credits cannot exceed the number of possible credits earned at the receiving school per year. The credits used in the calculation of class rank and grade point average must first satisfy graduation requirements. Electives will be determined by selecting the highest grade earned.~~

Alpha grades (letter grades) will be assigned a numeric value based upon the grading scale of the Boone County School District. If numeric scores are provided, they will be used and matched to Boone County GPA scale.

The SBDM Council of the receiving high school has the final authority regarding transfer of credit.

SENIOR STUDENT CONFERENCES

At the beginning of the second semester and during the third grading period, each senior student shall confer with guidance personnel concerning his/her eligibility for graduation. After this meeting, the school shall send notice of the conference to the parents of those students who are in danger of not graduating.

PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION EXERCISES

Students who complete the minimum number of high school units required by the Board and the Kentucky Academic Standards or who satisfactorily complete the requirements of Early Graduation as outlined in administrative regulation, shall be permitted to take part in graduation exercises.

Contingent upon acceptable behavior and attendance as determined by the Principal and exchange of A.D.A. funds, students who complete the eleventh grade in the District and who have moved out of the District may continue to attend their high school tuition-free in order to graduate with their class.

Graduation Requirements**OTHER PROVISIONS**

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.³

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.

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.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.

Otherwise, a student may graduate early on approval of the Principal and of the Superintendent.

Requests for graduation not related to the Early Graduation Certificate pathway shall be presented to the Principal, in writing, in the semester preceding the student's final semester or as soon as the intent is known.

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.¹

¹[KRS 40.010](#); [KRS 158.140](#); [704 KAR 007:140](#)

²[KRS 158.622](#)

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

⁴[KRS 158.142](#); [704 KAR 003:305](#)

[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](#)

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

[Kentucky Academic Standards](#)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

08.113
(CONTINUED)

Graduation Requirements

RELATED POLICIES:

08.1121; 08.1131; 08.1132, 08.14

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

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