

**WOODFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM #: X I **DATE:** January 13, 2020

TOPIC/TITLE: Waive Graduation Requirements for Honors Diploma

PRESENTER: D. Scott Hawkins

ORIGIN:

- ☐ TOPIC PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY (No board action required.)
- ☒ ACTION REQUESTED AT THIS MEETING
- ☐ ITEM IS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL
- ☐ ACTION REQUESTED AT FUTURE MEETING: (DATE)
- ☐ BOARD REVIEW REQUIRED BY

- ☐ STATE OR FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION
- ☐ BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY
- ☐ OTHER:

PREVIOUS REVIEW, DISCUSSION OR ACTION:

- ☐ NO PREVIOUS BOARD REVIEW, DISCUSSION OR ACTION
- ☐ PREVIOUS REVIEW OR ACTION

- ☐ DATE:
- ☐ ACTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Board of Education may waive graduation requirements

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ELEMENTS:

WCHS student will achieve all graduation requirements to receive an Honors Diploma except for the total number of credits required (30). Student will have between 27.5 and 28 credits by the end of their Junior year and wishes to graduate with the graduating class of 2020.

IMPACT ON RESOURCES:

TIMETABLE FOR FURTHER REVIEW OR ACTION:

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: ☒ Recommended ☐ Not Recommended



Graduation Requirements

Students must meet college or career readiness standards as adopted by the Woodford County Board of Education in order to graduate. Principals will disseminate these readiness standards to students through the guidance program and inclusion in student handbooks and in the Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

Woodford County students are considered Transition Ready and eligible for graduation through successful passing of a civics assessment as determined by the Kentucky Department of Education and meeting one (1) of the following requirements:

- Meeting Transition Ready benchmarks as defined by the Kentucky Board of Education.
- Earning a minimum of three (3) credits within a state-defined CTE pathway.

Exceptions to this requirement may be made for students with identified disabilities as determined in the IEP by the Admissions and Release committee or eligible students who complete an approved Service Learning Project based upon good faith effort in meeting one of the credentialing benchmarks outlined above.

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

The Board-approved student code of conduct shall contain complete details.

GRADE ADVANCEMENT AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to advance to the next grade level, students must earn a minimum number of credits and successfully complete core courses in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies:

- To be a freshman, students must satisfactorily complete and be promoted from the eighth grade;
- To be a sophomore, students must have a minimum of six (6) credits.
- To be a junior, students must have a minimum of twelve (12) credits.
- To be a senior, students must have a minimum of eighteen (18) credits.

In order to graduate, students must:

- Complete eight (8) semesters of coursework, based on a six and one-half (6.5) hour instructional day; (For an exception, see section Early Graduation Certificate.)
- Successfully complete State and District required assessment;
- Complete an Individual Learning Plan (ILP);

Graduation Requirements**GRADE ADVANCEMENT AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)**

- Students entering grade 9 in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years must complete twenty-six credits (26) credits OR complete the Kentucky Early Graduation option as defined in [704 KAR 003:305](#) . Included in those twenty-six (26) credits, a student must earn:
 - One (1) credit in Visual and Performing Arts
 - One (1) credit in Health/Physical Education;
 - Four (4) credits in English;
 - Four (4) credits in Math;
 - Three (3) credits in Science; and
 - Three (3) credits in Social Studies.
- Complete assessment signifying job skill proficiency.

Students will have the opportunity to earn seals on their diploma signifying completion of an additional level of rigor in terms of the student's course of academic study. These diplomas are signified as a Precollege Diploma and an Honors Diploma. In order to graduate and earn a Woodford County Schools Precollege Diploma, students must:

- Complete eight (8) semesters of coursework, based on a six and one-half (6.5) hour instructional day (For an exception, see section Early Graduation Certificate.);
- Successfully complete state and District required assessment;
- Complete an Individual Learning Plan (ILP);
- Complete twenty-eight (28) credits. Included in those twenty-eight (28) credits, a student must earn:
 - One (1) credit in Health/Physical Education;
 - Four (4) English credits completed during the eight (8) semesters of enrollment at the high school level;
 - Four (4) Math credits completed during the eight (8) semesters of enrollment at the high school level;
 - Three (3) Science credits completed during the eight (8) semesters of enrollment at the high school level;
 - Three (3) Social Studies credits completed during the eight (8) semesters of enrollment at the high school level;
 - Two (2) credits in foreign language; and
 - Three (3) college credits through the completion of Dual Credit courses and/or Advanced Placement (AP) testing, whereas a score of three (3) or higher is recognized as three (3) college credit hours OR earning a grade of an A or B in an AP course and completing the accompanying AP test is recognized as three (3) college credit hours.
- Complete assessment signifying job skill proficiency.

Graduation Requirements**GRADE ADVANCEMENT AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)**

In order to graduate and earn a Woodford County Schools Honors Diploma, students must:

- Complete eight (8) semesters of coursework, based on a six and one-half (6.5) hour instructional day (For an exception, see section Early Graduation Certificate.);
- Successfully complete state and District required assessment;
- Complete an Individual Learning Plan (ILP);
- Complete thirty (30) credits. Included in those 30 credits, a student must earn:
 - One (1) credit in Health/Physical Education;
 - Four (4) English credits completed during the eight (8) semesters of enrollment at the high school level;
 - Four (4) Math credits completed during the eight (8) semesters of enrollment at the high school level;
 - Four (4) Science credits completed during the eight (8) semesters of enrollment at the high school level;
 - Four (4) Social Studies credits, with a minimum of three (3) completed during the eight (8) semesters of enrollment at the high school level;
 - Three (3) credits in foreign language; and
 - Nine (9) college credits through the completion of Dual Credit courses and/or Advanced Placement (AP) testing, whereas a score of three (3) or higher is recognized as three (3) college credit hours OR earning a grade of an A or B in an AP course and completing the accompanying AP test is recognized as three (3) college credit hours.
- Complete assessment signifying job skill proficiency.

The District shall accept for 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 This grade shall not be included in the high school GPA.

In support of student development goals set out in [KRS 158.6451](#) and the Kentucky Academic Standards, students must complete a minimum of twenty-six (26) 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.

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 003:305](#), the Board may impose other requirements for graduation from high school. Students shall complete an individual learning plan that focuses on career exploration and related postsecondary education and training needs.

Graduation Requirements

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.⁵

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 003:303](#) and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

Language Arts	Four (4) Credits total (English I and II plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)
Social Studies	Three (3) Credits total – (Two (2) plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)
Mathematics	Four (4) Credits total (Algebra I and Geometry plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)
Science	Three (3) Credits total – (Two (2) credits incorporating lab-based scientific investigation experiences plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)
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 (Two (2) plus four (4) standards-based credits in an academic or career interest based on the student's ILP)
Technology	Demonstrated performance-based competency
Additional qualifiers as follows:	

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

Complete one (1) or more of the following graduation qualifiers:

1. Satisfy precollege curriculum as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in [013 KAR 002:020](#);
2. Achieve benchmark score as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in [013 KAR 002:020](#) in one (1) section of a college admissions or placement examination;
3. Complete three (3) postsecondary credit hours or more of a Kentucky Department of Education approved dual credit course with a grade of C or higher;
4. Complete one (1) course and corresponding assessment meeting the following criteria:
 - a) Advanced placement (AP) with a score of three (3) or higher;
 - b) Cambridge Advanced International (CAI) with a score at E or higher; or
 - c) International Baccalaureate (IB) with a score of five (5) or higher;
5. Obtain an industry certification as approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board;
6. Complete four (4) credits from valid courses within a single Kentucky Department of Education approved career pathway;
7. Complete a Kentucky Department of Education approved process to verify 500 hours of exceptional work experience, or alternative requirements as determined by a student's Admissions and Release Committee and specified in the student's IEP; and
8. Complete two (2) years in an approved Kentucky Department of Education or Kentucky Labor Cabinet pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program.

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 003:303](#) and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

Language Arts	Four (4) Credits total (English I and II plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)
Social Studies	Three (3) Credits total – (Two (2) plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)
Mathematics	Four (4) Credits total (Algebra I and Geometry plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)
Science	Three (3) Credits total – (Two (2) credits incorporating lab-based scientific investigation experiences plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)
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 (Two (2) plus four (4) standards-based credits in an academic or career interest based on the student's ILP)
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 .
Additional qualifiers and prerequisites as follows:	

- I. Complete one (1) or more of the following graduation qualifiers:
 1. Satisfy precollege curriculum as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in [013 KAR 002:020](#);
 2. Achieve benchmark score as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in [013 KAR 002:020](#) in one (1) section of a college admissions or placement examination;
 3. Complete three (3) postsecondary credit hours or more of a Kentucky Department of Education approved dual credit course with a grade of C or higher;

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

4. Complete one (1) course and corresponding assessment meeting the following criteria:
 - a) Advanced placement (AP) with a score of three (3) or higher;
 - b) Cambridge Advanced International (CAI) with a score at E or higher; or
 - c) International baccalaureate (IB) with a score of five (5) or higher;
 5. Obtain an industry certification as approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board;
 6. Complete four (4) credits from valid courses within a single Kentucky Department of Education approved career pathway;
 7. Complete a Kentucky Department of Education approved process to verify 500 hours of exceptional work experience, or alternative requirements as determined by a student's Admissions and Release Committee and specified in the student's IEP; and
 8. Complete two (2) years in an approved Kentucky Department of Education or Kentucky Labor Cabinet pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program.
- II. Meet one (1) of the following graduation prerequisites for reading and one (1) of the following graduation prerequisites for mathematics:
1. Score at or above the minimum criteria on the tenth (10th) grade state-required assessments in reading or mathematics;
 2. Score proficient or higher for reading or mathematics on the eighth (8th) grade state required assessment; or
 3. A student collection of evidence submitted by the Principal to the Superintendent/designee for review and approval. The collection of evidence shall include the following:
 - The student's ILP that includes student transcript;
 - If applicable, for students with IEPs, evidence that the student has achieved progress on measurable annual IEP goals as determined by the Admissions and Release Committee;
 - Performance on the tenth (10th) grade state-required assessments in reading or mathematics;
 - Appropriate interventions, targeted to the student's needs;
 - Student work demonstrating the student's competency in reading or mathematics; and
 - The student's post-graduation plans.

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

The Board may authorize different diploma programs. The Board, Superintendent, Principal, or teacher may award special recognition to students. 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.

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 District shall report individual student data regarding the completion of each graduation qualifier and each graduation prerequisite to the Kentucky Department of Education.

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.

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.⁴

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:

1. Score proficient or higher on the state-required assessments; and
2. Meet the college readiness exam benchmarks established [013 KAR 002:020](#) 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.

GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

No student shall be allowed to participate in any graduation activities unless ALL requirements have been met.

The Principal will determine in advance of commencement exercises whether the student has satisfied these conditions.

Graduation Requirements**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

REFERENCES:

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](#)

⁵[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](#)

[013 KAR 002:020](#); [702 KAR 007:125](#); [703 KAR 004:060](#)

[704 KAR 003:303](#); [704 KAR 003:306](#); 704 KAR Chapter 8

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

[Kentucky Academic Standards](#)

RELATED POLICIES:

08.1131, 08.14; 08.222

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

Adopted/Amended: 7/15/2019

Order #: IV A