



Kenton County School District | *It's about ALL kids.*

**THE KENTON COUNTY BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

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Dr. Henry Webb, Superintendent of Schools

KCSD ISSUE PAPER

DATE:

2-5-18

AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):

Consider/Approve First Reading: Update Policy 08.113 Graduation Requirements

APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY:

08.113 Graduation Requirements

HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

Since November 2015, we have worked closely with the Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children regarding graduation requirements and impact on students attending the Northern Kentucky Youth Development Center. The issue is students are not being able to meet our current graduation policy. In reviewing districts that have similar programs and their graduation requirements, we believe it is appropriate for us to approve a new diploma for these state agency youth. We are proposing a State Minimum Standards Diploma for students placed at the NKYDC by state agencies. This diploma has the same minimum standards as the Kenton County Basic Diploma. It removes the residency requirements since these students may be moved at various times while under state supervision. This new diploma will alleviate this serious issue for some of our most at-risk youth.

FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Board of Education approve the first reading of the updates to Policy 08.113 Graduation Requirements.


CONTACT PERSON:

Gerald Turner

Principal



District Administrator



Superintendent

Use this form to submit your request to the Superintendent for items to be added to the Board Meeting Agenda.

Principal –complete, print, sign and send to your Director. Director –if approved, sign and put in the Superintendent's mailbox.

Kenton County Board of Education

Board Members: Carl Wicklund, Chairperson Karen L. Collins, Vice Chairperson Joshua Crabtree, Esq. Carla Egan Jesica Jehn
"The Kenton County Board of Education provides *Equal Education & Employment Opportunities.*"

Graduation Requirements

In accordance with [704 KAR 003:305](#) and Kenton County School District policy and in support of student development goals set out in [KRS 158.6451](#) and the Kentucky Academic Expectations, students must complete the required minimum number of units, including demonstrated performance-based competency in technology, and all other state and local requirements in order to graduate from a Kenton County High School with a Traditional Diploma.

Beginning July 1, 2018, 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 or a Section 504 Plan.

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.

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.

The following graduation requirements must be met:

KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS		
SUBJECT	CREDITS	COURSES
Language Arts	4	English I, II, III, IV (To include the content strands of reading, writing, speaking, listening, observing, inquiry, conventions, analysis, and using technology as a communication tool. Language Arts shall be taken each year of high school.)
Social Studies	3	Credits to include the content strands of historical perspective, including U.S. History, Geography, Economics, Government and Civics, and Cultures and Societies.
Mathematics	3	Algebra I, Geometry and 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 <u>Kentucky Academic Standards</u> . Pre-Algebra shall not be counted as one of the three required Mathematics credits for high school graduation but may be counted as an elective.) Mathematics shall be taken each year of high school.
Science	3	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.
Health	1/2	Credit to include the content strands of individual well-being, consumer decision, personal wellness, mental wellness, and community services
Physical Education	1/2	Credit to include the content strands of personal wellness, psychomotor, and lifetime activity

Graduation Requirements

Visual and Performing Arts	1	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.)
Electives	7	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.) 1 of which must be a math elective
Total	22	

PRE-COLLEGE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

In order to meet state pre-college curriculum requirements, in addition to the SBDM guidelines and state required courses, students must complete two (2) credits in foreign language. These credits may be taken in place of two (2) required electives.

Any Kenton County High School *may substitute an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary or higher level course for any of the required courses* if the alternative course provides rigorous content and addresses the same applicable components of [703 KAR 004:060](#). If a substitution is made, the high school *must provide the Board a written rationale and course description to be filed at the Board Office and with the Kentucky Department of Education.*

The Board-approved Student Handbook/Course Description for each high school should contain complete details of all courses offered.

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

Graduation Requirements

PERFORMANCE-BASED CREDITS (CONTINUED)

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.

The Board requires enrollment for eight (8) semesters or the equivalent for all high school students. (For an exception, see section Early Graduation Certificate.)

ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Students eligible for an Alternative High School Diploma will participate in graduation ceremonies during the same school year in which they complete their program or reach twenty-one (21) years of age.

PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION EXERCISES

No student shall be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies until all graduation requirements have been fulfilled, as determined by the Principal.

KENTON COUNTY BASIC DIPLOMA (~~STATE MINIMUM~~)

In Kenton County, it is expected that all students will be enrolled for eight (8) semesters of high school. This expectation will also apply for Basic Diploma students. Enrollment may include one (1) or a combination of the following: regular classroom instruction, alternative classroom instruction, on-line credit recovery or cooperative work experience placements. Exceptions to the eight (8) semester rule will only be considered if the class with which he/she entered public school has graduated.

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 Kenton 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 meeting the following criteria may apply for a Kenton County Basic High School Diploma that meets the State minimum requirements as set forth in [704 KAR 003:305](#) and described above.

1. Receive their Principal's recommendation for participation in the program
2. Review all SWS/Alternative School options
3. Enrolled in a Kenton County high school for two (2) semesters

KENTON COUNTY STATE MINIMUM STANDARDS DIPLOMA

A Kenton County State Minimum Standards Diploma, that meets the minimum state high school graduation credit requirements as set forth in 704 KAR 003:305, may be awarded to a state agency child, as defined in KRS 158.135. Individual students with extenuating circumstances and who meet the minimum state graduation requirements and local guidelines may qualify for such a diploma.

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.

Graduation Requirements

ALIGNMENT OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS WITH GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

The high school council shall provide the Board by July 15 of each year with a written description/matrix of any changes in how each course addresses goals set out in [KRS 158.6451](#) (1) and the academic expectations incorporated by reference in [703 KAR 004:060](#). The council shall determine the process for developing the descriptions, which shall be presented for Board review and comment.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Upon request and approval of the Board, District high schools may offer 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.

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

~~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.~~

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 and their diploma. 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 and their diploma 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CREDIT

With Board approval, high school credit may be awarded for courses taken at the middle school level if the following criteria are met:

- Teachers with secondary certification with the appropriate content specialization teach proposed middle school courses.
- The student demonstrates mastery of middle school level content as specified in the Kentucky Academic Standards and criteria are in place to make reasonable determination that the middle school 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.

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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 "C" or better in a high school equivalent.²

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](#); [KRS 156.070](#); 20 U.S.C. sec. 1414

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

[KRS 156.027](#); [KRS 158.135](#)

[KRS 158.141](#); [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](#)

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

RELATED POLICIES:

08.1131; 08.14; 08.22; 08.222

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

Adopted/Amended: 9/11/2017

Order #: 8