

Graduation Requirements

MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In support of the student development goals set out in KRS 158.6451 and the Kentucky Academic Standards, students must complete a minimum number of ~~twenty-four (24)~~ credits including demonstrated performance-based competency in technology, and all other state and local requirements in order to graduate from a District high school.

- Students entering high school in 2019 (class of 2023) must complete 24 credits
- Students entering high school in 2020 (class of 2024) must complete 25 credits
- Students entering high school in 2021(class of 2025) must complete 26 credits (first graduating class at AHCC)
- Students entering high school in 2022 and beyond must complete 27 credits

Credit requirements for grade placement for schools will operate under a graduated credit requirement scale:

- School year 2022-23: Sophomores (5), Juniors (11), and Seniors (17)
- School year 2023-24: Sophomores (6), Juniors (12), and Seniors (18)
- School year 2024-25 and beyond: Sophomores (7), Juniors (13), and Seniors (19)

DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

All District high school graduates are required to complete one (1) of two (2) diploma programs:

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA (MEETS STATE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS)—A student must complete the minimum District graduation requirements ~~twenty-four (24) credits (for a seven-period day)~~ to be granted a Traditional Diploma from any District high school.

HONORS DIPLOMA—A student must complete the following credits ~~twenty-seven (27) credits (for a seven-period day)~~ to be granted an Honors diploma from any District high school.

- Students entering high school in 2019 (class of 2023) must complete 27 credits
- Students entering high school in 2020 (class of 2024) must complete 28 credits
- Students entering high school in 2021(class of 2025) must complete 29 credits
- Students entering high school in 2022 and beyond must complete 30 credits

In addition, the student seeking the Honors Diploma must complete the following:

- Pre-college curriculum, which includes two (2) foreign language credits;
- A minimum of thirteen (13) courses considered as either college preparatory, Advanced Placement (AP), or Dual Credit courses number 100 or above. Of the thirteen courses, three (3) must be Advanced Placement or Dual Credit with a college grade of "C" or above through an accredited Kentucky postsecondary institution;
- English at the senior year must be either Advanced Placement or Dual Credit; and
- A minimum grade point average of 3.25.

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Graduation Requirements

MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

An exception may be made to Honors Diploma requirements if a student meets all legal requirements for early graduation. This exception may be approved by the Superintendent/designee.

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CIVICS EXAM REQUIREMENT

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

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLAN (ILP)

Students shall complete an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) that focuses on career exploration and related postsecondary education and training needs.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOARD

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 3:305, the Board may impose other requirements for graduation from high school. However, the Board shall not adopt any graduation requirements that include achieving a minimum score on a statewide assessment.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

~~All District high school graduates are required to complete one (1) of two (2) diploma programs: **TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA (MEETS STATE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS)**—A student must complete twenty-four (24) credits (for a seven period day) to be granted a Traditional Diploma from any District high school.~~

~~**HONORS DIPLOMA**—A student must complete twenty-seven (27) credits (for a seven period day) to be granted an Honors diploma from any District high school. In addition, the student seeking the Honors Diploma must complete the following:~~

- ~~• Pre-college curriculum, which includes two (2) foreign language credits;~~
- ~~• A minimum of thirteen (13) courses considered as either college preparatory, Advanced Placement (AP), or Dual Credit courses number 100 or above. Of the thirteen courses, three (3) must be Advanced Placement or Dual Credit with a college grade of "C" or above through an accredited Kentucky postsecondary institution;~~
- ~~• English at the senior year must be either Advanced Placement or Dual Credit; and~~
- ~~• A minimum grade point average of 3.25.~~

~~An exception may be made to Honors Diploma requirements if a student meets all legal requirements for early graduation. This exception may be approved by the Superintendent/designee.~~

Graduation Requirements

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE NINE (9) ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

Credits shall include content standards as provided by the Kentucky Academic Standards established in 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

Language Arts	Four (4) Credits (English I, II, III, and IV) taken each year of high school. Students that do not meet the college readiness benchmarks for English and language arts shall take a transitional course or intervention, which is monitored to address remediation needs, before exiting high school.
Social Studies	Three (3) Credits to include strands of U.S. History, geography, economics, government/civics, and cultures/societies.
Mathematics	Four (4) Credits to include Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II or an interdisciplinary math, and one (1) math elective based on the student's ILP; An integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, occupational, or technical course that prepares a student for a career path based on the student's ILP 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, established in 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 Chapter 8. A mathematics course or its equivalent as determined by the District shall be taken each year of high school to ensure readiness for postsecondary education or the workforce. Any mathematics course other than Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II shall be counted as an elective. Students that do not meet the college readiness benchmarks for mathematics shall take a transitional course or intervention, which is monitored to address remediation needs, before exiting high school.
Science	Three (3) Credits incorporating lab-based scientific investigation and to include strands of biological, physical, and earth/space science and unifying concepts.
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	Eight (8) Credits total (Four (4) plus four (4) standards-based credits in an academic or career interest based on the student's ILP)
Technology	Demonstrated performance-based competency

(CONTINUED)

Graduation Requirements

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 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

English/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	Eight (8) Credits total (Including 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
<u>Minimum Required Credits</u>	<u>24</u>

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 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

English/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	Nine Eight (9) Credits total (Including 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.
Minimum Required Credits	25

Graduation Requirements**FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE NINE (9) ON OR AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Credits shall include content standards as provided by the Kentucky Academic Standards established in 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

<u>English/Language Arts</u>	<u>Four (4) Credits total (English I and II plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)</u>
<u>Social Studies</u>	<u>Three (3) Credits total – (Two (2) plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)</u>
<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>Four (4) Credits total (Algebra I and Geometry plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)</u>
<u>Science</u>	<u>Three (3) Credits total – (Two (2) credits incorporating lab-based scientific investigation experiences plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)</u>
<u>Health</u>	<u>One-half (1/2) Credit</u>
<u>P.E.</u>	<u>One-half (1/2) Credit</u>
<u>Visual and Performing Arts</u>	<u>One (1) Credit or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's ILP</u>
<u>Academic and Career Interest Standards-based Learning Experiences</u>	<u>Ten (10) Credits total (Including four (4) standards-based credits in an academic or career interest based on the student's ILP)</u>
<u>Technology</u>	<u>Demonstrated performance-based competency</u>
<u>Financial Literacy</u>	<u>One (1) or more courses or programs that meet the financial literacy requirements pursuant to KRS 158.1411.</u>
<u>Minimum Required Credits</u>	<u>26</u>

Graduation Requirements**FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE NINE (9) ON OR AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Credits shall include content standards as provided by the Kentucky Academic Standards established in 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

<u>English/Language Arts</u>	<u>Four (4) Credits total (English I and II plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)</u>
<u>Social Studies</u>	<u>Three (3) Credits total – (Two (2) plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)</u>
<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>Four (4) Credits total (Algebra I and Geometry plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)</u>
<u>Science</u>	<u>Three (3) Credits total – (Two (2) credits incorporating lab-based scientific investigation experiences plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)</u>
<u>Health</u>	<u>One-half (1/2) Credit</u>
<u>P.E.</u>	<u>One-half (1/2) Credit</u>
<u>Visual and Performing Arts</u>	<u>One (1) Credit or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's ILP</u>
<u>Academic and Career Interest Standards-based Learning Experiences</u>	<u>Eleven (11) Credits total (Including four (4) standards-based credits in an academic or career interest based on the student's ILP)</u>
<u>Technology</u>	<u>Demonstrated performance-based competency</u>
<u>Financial Literacy</u>	<u>One (1) or more courses or programs that meet the financial literacy requirements pursuant to KRS 158.1411.</u>
<u>Minimum Required Credits</u>	<u>27</u>

Graduation Requirements

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 Kentucky Academic Standards~~State content standards and academic standards;~~

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 ILP. Such experiences shall be supervised by qualified instructors and aligned with State and District content and performance standards.

~~Credit requirements for grade placement for schools operating under a seven-period day are Sophomores (5), Juniors (11), and Seniors (17).~~

Inclusive of all settings, the student may earn no more than ten (10) academic credits for a seven-period day schedule for students entering school in 2021, or eleven (11) academic credits for an eight-period schedule for students entering 2022 and beyond. Students with extenuating circumstances may request a waiver of this limitation through a letter to the Principal that is submitted to the Superintendent/designee for approval prior to enrolling in the additional courses.

OTHER PROVISIONS

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.

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.

Graduation Requirements**OTHER PROVISIONS (CONTINUED)**

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 13 KAR 2:020 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.

DIPLOMAS FOR VETERANS

In keeping with statute and regulation, the Board shall award an authentic high school diploma to an honorable 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.

GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

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

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

READING REQUIREMENT

Middle and high school students, shall be placed in reading intervention courses as needed based upon state and local assessments and other data points. Students will receive one (1) credit of reading for each course fully completed.

Graduation Requirements**ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) REQUIREMENT**

All AP courses will be taught according to a specific curriculum that has been developed by the American College Board.

Each high school will offer AP classes. The school councils will determine the AP course offerings. Students are encouraged to take the College Board's AP exam. Students must take the corresponding AP exam for a grade calculated on a five (5.0) weighted scale. The student is responsible for the cost of the AP exam, however, if the said student scores 3 or higher on the AP exam, the District will reimburse the student for the cost of the exam. An application process will be available to assist students with financial hardships. The AP teacher, counselor, Principal and Superintendent /designee will determine qualified applicants.

DUAL CREDIT

Dual Credit shall be awarded to students who complete the requirements listed in policy 08.1131.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

The District shall offer high school courses for which a middle school student may earn high school credit. A passing grade shall earn the student credit for fulfilling the graduation requirement of completing a specific course. The earned grade shall not be transferred to the high school to be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average (GPA).

Middle school students shall be eligible to receive high school credit for high school courses in accordance with the following criteria:

- The content of the course offered at the middle school level is the same as that defined in the Kentucky Academic Standards and the Core Content for the high school course and the same textbook shall be used.
- The middle school courses are taught by a teacher with either secondary or middle school certification in the content area.
- The middle school student shall take the same mid-term and common final as the high school student.

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 Requirements

REFERENCES:

¹KRS 40.010; KRS 158.140; 704 KAR 7:140
²KRS 158.622
³KRS 156.160; 20 U.S.C. § 1414
⁴KRS 158.142; 704 KAR 3:305
⁵KRS 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
13 KAR 2:020; 702 KAR 7:125; 703 KAR 4:060
704 KAR 3:303; 704 KAR 3:306; 704 KAR 7:090; 704 KAR Chapter 8
OAG 78-348; OAG 82-386
Kentucky Academic Standards

RELATED POLICIES:

08.1131; 08.1132; 08.1133; 08.14; 08.22; 08.222; 08.4
09.126 (re requirements/exceptions for students from military families)

RELATED PROCEDURE:

09.12 AP.25