

Graduation Requirements

In support of student development goals set out in KRS 158.6451 and the Kentucky Academic Standards, students enrolled in Madisonville North Hopkins or Hopkins County Central must complete a minimum of twenty-seven (27) credits to include the state minimum twenty-two (22) credits, and an additional five (5) elective credits as aligned in the student’s Individual Learning Plan (ILP. Students enrolled in Hopkins County Schools Academy must complete a minimum of twenty-two (22) credits, Requirements for all students include demonstrated performance-based competency in technology, and all other state and local requirements in order to graduate from high school in the District.

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.⁴

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLAN

The development of the ILP for each student shall be established within the first ninety (90) days of the sixth (6th) grade year and shall be focused 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.

Unless they participate in the Early Graduation Certificate pathway, students must also complete twelve (12) trimesters. Special consideration will be given to students enrolling after their freshman year. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the District will be operating on a semester schedule. Students must complete eight (8) semesters or a combination of semesters and trimesters, which equal four (4) complete academic years of high school.

High school handbooks approved annually by the Board shall include complete details concerning specific graduation requirements.

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 and an additional five (5) elective credits as aligned to a student's ILP:

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	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.

Graduation Requirements

HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS EARNED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Unless otherwise recommended by the Principal and approved by the Superintendent, no less than full course credit may count toward graduation requirements. Students in the eighth grade may receive high school credit for courses completed at the middle school level provided that the course was taught by a high school certified teacher using an approved high school curriculum and high school textbook or other ancillary material. Students may be allowed to enroll in the next sequential level class with the recommendation of the middle school teacher and the concurrence of the high school teacher. If the recommendation is not unanimous, the teachers and counselors will confer with the student and parent and reach a decision. The parent and student have the final placement decision. The school may require the parent to confirm the decision in writing.

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

OTHER PROVISIONS

The Board may grant different diplomas to those students who complete credits above the minimum number as established by the Kentucky Board of Education. 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.

The Board, Superintendent, Principal, or teacher may award special recognition to students.

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.

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.

GRADUATION EXERCISES

Students who have completed all specified graduation requirements shall be permitted to participate in graduation exercises unless the student has failed to comply with other District policies or with the District Code of Acceptable Behavior.

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:

¹KRS 40.010; KRS 158.140; 704 KAR 7:140

²KRS 158.622

³KRS 156.160; 20 U.S.C. § 1414

⁴KRS 158.141

KRS 156.027; KRS 158.135

KRS 158.1411; KRS 158.1413; KRS 158.142; 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 3:305; 704 KAR 3:306; 704 KAR 3:535; 704 KAR 7:090

704 KAR Chapter 8

OAG 78-348; OAG 82-386

Kentucky Academic Standards

RELATED POLICIES:

08.1121; 08.1131; 08.11311; 08.131; 08.14; 08.22; 08.222; 08.4

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

RELATED PROCEDURE:

09.12 AP.25