



704 KAR 3:305

Minimum requirements for high school graduation

Kentucky Board of Education
August 8, 2024

Micki Ray

Chief Academic Officer
Office of Teaching and Learning

Sarah Peace

Policy Advisor
Office of Teaching and Learning

HB 535 (2024): Civic literacy graduation requirement

Amended KRS 158.141 to require, beginning with students entering **grade 9 in the 2025-2026 academic year**, successful completion of one of the following for high school graduation:

1. Half-credit civics course; **or**
2. Pass a civics test composed of 100 questions drawn from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services test.

Schools and districts must meet the requirements and accommodations of a student's IEP as defined in KRS 158.281 or a Section 504 Plan as defined in KRS 156.027.

HB 535 (2024): Civic literacy graduation requirement

Local boards of education may choose one of two options:

1. A half-credit course to include, at minimum, instruction in specific areas identified in the bill.
2. A civics test composed of 100 questions drawn from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services test:
 - At least 70% of the questions must be answered correctly
 - No longer allows the use of instructional aids, but students may still take the test as many times as needed
 - Beginning **September 1, 2026**, districts must report annual testing data, including:
 - First-time successful completion rate
 - Average number of times a student takes the civics test

Overview of Proposed Amendments 704 KAR 3:305

Section 3(6):

“To earn a high school diploma each student shall complete the following additional requirements:

(b) Successfully meet the civics requirement pursuant to KRS 158.141.”

Technical Amendments

704 KAR 3:305

- Letter of Intent Form included as a material incorporated by reference for Early Graduation Program (EGP) participants.
- Clean-up language to improve readability, provide clarity and remove outdated language.

Questions