

Graduation Requirements

In support of student development goals set out in KRS 158.6451 and the Kentucky Academic Expectations, students must complete state and local requirements composed of a minimum of twenty ~~seven (27)~~ eight (28) credits, ~~including demonstrated performance-based competency in technology in technology~~. Students attending the Hugh C. Spalding Academy must complete twenty-two (22) credits.

Credits shall include content standards as provided by the Kentucky Academic Standards established in 704 KAR Chapter 8. Additional standards-based learning experiences shall align to the student's individual learning plan and shall consist of standards-based content.

Each student shall be required to earn the following ten (10) foundational credits:

- (a) English/language arts – two (2) credits (English I and English II or AP Language and Composition);
- (b) Social studies – two (2) credits;
- (c) Mathematics – two (2) credits (Algebra I and Geometry);
- (d) Science – two (2) credits that shall incorporate lab-based scientific investigation experiences;
- (e) Health – one-half (1/2) credit;
- (f) Physical education – one-half (1/2) credit; and
- (g) Visual and performing arts – one (1) credit.

Each student shall be required to earn the following twelve (12) personalized credits:

- (a) Two (2) additional English/language arts credits;
- (b) Two (2) additional mathematics credits;
- (c) One (1) additional science credit;
- (d) One (1) additional social studies credit; and
- (e) Academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences – six (6) credits including four (4) standards-based learning experiences.

Each student shall complete the following additional requirements:

- (a) Successfully demonstrate performance-based technology;
- (b) Successfully meet the civics requirement; and
- (c) Successfully complete one (1) or more courses or programs that meet the financial literacy requirements.

ADVANCED COURSEWORK

Students that successfully complete high school advanced coursework shall receive credit toward graduation in accordance with state law.⁵

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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.⁴~~

Beginning with the entering ninth grade class of the 2025-2026 school year, and each year thereafter, graduation requirements for each student in every public high school in Kentucky graduating with a regular diploma shall include successful completion of either:

- a) A one-half (1/2) credit course in civic literacy meeting statutory curriculum and standards requirements; or
- b) A civics test composed of one hundred (100) questions drawn from those that are set forth within the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens.

The Board shall determine which option shall be required for graduates of the District.

If the Board requires completion of the civics test, the Board shall prepare or approve the test as described. The Board shall disseminate the test and it be administered by each high school in the District. By September 1, 2026, and each year thereafter, the District requiring a civics test for graduation shall submit annual testing data to the Kentucky Department of Education.

A minimum score of seventy percent (70%) is required to pass the test and students may take the test as many times as needed to pass without the use of instructional aids during testing including but not limited to textbooks and internet browser searching. A student shall not receive a regular high school diploma until the student successfully completes the test. Students that have passed a similar test within the previous five (5) years may provide the Board with evidence of successful completion and shall not be required to take the test. The test requirement shall be subject to the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan.⁴

FINANCIAL LITERACY REQUIREMENT

~~For students entering grade nine (9) on or after July 1, 2025, successful completion of one (1) credit course in financial literacy. The course shall align to the student's individual learning plan and comply with KRS 158.1411.~~

~~The Superintendent, after consultation with the Board, the school-based decision-making council, and the Principal of each high school, shall determine curricula for course offerings that are aligned with the financial literacy academic standards.~~

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The financial literacy course requirement shall be accepted as an elective course requirement for high school graduation.

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Graduation Requirements**INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLAN (ILP)**

The development of the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for each student shall be established within the first ninety (90) days of the sixth (6th) grade year and shall ~~be focused~~focus on career exploration and related postsecondary education and training needs.

Each student's individual learning plan will consist of the following units:

Marion County High School Graduates
Four (4) units of language arts; Four (4) units of math (including Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry); Three (3) units of social studies; Three (3) units of science, (in high school); One (1) unit in visual and performing arts; One-half (1/2) unit of health; and One-half (1/2) unit of physical education.
2024+ Graduates
Additional units of academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences, including four (4) standards-based learning experiences in an academic or career interest, based on the student's individual leaning plan, and to include financial literacy learning experience. Total of 28 academic credits to graduate.

Hugh C. Spalding Graduates
Four (4) units of language arts; Four (4) units of math (including Algebra I, Geometry and two (2) other personalized credits covering the remaining required KAS for Mathematics; Three (3) units of social studies; Three (3) units of science; One (1) unit in visual and performing arts; One-half (1/2) unit of health; One-half (1/2) unit of physical education; and Six (6) units of academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences, including four (4) standards-based learning experiences in an academic or career interest, based on the student's individual leaning plan. Total of 22 academic credits to graduate.

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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOARD

Students must meet additional requirements as established in 704 KAR 003:305, including a requirement to take at least one (1) language arts and one (1) mathematics class each year of high school in order to graduate. 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. However, the Board shall not adopt any graduation requirements that include achieving a minimum score on a statewide assessment.

All required courses shall include content contained in the Kentucky Academic Standards, and electives shall address academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences.

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:

2020-21 CLASSIFICATION OF MARION COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS		
GRADE LEVEL	POSSIBLE CREDITS	TRANSITION FOR PROMOTION
9TH	7	
10TH	7	6
11TH	7	12
12TH	8	18
TOTAL	29	25

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2022-23 CLASSIFICATION OF MARION COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS		
GRADE LEVEL	POSSIBLE CREDITS	TRANSITION FOR PROMOTION
9TH	7	
10TH	8	6
11TH	8	13
12TH	8	20
TOTAL	31	27

2023-24+ CLASSIFICATION OF MARION COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS		
GRADE LEVEL	POSSIBLE CREDITS	TRANSITION FOR PROMOTION
9TH	8	
10TH	8	7
11TH	8	14
12TH	8	21
TOTAL	32	28

CLASSIFICATION OF HUGH C. SPALDING ACADEMY STUDENTS	
GRADE LEVEL	TRANSITION FOR PROMOTION
9TH	
10TH	6
11TH	12
12TH	18
TOTAL	22

Graduation Requirements**HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES**

All students must demonstrate successful completion of the courses required for high school graduation. It is expected that most students will complete those during their high school careers. However, middle school may offer courses required for high school graduation. If middle school students demonstrate mastery of middle level content as specified in the Kentucky Academic Standards before enrolling in the high school course then high school credit shall be awarded.

Acceptable demonstration of mastery of high school level content can include scores on high school content level summative assessment exit exams in the subject area. Middle school teachers of the student should confirm that the student is capable of success in the high school course. The content of the course offered in the middle grades must be the same as that defined in the Kentucky Academic Standards for the high school course.

Teachers with either secondary or middle school certification with the appropriate content specialization must teach the middle level course.

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

GENERAL DIPLOMA

A student who satisfactorily completes the requirements as specified in 704 KAR 003.305 and additional requirements as imposed by the Board and school council shall be awarded a General Diploma.

~~AMERICAN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (ACTE) DIPLOMA~~

~~An ACTE (American Career Technical Education) Diploma shall be issued to each student who satisfactorily completes the requirements as specified in 704 KAR 003.305 and additional requirements as imposed by the Board and school council which includes successful completion of a course sequence in a specific area of CTE and/or ATC, a minimum of four (4) courses in a special area, and having passed a KOSSA Exam or attaining an Industry Certificate in that area.~~

~~HONORS ACADEMIC DIPLOMA~~

~~An Honors Academic Diploma shall be issued to each student who satisfactorily completes the requirements as specified in 704 KAR 003.305 and additional requirements as imposed by the Board and school council which includes satisfactorily completing a minimum of four (4) Pre-AP course(s) and satisfactorily completing a minimum of four (4) Advance Placement (AP) and/or Dual Credit courses during their high school career.~~

Graduation Requirements

OTHER PROVISIONS

~~Advance Placement (AP) courses, that are two (2) semesters (year long), will count as two (2) credits toward graduation.~~

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.

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

⁵~~KRS 160.348; KRS 158.622~~

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 158.6453~~; 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:

~~08.1122~~; 08.1121; 08.1131; 08.11311; 08.14; 08.22; 08.222; 08.4

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

RELATED PROCEDURE:

09.12 AP.25

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