

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ALABAMA OCCUPATIONAL DIPLOMA

This diploma is available for student with disabilities as defined by the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 101-576)**. The **Occupational Diploma** is optional and does not limit or restrict students with disabilities to this diploma. Students must earn the course credits outlined below and successfully complete an approved occupational portfolio in order to be awarded the **Alabama Occupational Diploma**. The occupational portfolio will contain a collection of evidence of the student’s knowledge, skills, abilities, and employment competencies.

The **Individual Education Program** committee selects a program of study leading toward a High **School Diploma, Occupational Diploma**, or the **Graduation Certificate**, and documents this decision on the IEP developed during the student’s ninth grade year, or the IEP developed during the year prior to the student’s sixteenth birthday, whichever occurs first. This decision is to be reviewed annually.

	Alabama Occupational Diploma (AOD)
English Language Arts	4 credits to include the equivalent of: Life Skills I: English Life Skills II: English Life Skills III: English Life Skills IV: English
Mathematics	4 credits to include the equivalent of: Essential Mathematics I Essential Mathematics II Algebraic Explorations I Algebraic Explorations II
Science	4 credits to include the equivalent of: Life Skills I: Physical Science Life Skills II: Biology Life Skills III: Earth Science Life Skills IV: Environmental Science
Social Studies	4 credits to include the equivalent of Life Skills I: World History

	<p>Life Skills II: US History to 1877</p> <p>Life Skills III: US History from 1877</p> <p>Life Skills IV: Government (semester)</p> <p>Life Skills IV: Economics (semester)</p>
Health and Physical Education	<p>1.5 credits to include the equivalent of:</p> <p>Physical Education, LIFE Course</p> <p>Health (semester)</p>
Fine Arts	<p>1 credit to include the equivalent of:</p> <p>Any Core Art Course (as defined in the Alabama Course of Study)</p>
Career Technical Education	<p>4 credits to include:</p> <p>Any 2 CTE courses from an occupational program of study</p> <p>Coordinated Studies</p> <p>Cooperative Career Technical Education</p>
Electives	<p>1.5 credits from approved course offerings</p>
Minimum Credits for Graduation	24

ADDITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENTS

Students may earn optional high school diploma endorsements listed below by completing coursework extending beyond the state minimum graduation requirements according to criteria authorized by the state board of education and additional requirements authorized by the local board of education:

- **Hoover City Schools Seal of Scholastic Excellence**
 - At least four (4.0) credits that meet one of the following criteria:
 - Two (2.0) credits of a foreign language in the same language and two (2.0) credits in a college-level course (i.e., Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Dual Enrollment classes)
 - Three (3.0) credits of a foreign language in the same language and one (1.0) credit in a college-level course (i.e., Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Dual Enrollment classes)
 - At least two (2.0) credits of science that meet one of the following criteria:
 - One (1.0) credit in Chemistry and one (1.0) credit in Physics, or
 - One (1.0) credit in Integrated Chemistry / Physics, Pre-AP and one (1.0) credit in an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate science course
 - At least one (1.0) credit in math at the Precalculus level
 - Cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher
 - A minimum of 28.0 earned total credits
- **Alabama Advanced Academic Endorsement**
 - At least two (2.0) credits of a foreign language in the same language
 - Science credits must include at least one (1.0) credit in Chemistry or Physics
 - The Hoover City Schools Board of Education has increased this science requirement beyond the State of Alabama's minimally defined credits
 - Math credits must include at least one (1.0) credit in Algebra 2 with Trigonometry
 - A minimum of 26.0 earned total credits
 - The Hoover City Schools Board of Education has increased the total credit requirement beyond the State of Alabama's minimum requirement by two (2.0) additional credits
- **Alabama Career Technical Education Endorsement** (*effective with the incoming senior class in the 2008-09 year*)
 - At least three (3.0) credits in a sequenced Career Technical Education program of study
 - A minimum of 24.0 earned total credits
- **Alabama Advanced Career Technical Education Endorsement**
 - At least three (3.0) credits in a sequenced Career Technical Education program of study
 - Math credits must include at least one (1.0) credit in Algebra 2 with Trigonometry
 - A minimum of 24.0 earned total credits
- **Credit-based Endorsement Diploma**
 - The same coursework as the High School Diploma
 - Requires passing Math, Reading and one other section of the AHSGE.

Alabama Graduation Certificate

A student with a disability as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act may be presented with an Alabama Graduation Certificate when the student is unable to complete the requirements for a diploma but has earned 24.0 credits or completed the Individualized Education Plan or passed the Alabama High School Graduation Exam. Eligible students will be allowed to participate in graduation commencement exercises.

Alternate Adult High School Diploma (AAHSD)

The Alternate Adult High School Diploma (AAHSD) is available to students, with or without disabilities, who are pursuing the Alabama High School Diploma (AHSD) and have been unable to pass the requirements of the Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE) by the end of the fall administration of their senior year. With parental permission to participate, these students may obtain the AAHSD by passing the required course work for the AHSD and by passing the Test of General Education Development (GED). These students will participate in the AAHSD program concurrently as they continue to pursue an Alabama High School Diploma. Eligible students will be allowed to participate in graduation commencement exercises.

Class Rank and Graduating Honors

The Superintendent will establish procedures to calculate class rank based on cumulative grade point average and to define graduating honors based on class rank.

Credit Recovery and Repeated Credits

The Superintendent will establish procedures to regulate credit recovery programs and the posting of repeated credits on high school transcripts.

Four-Year Plans and Certification for Graduation

The Superintendent will establish procedures to ensure that high school students are following a written plan to complete requirements for graduation and these plans are monitored and revised as necessary by guidance counselors. These procedures will also establish the method used to certify that students have completed their plans to become eligible for graduation.

Hoover City Schools Certificate of Attendance

The Hoover City Schools Certificate of Attendance shall be awarded to students who do not pass the Alabama High School Graduation Examination (AHSGE) but do meet the guidelines for attendance and course credits required for graduation. The Certificate of Attendance is not a state-sanctioned high school exit document, but eligible students will be allowed to participate in graduation commencement exercises.

Limits on Earned Credits and Full-Time Enrollment

High school students may earn a maximum of ten (10.0) earned credits in an academic calendar year to include the regular school year, the subsequent session of summer school, and any additional credit-earning opportunities such as night school or online study attempted during the same period of time.

High school students must be enrolled for a full academic day for a minimum of four (4) calendar years. Students receiving homebound instructional services and fifth-year seniors who only require a limited number of credits to graduate may be enrolled for less than a full academic day with written authorization of the high school principal. Any other exceptions to this rule must be approved in writing by the Superintendent.

Transferring High School Credits from Middle School

Students may transfer credits from high school courses taken in the 8th grade in the subjects of Algebra 1, Computer Applications, and the first year of a foreign language to the high school transcript according to procedures established by the Superintendent.

Transfer Students and High School Credits

All transfer students must pass the Alabama High School Graduation Examination and meet the graduation requirements of

Hoover City Schools in order to receive a diploma from Hoover City Schools. The Superintendent will establish a procedure for cooperating with other local education agencies to arrange for a transfer diploma in situations where transfer students cannot meet local graduation requirements.

The Alabama State Board of Education recognizes the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS-CASI) and its regional affiliates as the officially recognized accrediting agency for the state of Alabama. The Superintendent will establish procedures for the evaluation and acceptance of transfer credits from accredited and non-accredited high schools for both regular and summer terms of the academic year.