

CASWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY	<u>CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION</u> Graduation Requirements	605
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The board recognizes the importance of setting rigorous graduation requirements to help ensure that students are receiving an education that will prepare them to be productive members of society.

In order to graduate from high school, students must meet the following requirements:

1. successful completion of all course unit requirements mandated by the State Board of Education (see Section A);
2. successful completion of cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction; and
3. successful completion of all other requirements mandated by the board, as provided in this policy.

The principal shall ensure that students and parents are aware of all graduation requirements. Guidance program staff shall assist students in selecting their high school courses to ensure that students are taking all of the required units and selecting electives consistent with their post-graduation plans. For students who have transferred to the school system during high school or who, for other reasons, have completed course work outside of the school system, the principal shall determine what course work will be applied as credit toward graduation. The principal shall consider the requirements of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (G.S. 115C-407.5) and the requirements of subsection C.3 of this policy in determining the graduation requirements for children of military families.

A. COURSE UNITS REQUIRED

All students must fulfill the course unit requirements of the Future-Ready Core Course of Study, unless they are approved for the Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study. The table in subsection A.1 below lists the course unit requirements for the Future-Ready Core Course of Study applicable to students who entered ninth grade for the first time during the 2013-14 school year or thereafter. Students who entered the ninth grade for the first time before the 2013-14 school year should consult their guidance counselor to determine applicable course unit requirements for graduation.

In accordance with State Board of Education requirements, students may earn high school credit for college courses completed. In addition, students may earn credit for certain high school courses in the Future-Ready Core Course of Study completed while in middle school, as authorized by the State Board of Education. Students also have the opportunity to meet course unit requirements without completing the regular period of

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classroom instruction by demonstrating mastery of the course material in accordance with State Board of Education requirements.

All awards of high school course credit must be consistent with State Board of Education requirements. Any inconsistency between board policy and State Board graduation requirements will be resolved by following the State Board requirements. While the board endeavors to keep its policy up to date with current State Board of Education graduation requirements, students should verify current requirements with their guidance counselors when planning course schedules or making other decisions based on graduation requirements.

1. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2013-2014 and thereafter

Courses Required	State Requirements	District Requirements
English	4 sequential (English I, II, III, and IV)	4
Mathematics	4 (NC Math 1, 2, and 3 and a fourth math course aligned with the student's post-high school plans.)** (A principal may exempt a student from this math sequence. Exempt students will be required to pass NC Math 1 and 2 and two other application-based math courses or selected CTE courses, as identified on the NC DPI math options chart.)***	4
Science	3 (a physical science course, Biology, and earth/environmental science)	3
Social Studies	4 (including American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics; American History Parts I and II; and World History)****	4

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Health/P.E.	1	1
Electives	6 (2 electives must be any combination of Career and Technical Education, Arts Education, or World Language; 4 must be from one of the following: Career and Technical Education, J.R.O.T.C., Arts Education, or any other subject area or cross-disciplinary course. A four-course concentration is recommended.)*****	11
Total Credits	State Minimum Credits Required 22	Local Credits Required 27

* Certain Advanced Placement (AP) courses will satisfy specific graduation requirements. See SBE Policy GRAD-008.

** Students entering ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2014-15 school year have alternate math course options. See SBE Policy GRAD-004.

*** Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math 3 as a prerequisite.

**** American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics must follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be satisfied by an AP/IB course, dual enrollment, or any other course that does not fully address the NCSCOS.

***** Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete two years of a second language.

2. Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required (only available to certain students with disabilities who have an IEP)

Courses Required	State Requirements	District Requirements
English	4 (including English I, II, III, and IV)	4
Mathematics	3 (including Introduction to Math, Math 1, and Financial Management)	3
Science	2 (including Applied Science and Biology)	2

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Social Studies	2 (including American History I and II)	2
Health/P.E.	1	1
Career/Technical 1	4 (Vocational Education electives)	4
Occupational Preparation	6 (including Occupational Preparation I, II, III, and IV, which require 150 hours of school-based training, 225 hours of community-based training, and 225 hours of paid employment*)	6
Electives	0	5
Other Requirements	Completion of IEP objectives Career Portfolio	
Total Credits	State Minimum Credits Required 22	Local Credits Required 27

* Paid employment is the expectation; however, when paid employment is not available, 225 hours of unpaid vocational training, unpaid internship experience, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community service hours may substitute for 225 hours of paid employment.

B. HIGH SCHOOL FINAL EXAMS AND END-OF-COURSE TESTING

High school students must take all end-of-course (EOC) tests, NC Final Exams, and Career and Technical Education State Assessments (CTE Post-Assessments) required by the State Board of Education and pursuant to Testing and Assessment Program policy.

C. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The board adopts the following policies with regard to graduation.

1. Honor Graduates

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Honor graduates may be designated on the basis of criteria established by the superintendent. Honor Graduates with a 3.5 - 3.9 are recognized by wearing white cords and 4.0 and greater with gold cords. Recognition of honor graduates may be included in graduation programs.

2. Students with Disabilities

Graduation requirements must be applied to students with disabilities to the extent required by state and federal law and State Board policy.

3. Children of Military Families

In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the board adopts the following policy provisions for students to whom the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children applies.

a. Waiver Requirements

Specific course work required for graduation will be waived if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed in another school system. If a waiver is not granted, school administrators shall provide the student with reasonable justification for the denial. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the superintendent or designee shall provide the student with an alternative means of acquiring the required course work so that the student may graduate on time.

b. Testing Requirements for Graduation

The superintendent shall accept the following in lieu of any local testing requirements for graduation: (1) the end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state; (2) national norm-referenced achievement tests; or (3) alternative testing. If these alternatives are not feasible for a student who has transferred in his or her senior year, subsection c below will apply.

c. Transfers During Senior Year

If a child of a military family who has transferred at the beginning of or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school system after all of the alternatives listed above have been considered and the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school, then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the sending school system to ensure

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that the student will receive a diploma from the sending board of education.

4. **Early Graduation**
Graduation prior to that of one's class may be permitted on the basis of criteria approved by the board upon recommendation by the superintendent. A student who has completed all the requirements for graduation by the first semester of their senior year may choose to graduate at the end of the first semester with the approval of the Caswell County Board of Education. This request must be made by completing an application for early graduation that is verified for eligibility by the school and signed by the principal. Approval of the request must be acted upon by the first Board meeting in January. Students who are given permission to graduate at the end of the first semester will give up all privileges as a high school student during the second semester. The student may participate in graduation exercises at the end of the school year and attend the prom.

5. **Graduation Certificates**
Graduation certificates will be awarded to eligible students in accordance with the standards set forth in State Board policy.

6. **Diploma Endorsements**
Students have the opportunity to earn one or more of the following diploma endorsements identifying a particular area of focused study: (1) Career Endorsement, (2) College Endorsement (two options), ~~and/or~~ (3) North Carolina Academic Scholars Endorsement, and/or (4) Global Languages Endorsement. No endorsement is required to receive a diploma.

7. **Weighted Grades**
Caswell County Public Schools will follow the State mandated grading scale, and all courses on a student's high school transcript will be weighted according to the State scale. Basic courses carry the following grade point: A-4, B-3, C-2, and D-1. For students entering high school in 2014-15 and beyond honors classes will receive one (1) additional quality point. Advanced Placement classes will receive two (2) additional quality points. For students entering high school in 2015-16 and after honors classes will receive one half (.5) additional quality point. Advanced Placement classes will receive one (1) additional quality point.

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8. Class Rank

Class rankings are one method of measuring academic performance. The board also recognizes other means of evaluating student achievement, including grade point average, courses completed, rigorousness of curriculum, results of tests and assessments, and recommendation letters.

High school principals shall provide for the compilation of class rankings to be listed on student transcripts and may make class rank information available periodically to students and their parents or guardians, and to other institutions at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian. High school principals may designate a valedictorian and salutatorian after all senior grades have been finalized.

Principals shall ensure that class ranking is computed in a fair and consistent manner as provided in State Board of Education Policy. The superintendent and principal shall ensure that students and parents receive adequate notice as to how class rank is calculated. Nothing in this policy provides a student with any legal entitlement to a particular class rank or title. Although the student grievance procedure provided in policy, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure, may be utilized to resolve disputes formally, the board encourages parents, students, and principals to reach a resolution informally on any matters related to class rank.

9. Summer School Credits

Permission must be granted in writing by the high school principal before a student can take and receive credit for summer school work. Students may take only courses previously failed. The courses must be taught in an approved summer school program recognized by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

10. Transfer Students

Transfer students will be evaluated individually based on State requirements, information from sending schools, and local requirements.

11. Early College Enrollment

A student may enroll in a class taught at a college or university while, at the same time, being enrolled in the Caswell County Public Schools provided the following conditions are met:

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1. The student must have above average grades based upon the average of all semester grades received in high school.
2. The student must have a conference with and the written communication of:
 - a. The guidance counselor at the school in which he is enrolled;
 - b. A Board employee who teaches in the subject area in which the student will enroll at the college or university; and
 - c. The principal of the school in which the student is enrolled.
3. The parent/legal guardian/legal custodian of the student must give permission for the concurrent enrollment. Enrollment in the college or university is the responsibility of the student and the Registrar. The student must also meet any other requirements established by the Superintendent.

12. Presidential Academic Fitness Awards

The Presidential Academic Fitness Awards were established in 1983 to recognize individual academic achievements of students upon graduation. High school student must have attained a "B+" average in Grades 9-12; placed 80th percentile or better on a nationally recognized standardized achievement test battery (such as the SAT); and completed a prescribed course of study including English, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign languages, and computer science.

13. Academic Honors

Caswell County Public Schools place great value on academic success and try in every way to recognize those students who work hard and do well in their classes. The following are several of the ways in which successful students are honored:

Honor Rolls

Each school has two (2) Honor Rolls determined at the end of each of the four (4) grading periods. The "A" Honor Roll includes all students who have all "A's". The "B or Better" Honor Roll includes all students who have all "A's" and "B's".

National Honor Society

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Bartlett Yancey High School has a chapter of the National Honor Society whose members are inducted on the basis of character, scholarship, leadership, and service.

Junior Marshals

Grade Point Averages are calculated after the first semester for juniors to qualify as Junior Marshals. Junior Marshals will be identified as the top ten (10) students with the highest averages.

Scholars

Noted in the graduation program, a scholar will be recognized as a student who graduates with a weighted grade point average of 3.5 and above. Students who graduate with a weighted grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99 will be designated in the graduation program with the honor of Cum Laude. Students who graduate with a weighted grade point average of 4.0 to 4.49 will be designated in the graduation program with the honor of Magna Cum Laude. Students who graduate with a weighted grade point average of 4.5 and higher will be designated in the graduation program with the honor of Summa Cum Laude.

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year:

North Carolina Scholars Program

To qualify for recognition as a North Carolina Scholar, a student must maintain an overall four-year (4-year) Grade Point Average of 3.5 on a four-point (4-point) scale; complete graduation requirements for Caswell County Public Schools; and complete specific courses as defined by the North Carolina Scholars Program.

14. Career Technical Education Credit

Students participating in high school career technical cooperative education will earn one (1) elective credit based upon the number of hours and time spent in the workplace. Awarding of this credit is contingent upon the student successfully passing the related classroom component of the career technical cooperative education class. All other requirements for Work-based Learning adopted by the State Board of Education in June 2000, must be met.

15. Alternative School

Students who are serving a suspension of any type may not be allowed to attend or walk the stage for graduation. Students whose assignments

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would end at the end of each semester will be allowed to return to Bartlett Yancey High School at the end of the semester after exams prior to graduation.

There is an exception for those students that the alternative ~~School~~ program coordinator, high school principal, and the superintendent consider to be too disruptive to the school environment, pose a danger to students or faculty, or have had multiple discipline infractions during their assigned time to the Alternative Program and will not be able to participate in the graduation ceremony.

16. Minimum Credit Diploma Requirements

In extreme or emergency situations the principal may, at his/her discretion, submit a student for consideration for the Minimum Credit High School Diploma Program by having the student enrolled in the Career Academy Program of Bartlett Yancey High School. This program would allow an approved student to receive their diploma with the state minimum 22 basic credits. The school counseling department should complete the referral form and submit it to the review panel. This panel will be convened by the high school principal, the secondary education director, a member of the student services department, and a central office supervisor. This panel will make a recommendation to the Board of Education, who will make the final decision.

The minimum credit diploma will be awarded only in extreme circumstances for students deemed at-risk, who are experiencing difficulty in meeting the specified local requirement of 27 credits for graduation. Students must meet specific requirements to be approved for the program:

1. Students must have completed 3 semesters and be 16 years old before admission to the program.
2. Priority in admissions will be given to students who meet the following criteria: students considering dropping out or previous dropouts, older students, students with a history of chronic absences, students with significant social or emotional needs, students experiencing extremely difficult life circumstances, and students needing fewer credits to graduate.

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3. The program curriculum will focus heavily on graduation requirements and career-oriented courses.
4. Students will be allowed to attend classes on a flexible schedule (at least 2 blocks/day) to allow for internships, necessary employment, and childcare issues.

The minimum credit diploma will require that the student receive the following:

1. A Personal Education Plan (PEP) that will be customized to an education program for better instructional delivery and academic success.
2. Services from Student Services (counselor, cdc,) and teachers to ensure educational counseling, mentoring, and social support.
3. A meeting with parents/guardians, and the student to sign an agreement requiring that the student be involved in the process by exhibiting effort consistent with their ability level.
4. A minimum credit diploma that meets the North Carolina Graduation Requirements.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -174.11, -276, -288, -407.5; State Board of Education Policies GCS-C-003, GCS-L-007, GCS-M-001, GCS-N-004, -010