

Graduation Requirements

In support of the student development goals set out in [KRS 158.6451](#) and the Kentucky Academic Expectations, students must complete a required minimum number of credits including demonstrated performance-based competency in technology, and all other state and local requirements in order to graduate from a District high school.

Students who do not meet the college readiness benchmarks for English and language arts and/or mathematics (18 for English, 20 for Reading, and 19 for Mathematics) shall take a transitional course or intervention before exiting high school.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND ELECTIVES

Students in a District high school must be enrolled and in attendance in high school for a minimum of eight (8) semesters and must complete a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits and all other state and District requirements in order to graduate, including all High School Minimum Graduation Requirements (See chart (below) and the District policy for completing a traditional or honors diploma. A student may request an exemption from these requirements by applying for early graduation.

All required courses shall include content contained in the [Kentucky Academic Standards](#), and electives shall address academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences, including four (4) credits in an academic or career interest based on the student's individual learning plan (ILP) that focuses on career exploration and related postsecondary education and training needs. Beginning with the class of 2017, three (3) of the four (4) elective credits are required to be in one career path based on the student's ILP.

The high school student handbook shall include complete details concerning specific graduation requirements. Inclusive of all settings, the student may earn no more than ten (10) academic credits for a seven (7) period day schedule. Students with demonstrated extenuating circumstances may request a waiver of this limitation through a letter to the Principal that is then submitted to the Superintendent/Designee for approval prior to enrolling in the additional courses.

PERFORMANCE-BASED CREDITS

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 developing and amending the system shall address the following:

1. Conditions under which high school credit will be granted under the system that allow students to demonstrate proficiency and earn credit for learning acquired outside the normal classroom setting, outside of school, or in prior learning;

Performance-based credit may be earned while the student is still "in school," but the instructional setting will look different from a traditional "seat time" environment.

2. Performance descriptors and their linkages to State content standards and academic expectations;

At the high school level, performance descriptors and evaluation procedures shall be established to determine if the content and performance standards have been met.

3. Assessments and the extent to which state-mandated assessments will be used;

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PERFORMANCE-BASED CREDITS (CONTINUED)

4. An objective grading and reporting process; and
5. Criteria to promote and support school and community learning experiences, such as internships and cooperative learning, in support of a student’s individual learning plan. Such experiences shall be supervised by qualified instructors and aligned with State and District content and performance standards.

DESCRIPTION OF HIGH SCHOOL MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS SEVEN (7) PERIOD/DAY SCHEDULE (Traditional Diploma)	
DOMAIN	NUMBER OF CREDITS
Language Arts and Reading	Four (4) credits (English I, II, III, IV) to include strands of reading, writing, speaking, listening, observing, inquiry, conventions, analysis, and using technology as a communication tool. Writing must include a research paper and technical writing for business. One (1) credit of reading for each year in which the student is determined to be reading two (2) or more levels below grade.
Mathematics	Four (4) credits one (1) credit taken each year of high school to include Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II or an interdisciplinary math, and one (1) math elective based on the student’s ILP. An interdisciplinary math may be substituted for a traditional Algebra I, Geometry or Algebra II course on an individual student basis if the course meets the content standards in the <u>Kentucky Academic Standards</u> . Pre-Algebra shall not be counted as one of the four required Math credits for high school graduation for students seeking an Honors Diploma but may be counted as an elective. Mathematics shall be taken each year of high school.
Social Studies	Three (3) credits to include strands of U.S. History, geography, economics, government, civics, and cultures/ societies.
Science	Three (3) credits to incorporate lab-based scientific investigation and to include strands of biological, physical, and earth /space science and unifying concepts.
Health	One-half (1/2) credit to include strands of individual well-being, consumer decisions, personal wellness, mental wellness, and community services.
Phys. Ed./ ROTC	One-half (1/2) credit to include strands of personal wellness, psychomotor, and lifetime activity.
Visual and Performing Arts	One (1) credit to include strands of history and appreciation of visual and performing arts to include the strands of arts, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student’s ILP.
Electives	8 credits consisting of academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences to include four (4) standards-based learning experiences in an academic or career interest based on the student’s ILP and demonstrated performance-based competency in technology(see below for Technology Competency description).
Technology Competency	Demonstrated competency in technology to include computer literacy. Students may demonstrate the state-mandated technology competency through a District-approved course sequence within the ILP wherein specific skills and competencies are embedded as part of the learning experience. If a credit-bearing course is taken to fulfill the competency requirement, it shall count as one of the eight (8) required electives identified as “Electives.”
TOTAL	24 credits
Note: All students must complete an Individual Learning Plan beginning with 6 th grade and updated annually in high school. (See Policy 08.14.)	

Graduation Requirements**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND ELECTIVES (CONTINUED)**

Summary of Credit Requirements – Effective with the Class of 2016

AREA	NUMBER
English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Visual and Performing Arts	1
Health	½
Physical Education/JROTC	½
Electives (includes technology competency)	8
TOTAL	24

Any Christian County high school may substitute an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary or higher level course for any of the required courses if the alternative course provides rigorous content and addresses the same applicable components of [704 KAR 003:305](#) and/or other applicable state regulations. If a substitution is made, the high school Principal must provide the Board a written rationale and course description to be filed at the Board Office and with the Kentucky Department of Education.

Credit requirements for grade placement for schools operating under a seven-period day are Sophomores (5), Juniors (11), and Seniors (17).

DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

All District high school graduates are required to have completed one (1) of two (2) diploma programs:

Traditional Diploma (meets State Minimum requirements) – A student must complete the following minimum number of required credits to be granted a Traditional Diploma from any Christian County High school:

24 credits required for 7-period day

Honors Diploma - A student must complete the following minimum number of required credits to be granted an Honors Diploma from any Christian County high school:

27 credits required for a 7-period day

In addition, a student seeking to earn an Honors Diploma must complete the following:

- The pre-college curriculum, which includes two (2) foreign languages;

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DIPLOMA PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

- A minimum of thirteen (13) courses considered as either college-prep (CP) or Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Of these thirteen (13) courses, a minimum of three (3) courses must be Advanced Placement courses and/or courses taken for Dual Credit at Hopkinsville Community College or other regional accredited institution at the 100-level or above with a college grade of “C” or higher;.
- English IV must be Advanced Placement or college prep level English IV; and
- A minimum grade point average of 3.25.

Summary of Honor Diploma Requirements

AREA	NUMBER
English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Visual and Performing Arts	1
Health	½
Physical Education/JROTC	½
Foreign Language	2
Electives (includes technology competency)	9
TOTAL	27

OTHER PROVISIONS

The Board may authorize different diploma programs. The Board, Superintendent, Principal or teacher may award special recognition to students. 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.

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

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EARLY GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

Students who meet all applicable legal requirements shall be eligible for early graduation in relation to receipt of an Early Graduation Certificate. Students wishing to follow an early graduation pathway shall notify the Principal of their intent prior to the beginning of grade nine (9) or as soon thereafter as the intent is known, but within the first thirty (30) school days of the academic year in which they wish to graduate. A Letter of Intent to Apply shall be entered into the student information system by October 1 of the year the student declares intent to graduate early.⁴

Students working toward receipt of an Early Graduation Certificate shall be supported by development and monitoring of an individual learning plan.

Students who meet all applicable legal requirements shall be awarded a diploma and an Early Graduation Certificate.

DIPLOMAS FOR VETERANS

In keeping with statute and regulation, the Board shall award an authentic high school diploma to an honorable 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.

GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

No student shall be allowed to participate in any District graduation activities unless all requirements have been met.

The Principal will determine in advance of commencement exercises whether the student has satisfied these conditions.

READING REQUIREMENT

Middle and high school students, shall be placed in reading intervention courses as needed based upon state and local assessments and other data points. Students will receive one (1) credit of reading for each course fully completed.

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLAN (ILP)

Students shall complete an individual graduation /learning plan that incorporates career development as required by policy 08.14. Student course selection will be based on the ILP and updated according to benchmarks on each school's approved ILP plan.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) REQUIREMENT

All AP courses will be taught according to a specific curriculum that has been developed by the American College Board.

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ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) REQUIREMENT (CONTINUED)

Each high school will offer AP classes. The school councils will determine the AP course offerings. Students are encouraged to take the College Board's AP exam. Effective August 1, 2014, students must take the corresponding AP exam for a grade calculated on a five (5.0) weighted scale. The student is responsible for the cost of the AP exam, however, if the said student scores 3 or higher on the AP exam, the District will reimburse the student for the cost of the exam. An application process will be available to assist students with financial hardships. The AP teacher, counselor, Principal and Superintendent /designee will determine qualified applicants.

DUAL CREDIT

Dual Credit shall be awarded to students who complete the requirements listed in policy 08.1131.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

The District shall offer high school courses for which a middle school student may earn high school credit. A passing grade shall earn the student credit for fulfilling the graduation requirement of completing a specific course. The earned grade shall not be transferred to the high school to be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average (GPA).

Middle school students shall be eligible to receive high school credit for high school courses in accordance with the following criteria:

- The content of the course offered at the middle school level is the same as that defined in the Kentucky Academic Standards and the Core Content for the high school course and the same textbook shall be used.
- The middle school courses are taught by a teacher with either secondary or middle school certification in the content area.
- The middle school student shall take the same mid-term and common final as the high school student.

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

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REFERENCES:

¹[KRS 40.010](#); [KRS 158.140](#); [704 KAR 007:140](#)

²[KRS 158.622](#)

³[KRS 156.160](#); 20 U.S.C. sec. 1414

⁴[KRS 158:142](#); [704 KAR 003:305](#)

[KRS 158.302](#); [KRS 158.645](#)

[KRS 158.6451](#); [KRS 158.860](#)

[013 KAR 002:020](#); [702 KAR 007:125](#), [703 KAR 004:060](#)

[704 KAR 003:303](#)

[OAG 78-348](#), [OAG 82-386](#)

[Kentucky Academic Standards](#)

RELATED POLICIES:

08.1131; 08.1132, 08.1133, 08.14, 08.22

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

Adopted/Amended: 12/18/2014

Order #: 128