

Book	Policy Manual
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5460 - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program, appropriate to the achievement of District goals and objectives as well as personal proficiency, the Board of Education awards a diploma to eligible students at a graduation ceremony.

The Board of Education shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this District who meets the requirements of graduation established by State law and this Board or who properly completes the goals and objectives specified in his/her the student's individualized education program (IEP) including either the exemption from or the requirement to complete the tests required by the State Board of Education in order to graduate. In addition to earning course credits, each student must show competency and readiness fulfill the requirements of one (1) graduation pathway that has been approved by the State.

Course Credits Required for Graduation

The minimum requirements set forth by the Ohio Department of Education and the Galion Board of Education is twenty and one-half (20.5) credits, of which, one-half (0.5) credit of community service or prorated if entering the Galion High School after the 9th-grade year at fifteen hours per year equaling .125 credits per year will be required. Students must fulfill the requirements of one (1) graduation pathway that has been approved by the state. All students must receive instruction in economics and financial literacy during grades 9-12. All students must complete at least two (2) semesters of fine arts, unless exempted by the Career Tech Fine Arts Waiver. Students must pass all required end of course exams, or be excused from one or more of these tests pursuant to the IEP developed in accordance with Section 3323.08 of the Ohio Revised Code in order to receive a diploma.

All students must receive instruction in economics and financial literacy during Grades 9 – 12. Additionally, all students must receive instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator from an approved source during Grades 9-12, unless the student is exempted from such training due to a disability or by written request of the parent.

Students who achieve an industry credential or license that requires an examination shall not be required to take additional technical assessments. If the student does not participate in licensure or license examination, the student shall take the applicable technical assessments. Students must attain specified scores on assessments as required to demonstrate workforce readiness on a nationally recognized job skills assessment in order to obtain a diploma.

Certain students are not required to take the college and career readiness assessments administered to all eleventh (11th) grade students:

- A. students who demonstrate they are remediation-free on the English, math and reading nationally-recognized assessments prior to the administration of the college and career readiness assessments;
- B. students with significant cognitive disabilities who take an alternative assessment and students with intellectual disabilities in accordance with State guidance, and
- C. Limited English proficient students enrolled in United States schools for less than two (2) years for whom no appropriate accommodations are available.

Students may take the assessment even if they are not required to do so.

Physical Education Waiver

Students who have participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two (2) full seasons as defined in the Course Offering Guide, while enrolled in grades 9 through 12, and as documented by the guidance counselor may be excused from the high school physical education requirement. Students electing such an excuse shall complete one-half (1/2) unit of at least sixty (60) hours of instruction in another course of study which is designated by the Board as meeting

the high school curriculum requirements. A student who has participated in the junior reserve officer training corps for at least two (2) full school years while enrolled in grades 9 through 12 may be excused from the high school physical education requirement and may use credit for such participation to satisfy the requirement to complete one-half (1/2) unit in another course of study.

Credit may be earned by:

- A. completing coursework;
- B. testing out of or demonstrating mastery of course content; or
- C. pursuing one (1) or more educational options in accordance with the ~~Center's~~ District's Credit Flexibility Program.

Credit may be earned at an accredited postsecondary institution through College Credit Plus (CCP).

Every high school may permit students below the ninth grade to take advanced work for credit. This work shall count toward the graduation requirements if it was both:

- A. taught by a person who possesses a license/certificate issued under State law that is valid for teaching high school;
- B. designated by the Board as meeting the high school curriculum requirements.

No student shall be required to remain in school for any specific number of semesters or other terms if the student completes the required curriculum early.

Competency Requirements

To graduate, students must earn a "competency" score on the state Algebra I and English Language Arts II tests. Students who do not pass the test will be offered appropriate remediation and supports and will retake the test at least once. In lieu of attaining competency scores on the state tests, students can demonstrate competency by one (1) of the following:

- A Obtain a remediation-free score in the math or English subject areas on the ACT or SAT.
- B Complete two (2) of the following options, with at least one (1) of the options being a foundational option:
 - 1 Foundational Options: obtain proficient scores on three (3) or more WebXams in a single career pathway, earn a twelve (12) point approved industry-recognized credential or group of credentials, or complete a pre-apprenticeship program recognized by the Ohio State Apprentice Council, a registered apprenticeship in the student's chosen career field, or show evidence of acceptance into an approved apprenticeship program restricted to participants eighteen (18) years of age or older.
 - 2 Supporting Options: complete a 250-hour work-based learning experience with evidence of positive evaluations, earn the required score on WorkKeys, or earn the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal.
- C Enlist in the military and present evidence of a signed contract to enter a branch of the U.S. armed services upon graduation.
- D Earn credit for a college-level math and/or college-level English course in the subject(s) not passed on the state exams through the College Credit Plus Program.

State Graduation Requirements

The District will comply with State Board of Education requirements for graduation. Students shall earn required credits for graduation in the appropriate subject areas, and achieve one (1) of the pathways as summarized below (available pathways change and are specific to each graduating class):

~~Class of 2019 through Class of 2022~~

~~Students who have entered ninth grade before July 1, 2019 shall earn required credits for graduation in the appropriate subject areas, and achieve one (1) of three (3) pathways:~~

- ~~A Earning a State Board of Education approved, industry recognized credential or group of credentials and achieve the required score on a workforce readiness assessment selected by the State; or~~
- ~~B Earning a cumulative score on subject specific end of course exams equal to State Board requirements for the year of graduation; or~~

~~Earning remediation free scores in English language arts and math on a nationally recognized college admission exam such as ACT or SAT.~~

~~Students in the graduating classes of 2019 and 2020 may be eligible for graduation by completing two (2) additional alternative pathways:~~

~~A. Academic Pathway. Take all end of course examinations and retake examinations in English Language Arts or Math at least once if the student received a score lower than a three (3), plus meet at least two (2) of the following conditions:~~

- ~~1. attain an attendance rate of at least ninety three percent (93%) during twelfth grade year (not available for students who enter ninth grade after July 1, 2016)~~
- ~~2. take at least four (4) full year or equivalent courses during twelfth grade and obtain a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale during twelfth grade (students who entered ninth grade between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017, must obtain this GPA during eleventh grade as well)~~
- ~~3. complete a capstone project during twelfth grade in accordance with District administrative guidelines (capstone projects for students who entered ninth grade between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017, must comply with guidance to be developed by the State)~~
- ~~4. complete 120 hours of work in community service in accordance with District administrative guidelines (community service approved for students who entered ninth grade between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017, must comply with guidance to be developed by the State and be both approved and verified by the District)~~
- ~~5. earn three (3) or more transcribed credit hours under the College Credit Plus Program at any time during high school~~
- ~~6. pass an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course and receive a score of three (3) or higher for an AP examination or four (4) or higher for an International Baccalaureate examination during high school~~
- ~~7. earn a level three (3) score for each of "reading for information," "applied mathematics," and "locating information" components of the job skills assessment selected by the State Board~~
- ~~8. obtain an industry recognized credential or a group of credentials equal to at least three (3) total points~~
- ~~9. satisfy conditions required to receive an OhioMeans Jobs readiness seal~~

B. Career Technical Pathway

~~Take all end of course examinations; complete a career technical training program approved by ODE that includes at least four (4) career technical courses; and meet one (1) of the following conditions:~~

- ~~1. demonstrate successful workplace participation with 250 hours of workplace experience and evidence of regular, positive evaluations from the employee or supervisor and a representative of the School District~~
- ~~2. obtain an industry recognized credential or group of credentials equal to at least twelve (12) points~~
- ~~3. attain a cumulative score of at least proficient on career technical education assessments or test modules required for the program~~

Class of 2023 and Beyond

~~Students who enter ninth grade after July 1, 2019, must satisfy the following two (2) requirements. The Board of Education permits students who enter ninth grade before July 1, 2019, to earn a diploma if they meet these requirements as an additional pathway to graduation:~~

~~Students must demonstrate readiness for graduation by earning at least two (2) diploma seals, one (1) of which must include a State-approved seal from the following list:~~

~~A. Earn at least two (2) State diploma seals, one (1) of which must include:~~

- ~~1. Seal of Biliteracy;~~
- ~~2. OhioMeansJobs-readinessReadiness Seal; or~~
- ~~3. State Diploma Seal in one (1) of the following areas: Industry-rRecognized Credential Seal;~~
- ~~4. College-ready sealReady Seal;~~
- ~~5. Military Enlistment Seal;~~
- ~~6. Citizenship Sseal;~~
- ~~7. Science Seal;~~
- ~~8. Honors Diploma Seal;~~
- ~~9. Technology Seal.~~

The Board offers the following additional seal(s) in accordance with adopted administrative guidelines: Community Service Seal; Fine/Performing Arts Seal; Student Engagement Seal. Please refer to Administrative Guideline 5460D for more information on the Seals offered by the Board.

B. ~~Attain a competency score on each of the Algebra I and English Language Arts II end-of-course examinations. Students who receive a proficient score on Algebra I or English Language Arts prior to entering high school will fulfill this requirement and will not be required to retake the exams. Students who fail to attain the competency score in either subject will be offered remedial support and will be required to retake the exam(s) at least once. A student who fails to achieve the competency score a second time may demonstrate competency in the failed subject area by completing one (1) of the following:~~

~~1. Earn course credit through College Credit plus in that subject~~

~~2. Provide evidence of enlistment in a branch of the armed services of the United States; or~~

~~3. Complete two (2) of the following options, with at least one (1) of the options being a foundational option~~

~~**Foundational Options:** earning a score of proficient or higher on three (3) or more State technical assessments; obtaining an industry recognized credential; completing a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship in a chosen career field; providing evidence of acceptance into an apprenticeship program after high school that is restricted to participants eighteen (18) years of age or older.~~

~~**Supporting Options:** completing 250 hours of a work-based learning experience with evidence of positive evaluations; obtaining an OhioMeansJobs readiness seal; attaining a workforce readiness score selected by the State.~~

An honors diploma shall be awarded to any student who meets the established requirements for graduation or the requirements of his/her the student's IEP; attains the applicable scores on the tests required by the State Board of Education to graduate; and meets any additional criteria the State Board may establish.

Participation in commencement exercises is a privilege and not a right. Commencement exercises will include only those students who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation as certified by the high school principal or those students who have otherwise been deemed eligible to participate in such exercises. A student may be denied participation in the ceremony of graduation when personal conduct so warrants. However, no student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure.

The Board also shall grant a diploma of adult education to all District residents over the age of twenty-one (21) who meet the requirements established by the State Board of Education.

The Superintendent shall establish whatever administrative guidelines are necessary to comply with State rules and regulations. The District shall comply with all data reporting requirements regarding graduation and post-high school outcomes.

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R.C. 3313.615, 3313.617, 3313.618, 3313.647, 3313.903, 3323.08
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