

Galion City School District Bylaws & Policies

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 shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this District who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board or who properly completes the goals and objectives specified in his/her 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 earn the required number of points, unless exempted, on the tests required by the State Board of Education to graduate.

The requirements for graduation from high school include earning twenty-one (21) units of credit in grades nine through twelve.

Starting with the Class of 2020 one half credit (.5) of community service will be required as part of the twenty-one (21) credits.

All students must receive instruction in economics and financial literacy during Grades 9 – 12.

Students who have participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading for at least two (2) full seasons as defined in the course of study handbook, 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.

Credit may be earned by:

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

Credit may be earned at an accredited postsecondary institution.

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.

An honors diploma shall be awarded to any student who meets the established requirements for graduation or the requirements of his/her 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.

Commencement exercises will include only those students who have successfully completed requirements for graduation as certified by the high school principal or those students who have been deemed eligible to participate in such exercises in accordance with the terms of their IEP. No student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure. A student may be denied participation in the ceremony of graduation when personal conduct so warrants.

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.

R.C. 3313.60, 3313.603, 3313.61, 3313.611, 3313.614, 3313.647, 3323.08

R.C. 3301.07, 0710, 0711

A.C. 3301-41-01, 3301-13-01 to 07

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Revised 8/9/07

Revised 12/10/09

Revised 9/17/15

Galion City School District Administrative Guidelines

5460C - OHIO CORE OPT-OUT REQUIREMENTS

A student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010, and before July 1, 2014, may qualify for graduation even though the student has not completed the Ohio core curriculum prescribed by law and in Policy [5460](#), if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- A. After the student has attended high school for two years, as determined by the school, the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian sign and file with the school a written statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or custodian's consent to the student's graduating without completing the Ohio core curriculum and acknowledging that one consequence of not completing the Ohio core curriculum is ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio without further coursework.
- B. The student and parent, guardian, or custodian fulfill any procedural requirements the school stipulates to ensure the student's and parent's, guardian's, or custodian's informed consent and to facilitate orderly filing of statements as required.
- C. The student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian and a representative of the student's high school jointly develop an individual career plan for the student that specifies the student matriculating to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business and industry credential, or entering an apprenticeship.
- D. The student's high school provides counseling and support for the student related to the plan developed during the remainder of the student's high school experience.
- E. The student successfully completes, at a minimum, the curriculum prescribed in this guideline.

In order for a student to qualify for a diploma in this District, s/he must have satisfactorily completed the following courses and earned at least twenty - ~~one (20)~~ (21) credits.

Graduation must be earned by passing all mandated subjects, a major sequence, and earning total units required for the specific diploma sought. Credit toward graduation shall be granted for any course that a student successfully completes outside of school hours at an accredited postsecondary institution whether or not the course was paid for by the District or by the parents or student. In addition, the student must have attained the applicable score on the tests required by the State Board of Education for graduation in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. Each student must demonstrate, unless exempted, the required level of skill in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies at the end of the tenth grade.

As an alternative to the requirement that a student attain the applicable scores on the Ohio Graduation Tests ("OGT") in order to be eligible to graduate, a student may meet the OGT testing requirements if s/he satisfies all of the following conditions:

- A. passes four (4) out of five (5) OGT tests and has missed passing the fifth test by ten (10) points or less
- B. has a ninety-seven percent (97%) school attendance rate in each of the last four (4) school years, excluding any excused absences
- C. has not been expelled from school in any of the last four (4) school years
- D. has a grade point average of at least 2.5 out of 4.0 in the subject area of the test not yet passed
- E. has completed the high school curriculum requirement in the subject area of the test not yet passed
- F. has participated in any intervention programs provided by the District in the subject area and has a ninety-seven percent (97%) attendance rate, excluding any excused absences, in any of those programs provided at times beyond the normal school day, school week, or school year or has received comparable intervention services from another source, and
- G. holds a letter recommending graduation from each of the student's high school teachers in the subject area not yet passed and from the high school principal

Diploma - The requirements for graduation are based on grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and are listed below. However, 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.

Each student must earn at least twenty (20) credits in order to graduate and receive a diploma. The distribution of such credits is to be as follows:

English Language Arts	4
Health	1/2
Physical Education	1/2
Mathematics	3
Science	3 (1 in Biological science and 1 in Physical science)
Social Studies	3 (1/2 in Am. History, 1/2 in Am. Government)
Community Service (Class of 2020 and beyond)	1/2 (Credit Issued During Senior Year after the completion of 60 total hours of community service; 15 hours per year)
Six (6) electives	(including 1 whole unit, or 2 half units, in business/technology, fine arts, and/or foreign language)

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Graduation must be earned by passing all mandated subjects, a major sequence, and earning total units required for the specific diploma sought. Credit toward graduation shall be granted for any course that a student successfully completes outside of school hours at an accredited postsecondary institution whether or not the course was paid for by the District or by the parents or student. In addition, students in graduating classes before 2018 must attain the applicable score on the tests required by the State Board of Education for graduation in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. Each student must demonstrate, unless exempted, the required level of skill in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies at the end of the tenth grade.

As an alternative to the requirement that a student in a graduating class before 2018 having to attain the applicable scores on the Ohio Graduation Tests ("OGT") in order to be eligible to graduate, a student may meet the OGT testing requirements if s/he satisfies all of the following conditions:

- A. passes four (4) out of five (5) OGT tests and has missed passing the fifth test by ten (10) points or less
- B. has a ninety-seven percent (97%) school attendance rate in each of the last four (4) school years, excluding any excused absences
- C. has not been expelled from school in any of the last four (4) school years
- D. has a grade point average of at least 2.5 out of 4.0 in the subject area of the test not yet passed
- E. has completed the high school curriculum requirement in the subject area of the test not yet passed
- F. has participated in any intervention programs provided by the District in the subject area and has a ninety-seven percent (97%) attendance rate, excluding any excused absences, in any of those programs provided at times beyond the normal school day, school week, or school year or has received comparable intervention services from another source, and
- G. holds a letter recommending graduation from each of the student's high school teachers in the subject area not yet passed and from the high school principal

Students in special education shall receive a diploma if certified they have properly completed the requirements of their IEP, and unless exempted, they take the tests

required by the State Board of Education for graduation, with or without accommodations. Students should not be exempted from taking the prescribed tests unless no accommodation can be made to enable the student to take the test. They shall participate in all graduation activities.

Diploma - The requirements for graduation are based on grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and are listed below. However, 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.

For Graduating Classes of 2014 and Beyond:

Each student must earn at least twenty-one (21) credits in order to graduate and receive a diploma. The distribution of such credits is to be as follows:

English Language Arts	4
Health	1/2
Physical Education	1/2
Mathematics	4 (including 1 unit of Algebra II or the equivalent)
Science	3 (including 1 in life science, 1 in Physical science, and 1 unit advanced study in one or more of the following Sciences: chemistry, physics, or other physical science; advanced biology or other life Science; astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or Space science)
Social Studies	3 (1/2 in Am. History, 1/2 in Am. Government)
Community Service (Class of 2020 and beyond)	1/2 (Credit Issued During Senior Year after the completion of 60 total hours of community service; 15 hours per year)
Balance	(including 1 whole unit or any combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural

education or English language
arts, mathematics, science or
social studies courses not
otherwise required.

(Beginning with the Class of 2018)

Assessments

In addition to course credits, students will earn points toward graduation on seven end-of-course exams. The courses in which students take an end-of-course exam include:

- A. Algebra I and Geometry or Integrated Math I and II;
- B. American History and American Government;
- C. English I and English II;
- D. Physical Science and Biology.

Students can earn from 1-5 points for each exam, based on their performance.

- 5 = Advanced
- 4 = Accelerated
- 3 = Proficient
- 2 = Basic
- 1 = Limited

Students studying Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or taking dual enrollment courses in physical science, American history, or American government may take assessments aligned to those courses in lieu of end-of-course exams to avoid double testing.

Unless otherwise exempted, students must accumulate a minimum of 18 points from scores on their end-of-course exams to become eligible for a diploma.

Students who score below proficient on an exam may retake it after receiving extra help on the course content. Students who score proficient or higher on an end-of-course exam may retake the exam only if, once they take all exams, they have not met the minimum number of graduation points needed to graduate. In such a case, a student may retake any exam after receiving help on the course content. These same

provisions shall apply to substitute exams, which may be used interchangeably with approved tests.

Assessment Options

Students who do not earn the required number of graduation points can become eligible for a diploma if they earn a remediation-free score on a national college admission test. This assessment will be given to students free-of-charge in the Fall of the 11th grade year starting with the graduating class of 2018.

Students may also qualify for graduation by earning an approved industry-recognized credential and achieving a workforce-readiness score on a related job skills assessment.

(Beginning with the Class of 2020)

Students will be required to complete 15 hours per year grades 9 -12 of community service. The combination of 15 hours per year will equal 60 hours total, which will equate to .5 Credits recorded on the student transcript for graduation purposes. This credit will be evaluate with a Pass/Fail Grade and issued during the student's senior year upon completion of the 60 total hours.

Other

Credit may be earned at an accredited postsecondary institution.

One (1) unit is a minimum of 120 hours of course instruction, except that for a laboratory course, it is a minimum of 150 hours of course instruction.

One-half (1/2) unit is a minimum of sixty (60) hours of course instruction, except that for physical education courses, it is a minimum of 120 hours of course instruction.

Students below the ninth grade level may take high school courses for advanced credit toward graduation. In order to receive such credit, the course must be taught by a person certified/licensed to teach in high school and the course must be designated by the Board as meeting the high school curriculum requirements.

Any person, residing in the District, who has completed the academic requirements in any high school but has not passed all the tests required by the State Board of Education for graduation is to be awarded a diploma from this District if s/he retakes and passes any unpassed tests at the high school during the designated testing days, unless excused from the tests as provided in law. The person is not required to meet the requirements established by this District.

Revised 9/17/15