

Graduation Requirements

In support of student development goals set out in [KRS 158.6451](#) and the Kentucky Academic Standards, students entering grade nine (9) on or before the last day of the 2018-2019 academic year must complete a minimum of twenty-six (26) credits, including demonstrated performance-based competency in technology, and all other state and local requirements in order to graduate from high school in the District. Students entering grade nine (9) on or after the first day of the 2019-2020 academic year must complete a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits, including demonstrated performance-based competency in technology, and all other state and local requirements in order to graduate from high school in the District.

Students wishing to receive a regular diploma must pass a civics test made up of one hundred (100) questions selected from the civics test administered to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens and prepared or approved by the Board. A minimum score of sixty percent (60%) is required to pass the test and students may take the test as many times as needed to pass. Students that have passed a similar test within the previous five (5) years shall be exempt from this civics test. This shall be subject to the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan.⁴

In addition to the content requirements established by the Kentucky Academic Standards, and the credits required by the minimum requirements for high school graduation in [704 KAR 003:305](#), the Board may impose other requirements for graduation from high school. Students shall complete an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) that focuses on career exploration and related postsecondary education and training needs.

The high school student handbook shall include complete details concerning specific graduation requirements.

Graduation Requirements**FOR STUDENTS WITH INITIAL GRADE NINE (9) ENROLLMENT ON OR BEFORE THE LAST DAY OF THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Credits shall include content standards as provided by the Kentucky Academic Standards established in [704 KAR 003:303](#) and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

Language Arts	Four (4) Credits (English I, II, III, and IV) taken each year of high school. Students that do not meet the college readiness benchmarks for English and language arts shall take a transitional course or intervention, which is monitored to address remediation needs , before exiting high school.
Social Studies	Three (3) Credits. Credits to include the content strands of historical perspective, including U.S. History, Geography, Economics, Government and Civics, and Culture and Societies.
Mathematics	Four (4) Credits (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and one (1) math elective) (An integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, occupational, or technical course that prepares a student for a career path based on the student's ILP 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 Kentucky Academic Standards, established in 704 KAR 003:303 and 704 Chapter 8. A mathematics course or its equivalent as determined by the District shall be taken each year of high school to ensure readiness for postsecondary education or the workforce. Any mathematics course other than Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II shall be counted as an elective. Students that do not meet the college readiness benchmarks for mathematics shall take a transitional course or intervention, which is monitored to address remediation needs , before exiting high school.
Science	Three (3) Credits incorporating lab-based scientific investigation. Credits to include the content strands of Biology, Earth/Space, Physical Science OR Chemistry.
Health	One-half (1/2) Credit
P.E.	One-half (1/2) Credit
Visual and Performing Arts	One (1) Credit or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's ILP
Academic and Career Interest Standards-based Learning Experiences	Eight (8) Credits total (Four (4) elective credits plus four (4) standards-based elective credits taken in sequence in an academic or career interest based on the student's ILP)
World Language	Two (2) elective Credits in Level I and II of same language. Credit may be earned through competency assessment.

Technology	Demonstrated performance-based competency
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Graduation Requirements**FOR STUDENTS WITH INITIAL GRADE NINE (9) ENROLLMENT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Credits shall include content standards as provided by the Kentucky Academic Standards established in [704 KAR 003:303](#) and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

Language Arts	Four (4) Credits total (English I and II plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)
Social Studies	Three (3) Credits total – (US History and World Civics plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)
Mathematics	Four (4) Credits total (Algebra I and Geometry plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)
Science	Three (3) Credits total – (Integrated Science and Biology incorporating lab-based scientific investigation experiences plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)
Health	One-half (1/2) Credit
P.E.	One-half (1/2) Credit
Visual and Performing Arts	One (1) Credit or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's ILP
Academic and Career Interest Standards-based Learning Experiences	Eight (8) Credits total (Four (4) elective credits plus four (4) standards-based elective credits taken in sequence in an academic or career interest based on the student's ILP) Two (2) units of a single world language are necessary for students to satisfy a precollege curriculum. World language credit may be earned through a competency assessment.
Technology	Demonstrated performance-based competency
Additional qualifiers as follows:	

Complete one (1) or more of the following graduation qualifiers:

1. Satisfy precollege curriculum as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in [013 KAR 002:020](#);
2. Achieve benchmark score as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in [013 KAR 002:020](#) in one (1) section of a college admissions or placement examination;
3. Complete three (3) postsecondary credit hours or more of a Kentucky Department of Education approved dual credit course with a grade of C or higher;
4. Complete one (1) course and corresponding assessment meeting the following criteria:
 - a) Advanced placement (AP) with a score of three (3) or higher;
 - b) Cambridge Advanced International (CAI) with a score at E or higher; or

- c) International Baccalaureate (IB) with a score of five (5) or higher;
- d)

Graduation Requirements**FOR STUDENTS WITH INITIAL GRADE NINE (9) ENROLLMENT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR (CONTINUED)**

5. Obtain an industry certification as approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board;
6. Complete four (4) credits from valid courses within a single Kentucky Department of Education approved career pathway;
7. Complete a Kentucky Department of Education approved process to verify 500 hours of exceptional work experience, or alternative requirements as determined by a student's Admissions and Release Committee and specified in the student's IEP; and
8. Complete two (2) years in an approved Kentucky Department of Education or Kentucky Labor Cabinet pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program.

Graduation Requirements**FOR STUDENTS WITH INITIAL GRADE NINE (9) ENROLLMENT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Credits shall include content standards as provided by the Kentucky Academic Standards established in [704 KAR 003:303](#) and 704 KAR Chapter 8. The required credits and demonstrated competencies shall include the following minimum requirements:

Language Arts	Four (4) Credits total (English I and II plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)
Social Studies	Three (3) Credits total – (US History and World Civics plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)
Mathematics	Four (4) Credits total (Algebra I and Geometry plus two (2) credits aligned to the student's ILP)
Science	Three (3) Credits total – (Integrated Science and Biology incorporating lab-based scientific investigation experiences plus one (1) credit aligned to the student's ILP)
Health	One-half (1/2) Credit
P.E.	One-half (1/2) Credit
Visual and Performing Arts	One (1) Credit or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's ILP
Academic and Career Interest Standards-based Learning Experiences	Seven (7) Credits total (Three (3) elective credits plus four (4) standards-based elective credits taken in sequence in an academic or career interest based on the student's ILP). Two (2) units of a single world language are necessary for students to satisfy a precollege curriculum. World language credit may be earned through a competency assessment.
Technology	Demonstrated performance-based competency
Financial Literacy	One (1) Credit that meets the financial literacy requirements pursuant to KRS 158.1411 .
Additional qualifiers and prerequisites as follows:	

- I. Complete one (1) or more of the following graduation qualifiers:
 1. Satisfy precollege curriculum as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in [013 KAR 002:020](#);
 2. Achieve benchmark score as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in [013 KAR 002:020](#) in one (1) section of a college admissions or placement examination;

3. Complete three (3) postsecondary credit hours or more of a Kentucky Department of Education approved dual credit course with a grade of C or higher;

Graduation Requirements**FOR STUDENTS WITH INITIAL GRADE NINE (9) ENROLLMENT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR (CONTINUED)**

4. Complete one (1) course and corresponding assessment meeting the following criteria:
 - a) Advanced placement (AP) with a score of three (3) or higher;
 - b) Cambridge Advanced International (CAI) with a score at E or higher; or
 - c) International baccalaureate (IB) with a score of five (5) or higher;
 5. Obtain an industry certification as approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board;
 6. Complete four (4) credits from valid courses within a single Kentucky Department of Education approved career pathway;
 7. Complete a Kentucky Department of Education approved process to verify 500 hours of exceptional work experience, or alternative requirements as determined by a student's Admissions and Release Committee and specified in the student's IEP; and
 8. Complete two (2) years in an approved Kentucky Department of Education or Kentucky Labor Cabinet pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program.
- II. Meet one (1) of the following graduation prerequisites for reading and one (1) of the following graduation prerequisites for mathematics:
1. Score at or above the minimum criteria on the tenth (10th) grade state-required assessments in reading or mathematics;
 2. Score proficient or higher for reading or mathematics on the eighth (8th) grade state required assessment; or
 3. A student collection of evidence submitted by the Principal to the Superintendent/designee for review and approval. The collection of evidence shall include the following:
 - The student's ILP that includes student transcript;
 - If applicable, for students with IEPs, evidence that the student has achieved progress on measurable annual IEP goals as determined by the Admissions and Release Committee;
 - Performance on the tenth (10th) grade state-required assessments in reading or mathematics;
 - Appropriate interventions, targeted to the student's needs;
 - Student work demonstrating the student's competency in reading or mathematics; and
 - The student's post-graduation plans.

Graduation Requirements

REQUIREMENT WAIVERS

In rare cases, for students with initial grade nine (9) enrollment on or before the last day of the 2019-2020 academic year, the Board may approve a waiver of World Language requirements if an ARC or Targeted Intervention Plan (TIP) recommends such a move and parents are fully advised of the implications of the decision.

CLASS STATUS

High School students with initial grade nine (9) enrollment on or before the last day of the 2018-2019 academic year shall be promoted and classified on the following basis:

Credit Needed				Minimum Credits for Graduation
8th Grade-Freshman	Freshman -Sophomore	Sophomore - Junior	Junior - Senior	
0	5.5	12	18.5	26

High School students with initial grade nine (9) enrollment on or after the first day of the 2019-2020 academic year shall be promoted and classified on the following basis:

Credit Needed				Minimum Credits for Graduation
8th Grade-Freshman	Freshman -Sophomore	Sophomore - Junior	Junior - Senior	
0	5	11	17	24

TECHNOLOGY COMPETENCY

In order to graduate, students must demonstrate performance competency in technology as measured by a District approved competency assessment. Students not meeting competency standards upon entering the ninth grade must follow a SBDM Council approved plan to meet this requirement.

COURSE SEQUENCE

All students are required to complete a minimum of four (4) credits in an elective sequence.

Graduation Requirements

PERFORMANCE-BASED CREDITS

The District shall accept performance-based credits toward graduation in addition to traditional Carnegie units. It is the responsibility of the high schools to develop performance descriptors and assessments for performance-based courses. Performance-based credits will only be accepted by the Board if previously approved by the high school SBDM Council. It is also the responsibility of the high school SBDM Council to determine the appropriateness of the content and courses for performance-based credit. SBDM Councils may choose to allow performance-based credits for only some content areas and not others. If no SBDM exists, the Board will accept performance-based credits if approved by the Superintendent/designee.

HONORS RECOGNITION

Student class rank will not be tabulated or externally reported.

Graduating students will be publicly recognized for academic distinction at high school graduation ceremonies using the following Latin honors system:

Level of Honor	G.P.A. Range
Cum laude - defined as “with honor”	3.5-3.749
Magna cum laude - defined as “with great honor”	37.75-4.099
Summa cum laude - defined as “with highest honor”	4.1 and above

All graduates will be seated and announced alphabetically.

The SBDM Council at each school will review and approve a graduation program including selection of speakers, student performances, and the awarding of diplomas within the time limits established by the Board.

TRANSCRIPTS

Students completing college-level coursework, not designated as dual credit, may choose to include college courses and grades on their high school transcript under the following provisions:

- Student provides official transcript from the college/university upon completion of the course(s);
- Student attends an accredited, recognized college/university.

All dual-credit courses completed will be entered on the students’ transcript.

ALTERNATIVE DIPLOMA

As approved by the Superintendent/designee and with input from the ILP team, students assigned to an alternative program may be permitted to graduate with fewer than the twenty-six (26) credits but not less than the twenty-two (22) state required credits.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Students may enroll in required or elective correspondence courses and may count up to eight (8) correspondence credits toward Jessamine County High School graduation. Correspondence courses will be accepted from accredited institutions including.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES FOR CREDIT

Middle school students who enroll in high school level courses while still in middle school may earn high school credit for each course if s/he earns an A, B in the course.

In keeping with state regulations, middle-level teachers who teach these courses for high school credit must hold either middle-level or secondary certification with the appropriate content specialization.

OTHER PROVISIONS

The District shall accept for credit toward graduation any course a student successfully completes through an electronically delivered course approved by the Superintendent/designee.

In addition, the District shall accept for credit toward graduation and completion of high school course requirements an advanced placement, a high school equivalent, or an electronically delivered course approved by the Superintendent/designee taken by a student in grades 5, 6, 7, or 8 if that student attains performance levels expected of high school students 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 or the approved electronically delivered course.¹

The Board may authorize different diploma programs. 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.

The Board, Superintendent, Principal, or teacher may award special recognition to students.

The student with disabilities who completes an alternative program specified in an individual educational plan is entitled to recognition for achievement. 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.²

A student who is at least seventeen (17) years of age and who is a state agency child, as defined in [KRS 158.135](#), shall be eligible to seek attainment of a High School Equivalency Diploma.

OTHER PROVISIONS (CONTINUED)

The District shall report individual student data regarding the completion of each graduation qualifier and each graduation prerequisite to the Kentucky Department of Education.

The Board may substitute an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, occupational, technical, or higher-level course for a required course if the alternative course provides rigorous content.

Graduation Requirements**EARLY GRADUATION CERTIFICATE**

Students who meet all applicable legal requirements shall be eligible for early graduation in relation to receipt of a graduation diploma and 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.³

Students working toward receipt of an Early Graduation Certificate shall be supported by development and monitoring of an ILP to support their efforts.

To graduate early and earn an Early Graduation Certificate, a student shall:

1. Score proficient or higher on the state-required assessments; and
2. Meet the college readiness exam benchmarks established [013 KAR 002:020](#) for placement in credit-bearing courses without the need for remediation.

A student who has indicated an intent to graduate early may participate in the student's state administration of the college readiness exam prior to the junior year, if needed. Students who meet all applicable legal requirements shall be awarded a diploma and an Early Graduation Certificate.

REFERENCES:

¹[KRS 158.622](#)

²[KRS 156.160](#); 20 U.S.C. sec. 1414

³[KRS 158.142](#); [704 KAR 003:305](#);

⁴[KRS 158.141](#)

[KRS 156.027](#); [KRS 158.135](#)

[KRS 158.141](#); [KRS 158.143](#); [KRS 158.183](#); [KRS 158.281](#)

[KRS 158.302](#); [KRS 40.010](#)

[KRS 158.140](#); [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](#)

[704 KAR 003:303](#); [704 KAR 003:306](#); 704 KAR Chapter 8

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

[Kentucky Academic Standards](#)

RELATED POLICIES:

08.1131; 08.22; 08.222

09.126 (re requirements for students from military families)

Adopted/Amended: 8/26/2019

Order #: 8