



**Jessamine
County
Schools**

**Tradition &
Innovation**



**NEW GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS
INFORMATION
FOR
PARENTS**

JESSAMINE COUNTY SCHOOLS NEW GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Heads up, parents! Kentucky has new minimum high school graduation requirements, starting with this year's 9th grade class. To comply with the new Kentucky law and to allow for additional flexibility to further personalize each student's education, Jessamine County Schools graduation requirements are changing.

This year's sophomores, juniors and seniors are under previous graduation requirements and there are no changes for these students.

Why did Kentucky change the graduation requirements?

Moving forward, these changes will increase students' opportunity to take courses and earn credits designed for real-world application in their area of interest and offer more tailored experiences in preparation for college and/or the workforce.

Is JCS ready for these changes?

Yes! Next-level readiness has been a priority for our district for some time and our district's focus on meeting individual student learning needs gives us a huge head start on the work related to the changes in Kentucky graduation requirements.

WHAT ARE THE BIG CHANGES THAT WILL AFFECT MY STUDENT?

**JCS GRADUATION REQUIREMENT CHANGES
STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE
2019-2020 AND BEYOND**

Coursework

Students will still be required to complete four credits in language arts, four credits in math, three science credits, and three social studies credits. The coursework required to complete these credits is changing to allow for additional flexibility to better align with the student's Individual Learning Plan, further personalizing each student's education.

Other changes include

- Removal of the requirement to complete two elective credits in levels I and II of the same foreign language. However, students interested in attending a college/university should complete two units of a single world language to satisfy a pre-college curriculum.
- A Financial Literacy credit requirement will be added for students entering 9th grade in 2020-2021 and after.

Number of Credits

Kentucky requires a minimum of 22 credits; however, school districts have the discretion to require additional credits beyond the minimum. In JCS, sophomores, juniors, and seniors in the 2019-2020 school year will need 26 credits to graduate. Starting with this year's freshman class, the graduating class of 2023, 24 credits will be required.

Qualifiers

For this year's freshmen, graduating in 2023, students will need to meet ONE of several state required *qualifiers* built around curriculum, benchmark scores, postsecondary credit, AP courses, industry certification, career pathways, exceptional work experience, or apprenticeship.

Prerequisites

For this year's 8th graders, graduating in 2024, in addition to meeting a *qualifier* requirement, students will also need to meet ONE *prerequisite* for reading and ONE for math on state required assessments.

What can we do now to prepare?

Current 8th grade students can fulfill the prerequisite requirement for scoring proficient in reading or math on their state required assessment in the Spring of 2020! All parents can talk with their children about the importance of school attendance and doing their best in school. Parents can also help students explore interests and potential careers, encouraging them to choose electives that will help them find their passion and purpose. Talk with your student to make sure that both of you understand the new requirements and how your child can be supported and set up for success.

This school year all students in grades 7-12 will be taking a research-based aptitude and interest test called YouScience that uses “brain games” to match them with their best-fit career. Watch for information about the test and take some time to talk with your student about the insights gained from the results. <https://www.youscience.com/>



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?



Graduation Requirement Checklists and additional details can be found on the district website under “New JCS Graduation Requirements.” Additional questions and concerns can be directed to your student’s guidance counselor.

JCS MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

EJMS

6th grade- Betsy Montgomery betsy.montgomery@jessamine.kyschools.us
7th grade -Joe Brannen joseph.brannen@jessamine.kyschools.us
8th grade- Joni White joni.white@jessamine.kyschools.us

WJMS

Students Last Name A-K - Carrie Dziki carrie.dziki@jessamine.kyschools.us
Students Last Name L-Z - Jessica Zeitz jessica.zeitz@jessamine.kyschools.us

EJHS

College and Career Counselor, Lindsey Mulcahy lindsey.mulcahy@jessamine.kyschools.us
Students Last Name A-L- Jennifer Rocco jennifer.rocco@jessamine.kyschools.us
Students Last Name M-Z - Kelly Zabilka kelly.zabilka@jessamine.kyschools.us

WJHS

Students Last Name G-N - Autumn McMillen, Director of Guidance autumn.mcmillen@jessamine.kyschools.us
Students Last Names A-F - Missie Heady missie.HEADY@jessamine.kyschools.us
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