

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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It shall be the policy of the Board of Education to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the graduation requirements of the State and county by the awarding of a diploma at fitting graduation ceremonies.

The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this County who has completed the standard graduation requirements. An eligible student with disabilities who has been determined by an IEP Team to be unable, even with extended learning opportunities and significant instructional modifications, to meet State and County standards graduation requirements may receive a modified diploma. An institutional program operated by the West Virginia Department of Education will transfer graduation credits to a County School District for the awarding of the high school diploma. An eligible student with disabilities who meets the criteria for instruction based on modified standards may pursue either a standard or modified diploma. These decisions are specified on the student's IEP.

**Posthumous High School Diploma (Todd's Law)**

The State Board shall provide for the awarding of a high school diploma to a deceased student, at the request of the parent, guardian or custodian, if the student:

- a. was enrolled in public school in this State at the time of death;
- b. was academically eligible or on track to complete the requirements for graduation at the time of death; and
- c. died after the completion of the eleventh grade.

A person who administers a program of secondary education at a public, private or home school may issue a diploma or other appropriate credential to a person who has completed the program of secondary education. Such diploma or credential is legally sufficient to demonstrate that the person meets the definition of having a high school diploma or its equivalent. No State agency or institution of higher learning in this State may reject or otherwise treat a person differently solely on the grounds of the source of such a diploma or credential. However, a State agency or institution of higher learning is not prohibited by State law from inquiring into the substance or content of the program to assess the content thereof for the purposes of determining whether a person meets other specific requirements.

The school system shall offer the following high school credentials for qualifying graduating students.

- A. College Readiness Credential – Any student who scores at or above the college readiness benchmarks as defined by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, shall receive a college readiness credential.

B. Work Readiness Credential – Any student who completes an approved career/technical concentration and obtains a passing score on ACT Workkeys assessments shall receive a work readiness credential.

The requirements for graduation from high school include earning necessary units of credit in grades 9 through 12 are established in State law and State Board of Education policy 2510. Graduation requirements are effective for the 2018-2019 freshman cohort and thereafter or as otherwise specified. Courses needed for graduation require mastery of approved content standards.

C. Requirements established at the local high school level are as follows:

For students graduating in the class of 2018-19: twenty-four (24) credits

For students graduating in the class of 2019-2020: twenty-four (24) credits

Graduation requirements: Class of 2019-2020 Core Academic Requirements: 4 English Credits, 4 Math Credits, 3 Science Credits, 4 Social Studies Credits, 1 Physical Education Credit, 1 Health Credit, 1 Arts Credit, 18 Credits in core courses + 6 Personalized elective courses. 24 Credits required for Graduation

D. For students graduating in the class of 2020-21 and beyond: twenty-six (26) credits

Graduation requirements: Class of 2021 & Beyond Core Academic Requirements: 4 English Credits, 4 Math Credits, 4 Science Credits, 4 Social Studies Credits, 1 Physical Education Credit, 1 Health Credit, 1 Arts Credit, 19 Credits in core courses + 7 Personalized elective (One course must be Personal Finance OR Business Computer Applications I for the classes 2021-2024 with one course of Personal Finance beginning with the class of 2025) 26 Credits required for Graduation

Students in the adolescent education program will have the opportunity to examine a system of career clusters and to annually review their educational pathway and chosen career concentration.

All West Virginia High School students shall be fully enrolled in a full day of high school and/or college credit bearing courses. If college courses are to be used to meet graduation requirements, they must meet the requirements for a dual credit course. Credit may be earned at an accredited postsecondary institution.

A student who transfers into a West Virginia school that has higher graduation requirements may not be able to complete these requirements. In such cases, the student's credits shall be evaluated to determine if one or more county and/or state requirements will be waived by the county or state superintendent.

If a student has been enrolled continuously in grades 9-12, the student shall be expected to meet the graduation requirements that were in effect when he/she entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade (with the exception of the science requirement altered with the revision on May 2011).

If a student has enrolled after dropping out of school, the requirements that a student must meet depend upon the length of time he or she has been out of school. If the student has been out of school less than one year, he/she could be expected to complete the graduation requirements that were in effect when he/she entered grade 9 for the first time. If the student has been out of school one year or more, he/she would be expected to complete the graduation requirements in effect upon re-enrollment.

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

- A. taught by a content certified teacher;
- B. a high school level course (one meeting the high school approved content standards and objectives).

Commencement exercises will include only those students who have successfully completed requirements for graduation as certified by the high school principal. No student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure and will be able to participate in the graduation ceremony as long as they have completed all approved courses by the required deadline. 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 County residents over the age of twenty-one (21) who meet the requirements established by the State Board of Education.

#### Credit Recovery

Students who fail high school courses shall be provided with an opportunity to recover credit for such failed courses. Researched-based successful credit recovery programs that require students to successfully demonstrate mastery of content rather than repeat an entire course shall be made available to allow students to recover credit for failed high school courses.

The Superintendent shall establish whatever administrative guidelines are necessary to comply with State rules and regulations.

WV Code 18-2-39; 18-8-12, 18-2-32, 18-8-32

WV State Board of Education policy 2510

ADOPTED: July 1, 2019

REVISED: May 18, 2020