

6.19 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

It shall be the policy of the Board 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 by the awarding of a diploma at appropriate graduation ceremonies.

High School Diplomas and Commencement

The Board shall award a high school diploma to every student enrolled in this District who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board, the State Board of Education, and the Ohio Revised Code, including the passage of all state mandated proficiency or graduation tests and/or state mandated graduation pathway requirements.

Each diploma shall be signed by the President and Treasurer of the Board, the Superintendent, and the Principal of the High School and shall bear the date of its issuance.

Students participating in graduation ceremonies must meet the following requirements:

1. Successful completion of all requirements contained in the Ohio Revised Code and set by the State Board of Education, and this Board of Education.
2. Students graduating early must have filed the required application papers.
3. All financial obligations to the high school or Board of Education must be paid.
4. All disciplinary obligations must be satisfactorily completed.
5. Students participating in the ceremony must wear the prescribed cap and gown.
6. Students eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony will exhibit decorum that will not be disruptive or bring undue attention to themselves.

Students whose decorum is disruptive or brings undue attention to themselves will not be awarded their diploma at the commencement exercises. They will be required to attend school for the duration of the regular school year. Should their attendance be acceptable, they shall receive their diploma at the close of the last day of the regular school year.

Requirements to Earn a High School Diploma

The requirements for participation in commencement and receiving a diploma shall include:

Curriculum Requirements

Twenty-two (22) units in grades 9-12 to be distributed as follows:

1. English language arts, four units;
2. Health, one-half unit, which shall include instruction in nutrition and the benefits of nutritious foods and physical activity for overall health;
3. Mathematics, four units, which shall include one unit of Algebra II or its equivalent;
4. Physical education, one-half unit;

5. Science, three units with inquiry-based laboratory experience that engages students in asking valid scientific questions and gathering and analyzing information, which shall include the following or their equivalent:
 - a. Physical sciences, one unit;
 - b. Biology, one unit;
 - c. Advanced study in one or more of the following sciences, one unit:
 - i. Chemistry, physics, or other physical science;
 - ii. Advanced biology or other life science.
 - iii. Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science;
 - iv. Computer science.
6. History and government, one unit, which shall include both of the following:
 - a. American history, one-half unit;
 - b. American government, one-half unit;
7. Social studies, two units, which shall include the following:
 - a. World history and civilizations, one-half unit (eff. Class of 2021 and beyond).
 - b. Instruction on economics and financial literacy which shall be incorporated into at least one credit of the social studies curriculum.
8. Fine arts, one unit (taken between 7th and 12th grade);
9. Five units consisting of one of 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 not otherwise required.

Units earned in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies that are delivered through integrated academic and career-technical instruction are eligible to meet graduation requirements.

Advanced student work completed prior to the ninth grade may be applied toward graduation requirements if the advanced work was taught by a teacher who possessed a license valid for teaching high school and designated by the Board of Education as meeting the high school Curriculum Requirements.

In addition to satisfying the above Curriculum Requirements, students must also complete certain Additional Requirements to be eligible for graduation. These requirements differ based upon the student's year of graduation.

Additional Requirements

For the Classes of 2018 through 2022

In addition to completing the Curriculum Requirements, students must achieve one of the following to qualify for graduation:

1. Score remediation-free scores in English language arts and math, on a nationally recognized standardized assessment (e.g., ACT or SAT);
2. Attain a cumulative passing score, as set by the State Board of Education, on the end-of-course examinations; OR
3. Attain a State Board of Education approved industry-recognized credential or group of credentials and a workforce readiness score on the Workkeys assessment.

Students in the Classes of 2021 and 2022 may also qualify for graduation by meeting the Additional Requirements set forth below for the Class of 2023 and beyond.

For the Class of 2023 and Beyond

In addition to completing the Curriculum Requirements, students must achieve both of the following to qualify for graduation:

1. Attain a competency score (as determined by the State Board of Education) on the Algebra I and English Language Arts II end-of-course examinations.

Students who take the required assessments more than once without passing, and have received remedial supports may demonstrate the required competency by completing the alternative options established by Ohio law and the regulations of the State Board of Education.

2. Earn at least two diploma seals in accordance with the requirements of the State Board of Education.

At least one of the required seals must be defined by the State Board of Education.

The Superintendent, or designee, shall develop guidelines for at least one (1) of the additional seals as permitted by the Ohio Revised Code and the regulations of the State Board of Education.

Earned diploma seals shall be attached to a student's diploma and transcript. The Board shall recognize any locally determined seals earned by a student in another school district.

Any required deficiencies must be completed prior to graduation. Graduation requirements are minimum requirements. It is the responsibility of the student to see that requirements for graduation are met. The high school makes every effort to keep current records and to keep students and parents informed about the status of progress toward completing the work necessary to meet these requirements. However, it is up to the student to make sure that he or she is acquainted with the necessary requirements to meet this goal.

Graduation Plans

The Superintendent, or designee, shall develop a graduation plan for each student enrolled in grades nine through twelve in the District. The graduation plan shall address the student's academic pathway to meet the curriculum requirements specified by the Board and satisfy the graduation conditions under state law.

The graduation plan shall be developed jointly by the student, the student's parent, guardian, or custodian, and the District and updated each school year in which the student is enrolled in the District's schools, until the student qualifies for a high school diploma. A student's graduation plan shall supplement the District's existing policy on career advising.

The Board shall use the individualized education program developed for a student in lieu of developing a graduation plan under this policy if the individualized education program contains academic goals substantively similar to a graduation plan.

Identifying At-Risk Students

A student's lack of progress in meeting the terms of his/her graduation plan shall be a criterion for identifying at-risk students and a procedure for identifying at-risk students under this policy. To ensure all students are on track to satisfy the terms of their graduation plans, the Superintendent, or designee, shall:

- A. Develop additional criteria for identifying at-risk students, including, a student's lack of adequate progress in meeting the terms of his/her graduation plan, and other factors, such as if a student has issues regarding excessive absences or misconduct.
- B. Develop procedures for identifying at-risk students, including a method for determining if a student is not making adequate progress in meeting the terms of his/her graduation plan, and which allow for a student to be identified as at risk in each of grades nine through twelve.
- C. Provide written notification to an at-risk student's parent, guardian, or custodian in each year in which the student has been identified as at-risk, which includes:
 1. A statement that the student is at risk of not qualifying for a high school diploma;
 2. A description of the Board's curriculum requirements, or the student's individualized education program, and, as appropriate, the graduation conditions prescribed under state law;
 3. A description of any additional instructional or support services available to the at-risk student.
- D. Assist at-risk students with additional instructional or support services to help the students qualify for a high school diploma.

Notification of Core Curriculum

The parent, guardian, or custodian of each student enrolled in a high school operated by the Board or enrolled in the joint vocational school to which the District belongs shall be notified by letter, via the annual report, or by other means determined by the Superintendent, or designee, of the requirements of the Ohio core curriculum and that one consequence of not completing that curriculum is ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio without further coursework.

Honors Diploma

Honors diplomas shall be granted in accordance with Ohio law.

Veterans' Diploma

The Board may grant a diploma to a veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict in accordance with Ohio law.

The Board may also grant a high school diploma to any woman who left high school in any state during World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict to support her family or the war effort in accordance with Ohio law.

Alternative Conditions for Graduation

Students not meeting the traditional requirements may be eligible for graduation in accordance with Ohio law and the requirements set by the State Board of Education.

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