



---

## Graduation Requirements

---

*Policy Code: 3421*

---

The Board recognizes the importance of setting rigorous graduation requirements in order to help ensure that students are receiving an education that will prepare them to be productive members of society.

### STATE REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive a high school diploma from Franklin County Schools, students will be to successfully complete all course requirements mandated by the State Board of Education, and to meet all graduation requirements of this Board.

#### **The following are state requirements for high school graduation: 20 credits in grades 9-12**

- 4 units of English;
- 3 units of math, including Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry;
  - **For students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in 2010-2011, 4 units of math, including Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry and a 4<sup>th</sup> math aligned with the student's after high school plan;**
- 3 units of science, including a physical science and biology;
- 3 units of social studies, including Civics and Economics, a world history course, and U. S. History;
- 1 unit of health and physical education; and
- 6 electives.

#### **Students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2006-2007:**

- Meet course requirements as specified by the State Board of Education

#### **Students entering ninth grade prior to 2006-2007:**

- Meet course requirements as specified by the State Board of Education

### LOCAL BOARD REQUIREMENTS

Franklin County has specified that the units for graduation will consistently add up to four units less than a student's maximum potential. Students who attend four years of high school under the block schedule must earn 28 credits of 32 potential credits.

Students must achieve proficiency (Level III or IV) on five end of course assessments (Algebra I, English I, Biology, U.S. History, and Civics and Economics) or be granted a waiver of this requirement by the principal. Additionally, Franklin County Schools has developed a 21 credit high school graduation program for at-risk students that will include the state requirements listed above.

**For students who entered the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in 2010-2011, 22 credits are required for graduation.** Franklin County Schools also requires a tenth grade composition course in addition to the state

requirements. The high school standards also set policies regarding the use of End-of-Course Test results in assigning final grades in all courses that have an End-of-Course Test. For students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in 2006-2007, Local Board policy requires students score Level III or Level IV on the following five core courses: English I, Algebra I, Biology, Civics and Economics and U.S. History. Physical Science, and Algebra II also require that students take end-of-course tests. All EOC test results will count as 25% of the student's final grade in that particular course.

**GRADUATION**

In addition, any student with an active IEP should have course work and satisfactory completion criteria determined in light of his/her disabling condition(s) and the particular goals and objectives listed in the IEP. This is in keeping with the Attorney General's Office ruling that states that the Administrative Placement Committee and not the principal has the authority to place a student with special needs. The principal, however, may be a member of this committee, students whose IEPs warrant could be exempt from high school promotion standards.

When a student anticipates early graduation prior to the end of the academic year of high school, the parent of the student or the student (if eligible) must, at the beginning of the fourth year of high school, notify the principal in writing that the student anticipates graduation at the end of that academic semester.

Upon receiving a notice of intent for early graduation, the principal shall consult the appropriate guidance counselors and teachers concerning the academic standing and maturity of the student and following such consultation, shall make known to the parent or eligible student his opinion of the student's intention to graduate early. Any exception to the above requirements because of hardship cases may be made only by the Board. When a student has met the requirements for early graduation, the student shall be granted a diploma from the school in which the student is enrolled.

**Legal References:** G.S. 115C-47, -81, -276, -288; 16 NCAC 6D .0103

**Cross References:** Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000)

**Adopted:** 04/12/99

**Revised:** 03/8/10, 01/24/11