

5460 - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

It shall be the policy of the School 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 a fitting graduation ceremony.

Standards for Graduation

Receipt of a standard high school diploma requires successful completion of twenty-four (24) credits, an International Baccalaureate curriculum, an Advanced International Certificate of Education completion, or the Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway.

The twenty-four (24) credits shall be distributed as follows:

Subject	Credits
English Language Arts	4
Social Studies	3
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education	1
Electives	8
Basic Physical education	1

Subject	Credits
English Language Arts	4
Social Studies	3
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education	1
Electives	7.5
Basic Physical education	1
Health (including CPR/AED instruction)	.5

A financial literacy course consisting of at least one-half (1/2) credit as an elective shall be offered.

Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, high school students enrolled in the U.S. Government classes required by F.S. 1003.4282 must receive at least forty-five (45) minutes of instruction on "Victims of Communism Day" to include topics such as Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet System, Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution, Vladimir Lenin and the Russian Revolution, Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, and Nicolás Maduro and the Chavismo movement, and how victims suffered under these regimes through poverty, starvation, migration, systemic lethal violence, and suppression of speech.

Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, middle school and high school students enrolled in the civics education class required by F.S. 1003.4156 or the United States Government class required by F.S. 1003.4282(3) must receive at least forty (45) minutes of instruction on "9/11 Heroes' Day" topics involving the history and significance of September 11, 2001, including remembering the sacrifice of military personnel, government employees, civilians, and emergency responders who were killed, wounded, or suffered sickness due to the terrorist attacks on or after that date, including, but not limited to:

- A. the historical context of global terrorism.
- B. a timeline of events on September 11, 2001, including the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93.

- C. the selfless heroism of police officers, firefighters, paramedics, other first responders, and civilians involved in the rescue and recovery of victims and the heroic actions taken by the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93.
- D. the unprecedented outpouring of humanitarian, charitable, and volunteer aid occurring after the events of September 11, 2001.
- E. the global response to terrorism and importance of respecting civil liberties while ensuring safety and security.

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The twenty-four (24) credits shall be distributed as follows:

Subject	Credits
English Language Arts	4
Social Studies	3
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education	1
Electives	7.5
Basic Physical education	1
Personal Financial Literacy and Money Management	.5

Basic training in first aid, including at least one (1) hour of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruction, shall be provided for students in grades 9 and 11.

High school students will be provided opportunities to take computer science courses and earn technology-related industry certifications to satisfy high school graduation requirements. Computer science courses and technology-related industry certifications that are identified as eligible for meeting mathematics or science requirements for high school graduation will be included in the Course Code Directory.

The required credits may be earned through equivalent, applied, or integrated courses or career education courses as defined in F.S. 1003.01(4), including work-related internships approved by the State Board of Education and identified in the course code directory. However, any must-pass assessment requirements must be met.

An equivalent course is one (1) or more courses identified by content-area experts as being a match to the core curricular content of another course, based upon a review of the State academic standards and includes real-world applications of a career and technical education standard used in business or industry. An integrated course includes content from several courses within a content area or across content areas.

The earning and awarding of high school credits will be in accordance with Florida law including, but not necessarily limited to, the provisions of F.S. 1003.4282 and those identified in the Student Progression Plan.

For courses that require Statewide standardized end-of-course assessments, a minimum of thirty percent (30%) of a student's course grade shall be comprised of performance on the Statewide standardized end-of-course assessment.

In order to graduate, students must earn passing scores on the Florida State Assessment (State mandated testing) or scores on a standardized test that are concordant with passing scores on the State mandated testing. Additionally, a student must earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

High School Diploma

The Board shall award a standard high school diploma to every student enrolled in this District who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board or who properly completes the goals and objectives specified in his/her IEP including either the exemption from or the requirement to complete the State-mandated tests and the recommendation of the IEP Team.

Each student's standard high school diploma will include, as applicable, the following designations, if the student meets the criteria:

A. Scholar Designation

In order to earn the Scholar Designation, the student must, in addition to the requirements for a standard high school diploma, satisfy the following:

1. English Language Arts (ELA) - When the State transitions to common core assessments, pass the 11th grade ELA common core assessment.
2. Mathematics - Earn one (1) credit in Algebra II or an equally rigorous course and one (1) credit in statistics or an equally rigorous course. When the State transitions to common core assessments, students must pass the Geometry common core assessment.
3. Science - Pass the Statewide standardized Biology I end-of-course assessment and earn one (1) credit in chemistry or physics and one (1) credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics.
4. Social Studies - Pass the Statewide standardized United States History end-of-course assessment.
5. Foreign Language - Earn two (2) credits in the same foreign language.
6. Electives - Earn at least one (1) credit in an Advanced Placement, an International Baccalaureate, an Advanced International Certificate of Education, or a dual enrollment course.

B. Industry Scholar Designation

In order to earn the Industry Scholar Designation, a student must, in addition to the requirements for a standard high school diploma, attain one (1) or more industry certifications on the Florida Department of Education's current Industry Certification Funding List.

Students and parents shall be provided information about diploma designations through an online education and career planning tool, which allows students to monitor their progress toward the attainment of each designation.

Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program

Additionally, students who develop an exemplary level of proficiency in the performing or visual arts may be awarded a seal on a standard high school diploma through the Florida Department of Education's (FLDOE) Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program. Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, students are eligible for the Florida Seal of Fine Arts if they meet the following requirements:

- A. The student earned a standard high school diploma.
- B. The student completed at least three (3) year-long courses in dance, music, theatre, or visual arts with a grade of "A" or higher in each course, or earned three (3) sequential course credits in such courses with a grade of "A" or higher in each course pursuant to F.A.C. 6A-1.09441.
- C. The student completed at least two (2) of the following requirements:

1. completed a fine arts International Baccalaureate, advanced placement, dual enrollment, or honors course with a grade of "B" or higher;
2. participated in a District or Statewide organization's juried event as a selected student participant for two (2) or more years (a "juried event" means a District or Statewide organization's event where a student or group of students are judged by one (1) or more judges on the selected fine arts discipline of their choosing and receive a scored rating and written or oral feedback);
3. recorded at least twenty-five (25) volunteer hours of arts-related community service in their community and presents a comprehensive presentation on their experiences pursuant to District procedures;
4. submits a portfolio that demonstrates the student is an exemplary practitioner of fine arts, as described in F.A.C. 6A-1.09952; or,
5. received District, State, or National recognition for the creation and submission of an original work of art (i.e., a musical or theatrical composition, visual artwork, or choreographed routine or performance created by the student).

The District shall maintain records showing which students earned the Florida Seal of Fine Arts and report such information to the FLDOE in accordance with F.A.C. 6A-1.0014.

Honorary Diploma

An honorary diploma may be awarded in the case of such unfortunate circumstances as the severe disability or death of a student prior to graduation. The student must have been a senior in good standing to meet the requirements of graduation established by the Board at the time of the disability/death.

Early Admission Program

High school graduation by means of the Early Admission to College Program is an alternative for the college-bound student during the normal senior year in high school. When the prescribed District conditions as set forth in the student handbook have been met, the student shall be awarded a high school diploma with the regular high school graduating class. The official college transcript shall be made a part of the student's high school permanent record file.

When students leave high school as Early Admission to College Program students, they may participate in graduation exercises with their graduation class and may be ranked in the class pursuant to Policy 5430.

Early High School Graduation

For the purposes of this policy, the term early graduation means graduation from high school in less than eight (8) semesters or the equivalent by completion of the required number of credits.

[For a student who enters grade 9 before the 2023-2024 school year]

A student who meets the requirements of F.S. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), earns three (3) credits in electives (a total of eighteen (18) credits), and earns a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale shall be awarded a standard high school diploma.

[For a student who enters grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year and thereafter]

A student who meets the requirements of F.S. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), earns two and one-half (2.5) credits in electives and one-half (.5) credit in financial literacy and money management (a total of eighteen (18) credits), and earns a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale shall be awarded a standard high school diploma.

A student also has the option of early graduation if the student has completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits and otherwise meets the requirements for graduation.

Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL)

The following ACCEL options are available: whole-grade and midyear promotion; subject-matter acceleration; virtual instruction in higher grade-level subjects; and the Credit Acceleration Program described below. Additional options may be available.

Students shall be advised of courses through which they can earn college credit, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Certificate of Education, dual enrollment, and early admission courses, and career academy courses, and courses that lead to industry certification, as well as the availability of course offerings through virtual instruction.

Credit Acceleration Program (CAP)

High school credit in courses required for high school graduation may be earned through the passage of an end-of-course assessment administered under F.S. 1008.22, an advanced placement examination, or a College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Course credit shall be awarded to a student who is not enrolled in the course, or who has not completed the course if the student attains a passing score on the end-of-course assessment, advanced placement examination, or CLEP. Public school or home education students in the District shall take the assessment or examination during the regular administration of the assessment or examination.

The District shall notify the parent of a student who is eligible to graduate early.

A student who graduates early may continue to participate in school activities and social events and to attend and participate in graduation events with the student's cohort. The student will be included in the class ranking, honors, and award determinations for the student's cohort. The student must comply with Board rules and policies regarding access to the school facilities and grounds during normal operating hours.

Career and Technical Education Graduation Pathway Option

A student is eligible to complete an alternative pathway to earning a standard high school diploma through the CTE pathway option. Receipt of a standard high school diploma awarded through the CTE pathway option requires the student's successful completion of at least eighteen (18) credits. A student completing the CTE pathway option must earn at least a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. In order for a student to satisfy the requirements of the CTE pathway option, s/he must meet the GPA requirement and:

[For a student who enters grade 9 before the 2023-2024 school year]

- A. meet the requirements as set forth in F.S. 1003.4282;
- B. complete two (2) credits in career and technical education; and

The courses must result in a program completion and an industry certification.

- C. complete two (2) credits in work-based learning programs. A student may substitute up to two (2) credits of electives, including one-half (1/2) credit in financial literacy, for work-based learning program courses to fulfill this requirement.

[For a student who enters grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year and thereafter]

- A. meet the requirements as set forth in F.S. 1003.4282;
- B. complete two (2) credits in career and technical education; and

The courses must result in a program completion and an industry certification.

- C. complete one and one-half (1.5) credits in work-based learning programs.

The CTE pathway option to graduation will be incorporated into the District's Student Progression Plan.

High School Equivalency Diploma

The Board shall offer the high school equivalency diploma examination and the subject area examinations to all candidates pursuant to the rules of the State Board of Education. To be eligible to be a candidate for a high school equivalency diploma, a student must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on the date of the examination. However, if the student resides or attends school in the District, the student may take the examination after reaching the age of sixteen (16) and receiving an underage waiver application approval in accordance with Policy 5465 - *General Education Development (GED) Tests*. All high school equivalency diplomas have equal status with other high school diplomas. A student may be awarded a standard high school diploma pursuant to Florida Department of Education rules.

Certificate of Completion

A student who completes the minimum number of credits and other requirements for graduation but cannot earn a passing score on the State mandated testing, achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent, or complete all other applicable requirements prescribed by the Board pursuant to Florida statutes shall be awarded a certificate of completion in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.

A student who is entitled to a certificate may elect to remain as a full-time student or a part-time student for up to one (1) additional year and receive special instruction designed to remedy the student's identified deficiencies.

Notice to Students and Parents

The District will notify students and parents, in writing, of the requirements for a standard high school diploma, available designations, and the eligibility requirements for State scholarship programs and postsecondary admissions.

Commencement Exercises

Commencement exercises will include only those students who have successfully completed requirements for a standard high school diploma, Early Admission to College Program, a special diploma, or a certificate of completion 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. A student may be denied participation in the ceremony of graduation when personal conduct so warrants.

Students are permitted to lawfully wear dress uniforms of any of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the State at their graduation ceremony.