

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.

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 and the State Board of Education, including the passage of all state mandated achievement or graduation assessments.

Students who have completed all required course work, as set forth below, but who have not successfully completed all state mandated achievement or graduation assessment requirements may return at subsequent regularly scheduled achievement or graduation assessment administrations to retake failed areas. Upon the successful completion of achievement or graduation assessment requirements such student shall be eligible to be awarded a high school diploma.

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.

Participation in the graduation ceremony is considered a student activity and, therefore, a privilege, not a right. Students participating in graduation ceremonies must meet the following requirements:

- A. Successful completion of all requirements contained in the Ohio Revised Code and set by the State Board of Education, and this Board of Education.
- B. Students graduating early must have filed the required application papers.
- C. All financial obligations to the high school or Board of Education must be paid.
- D. All disciplinary obligations must be satisfactorily completed.
- E. Participation in graduation rehearsal is required for participation in the graduation ceremonies.
- F. Students participating in the ceremony must wear the prescribed cap and gown.
- G. 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.

Students Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time Before July 1, 2010

The requirements for participation in commencement and receiving a diploma for students who enter the ninth grade for the first time before July 1, 2010, shall include twenty units earned in grades 9-12 to be distributed as follows:

1. English language arts, four units;
2. Health, one-half unit;
3. Mathematics, three units;
4. Physical education, one-half unit;
5. Science, three units, which at all times shall include both of the following:
 - a. Biological sciences, one unit;
 - b. Physical sciences, one unit.
6. History and government, one unit, which shall include the following:
 - a. American history, one-half unit;
 - b. American government, one-half unit;
 - c. Beginning with students who enter 9th grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017, at least one-half unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilization;
7. Social studies, two units;
8. Elective units, six units.

Each student's electives shall include at least one unit, or two half units, chosen from among the areas of business/technology, fine arts, and/or foreign language.

Students Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time On or After July 1, 2010

Beginning with students who enter the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2010, the requirements for participation in commencement and receiving a diploma shall include twenty 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. However, students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2015, and who are pursuing a career-technical instructional track, shall not be required to take Algebra II, and instead may complete a career-based pathway mathematics course approved by the Ohio Department of Education as an alternative;
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. Life sciences, 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.
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.

The study of economics and financial literacy as expressed in the social studies content standards shall be integrated into one or more existing social studies credits or into the content of another class. The academic content standards for financial literacy and entrepreneurship shall be integrated into one or more existing social studies credits or into the content of another class, once the State Board of Education has adopted such standards.

Beginning with students who enter 9th grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017, the two units of instruction prescribed by this paragraph shall include at least one-half unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilization.

8. Five units consisting of one or any combination of foreign language, fine arts (two semesters in any of grades 7-12), business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education, a junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) program approved by the U.S. Congress, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies not otherwise required.

Beginning with students who enter the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2012, the content shall include the study of the Declaration of Independence; the Northwest Ordinance; the U.S. Constitution and its amendments, with emphasis on the Bill of Rights; and the Ohio Constitution; including study of such documents in their original context. In addition, such content shall include the historical evidence of the role of documents such as the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist papers to firmly establish the historical background leading to the establishment of the provisions of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

A student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010, and before July 1, 2016, may qualify for graduation even though he/she has not completed the requirements for graduation, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. During the student's third year of attending high school, as determined by the school, the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian sign and file with the school a written statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or custodian's consent to the student's graduating without completing the requirements for graduation prescribed by O.R.C. §3313.603(C) and acknowledging that one consequence of not completing those requirements is ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio without further coursework. The District shall notify the Ohio Department of Education of the number of students who choose to qualify for graduation in this way and the number of students who complete the student's success plan and graduate from high school.
2. The student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian and a representative of the student's high school jointly develop a student success plan for the student in the manner described in O.R.C. §3313.6020(C)(1). The student success plan must specify the student matriculating to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business and industry-recognized credential, or entering an apprenticeship. The high school shall provide counseling and support for the student related to the plan during the remainder of the student's high school experience.
3. The student successfully completes, at a minimum, the curriculum prescribed for participation in commencement and receiving a diploma listed in the paragraph entitled "Students Who Entered Ninth Grade Before July 1, 2010," above.

4. Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, a student shall be required to complete successfully, at a minimum, the curriculum prescribed for participation in commencement and receiving a diploma listed in the paragraph entitled “Students Who Entered Ninth Grade Before July 1, 2010,” above, with the following exceptions:
 - (a) Mathematics, four units, one unit of which shall be one of the following:
 - (i) Probability and statistics;
 - (ii) Computer programming;
 - (iii) Applied mathematics or quantitative reasoning;
 - (iv) Any other course approved by the ODE using standards established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction;
 - (b) Elective units, five units;
 - (c) Science, three units, which shall include inquiry-based laboratory experience that engages students in asking valid scientific questions and gathering and analyzing information.

A student who participates in interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading for at least two (2) full seasons as defined in the student handbook in grades 9-12 is not required to complete the physical education one-half unit to graduate, although the student must complete one-half unit in another course of study.

The District may integrate academic content in a subject area for which the State board has adopted standards under O.R.C. §3301.079 into a course in a different subject area, including a career-tech educational course, in accordance with guidance for integrated course work developed by the ODE. Upon successful completion of integrated course, a student will receive credit for both subject areas. Units earned for subject area content delivered through integrated academic and technical instruction are eligible to meet graduation requirements.

Advanced student work completed prior to the ninth grade shall 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.

Additional High School Diploma Requirements for Students Entering Ninth Grade On or After July 1, 2014

In addition to the applicable curriculum requirements, each student entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, but prior to July 1, 2019, shall satisfy at least one of the following conditions in order to qualify for a high school diploma:

1. Be remediation-free, in accordance with standards adopted under O.R.C. §3345.061, on each of the nationally standardized assessments in English, mathematics, and reading;
2. Attain a score specified under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(5)(c) on the end-of-course examinations prescribed under division O.R.C. §3301.0712(B);
3. Attain a score that demonstrates workforce readiness and employability on a nationally recognized job skills assessment selected by the state board of education under O.R.C. 3301.0712(G) and obtain either an industry-recognized credential, as described under O.R.C. §3302.03(B)(2)(d), or a license issued by a state agency or board for practice in a vocation that requires an examination for issuance of that license.
4. Satisfy the curriculum requirements applicable to students entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2019.

A student may choose to qualify for a high school diploma by satisfying any of the separate requirements prescribed by divisions (1) to (3) of this section. If the District does not administer the examination prescribed by one of those divisions that the student chooses to take to satisfy the requirements of this section, the District may require that student to arrange for the applicable scores to be sent directly to the District by the company or organization that administers the examination.

Additional High School Diploma Requirements for Students Entering Ninth Grade On or After July 1, 2019

In addition to the applicable curriculum requirements, each student entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2019, shall satisfy the following conditions in order to qualify for a high school diploma:

1. Attain a competency score on each of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations prescribed under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(2). Following the first administration of the exam, if a student fails to attain a competency score on one or both of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations that student must retake the respective examination at least once. If a student fails to attain a competency score on a retake examination, the student may demonstrate competency in the failed subject area through one of the following options:
 - a. Earn course credit taken through the college credit plus program in the failed subject area;

- b. Complete two (2) of the following options, one of which must be foundational:
 - i. Foundational options to demonstrate competency, which include earning a score of proficient or higher on three or more state technical assessments aligned with O.R.C. §3313.903 in a single career pathway, obtaining an industry-recognized credential approved under O.R.C. §3313.6113, completing a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship in the student's chosen career field, or providing evidence of acceptance into an apprenticeship program after high school that is restricted to participants eighteen years of age or older;
 - ii. Supporting options to demonstrate competency, which include completing two hundred fifty (250) hours of a work-based learning experience with evidence of positive evaluations, obtaining an OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal, or attaining a workforce readiness score, as determined by the Ohio Department of Education, on the nationally recognized job skills assessment.
- c. Provide evidence that the student has enlisted in a branch of the armed services of the United States.

A student shall not be required to retake the Algebra I end-of-course examination or the English language arts II end-of-course examination in grades nine through twelve if the student demonstrates at least a proficient level of skill, as prescribed under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(5)(a), or achieves a competency score, as prescribed under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(10), in an administration of the examination prior to grade nine.

- 2. Earn at least two (2) of the state diploma seals prescribed under O.R.C. §3313.6114(A), at least one of which shall be any of the following:
 - a. The state seal of biliteracy established under O.R.C. §3313.6111;
 - b. The OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal established under O.R.C. §3313.6112;
 - c. One of the state diploma seals established under O.R.C. §3313.6114(C)(1) to (7).

District-Determined Diploma Seals

1. Community Service Seal: A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by completing a community service project that is aligned with the following guidelines:
TBD
2. Fine and Performing Arts Seal: A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by demonstrating skill in the fine or performing arts according to an evaluation that is aligned with the following guidelines:
TBD
3. Student Engagement Seal: A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by participating in extracurricular activities such as athletics, clubs, or student government to a meaningful extent, as determined by the following guidelines:

TBD College and Work Ready Assessment System

Beginning with students who enter the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, the system of college and work ready assessments adopted by the State Board of Education shall replace the Ohio graduation tests as a measure of student academic performance and one determinant of eligibility for a high school diploma in the manner prescribed by rule of the state board, adopted under O.R.C. §3301.0712(D).

Pursuant to O.R.C. §3301.0712, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, if a student is enrolled in an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course or is enrolled under any other dual enrollment or advanced standing program, that student shall take the advanced placement or international baccalaureate examination or applicable examination under dual enrollment or advanced standing in lieu of the physical science, American history, or American government end-of-course examinations prescribed under O.R.C. 3301.0712(B).

No student shall take a substitute examination or examination prescribed under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(4)(a) in place of the end-of-course examinations in English Language Arts I, English Language Arts II, Algebra I, or Geometry prescribed under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(2).

Pursuant to R.C. 3301.0712(B)(2)(b), beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2019, the college and work ready assessment system shall require five end-of-course examinations, one each in areas of English language arts II, science, Algebra I, American history, and American government. However, only the end-of-course examinations in English language arts II and Algebra I shall be required for graduation.

Any student who received high school credit prior to July 1, 2014, for a course for which an end-of-course examination is prescribed by O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(2), shall not be required to take that end-of-course examination. Receipt of credit for that course shall satisfy the requirement to take the end-of-course examination.

Any required deficiencies must be completed prior to graduation. Graduation requirements are minimum requirements. It is anticipated that most students will have earned more than twenty credits at the close of their senior year.

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.

Seniors are automatically registered for graduation.

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 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

This section shall apply to diplomas awarded after September 15, 2006, to students who are required to take the five Ohio graduation assessments. This section does not apply to any student who enters ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014.

As an alternative to the requirement that a person successfully complete all of the Ohio graduation assessments in order to be eligible for a high school diploma, a person who has successfully

completed all but one of the assessments may be awarded a diploma if he or she has satisfied all of the following conditions:

- On the assessment that the person failed to attain the designated score, he or she missed that score by ten points or less;
- The person has a ninety-seven per cent school attendance rate in each of the last four years of school, excluding any excused absences;
- The person has not been expelled from school in any of the last four school years;
- The person has a grade point average of at least 2.5 in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed in accordance with rules established by the State Board of Education;
- The person has completed the high school curriculum requirements in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed;
- The person has taken advantage of any intervention programs provided by the district or school in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed, and has a ninety-seven percent attendance rate, excluding any excused absences, in any of those programs that are provided at times beyond the normal school day, school week, or school year or has received comparable intervention services from a source other than the district or school;
- The person holds a letter recommending graduation from each of his or her high school teachers in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed and from the High School Principal.

This section shall apply only to students who are enrolled in the District who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, but prior to July 1, 2017. This section does not apply to any student who entered ninth grade for the first time prior to July 1, 2014, or to any student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017.

In lieu of qualifying for high school graduation under section 3313.61 of the Revised Code, a student shall be eligible to receive a high school diploma if the student:

1. Takes all of the end-of-course examinations prescribed under 3301.0712(B)(2) required for the student or takes the assessment prescribed under section O.R.C. §3313.619, as applicable;

2. Retakes, at least once, any end-of-course examination in the area of English language arts or mathematics for which a student received an equivalent score of lower than "3";
3. Completes the required units of instruction prescribed by the school district or school;
4. Meets at least two of the following conditions:
 - a. For a student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, but prior to July 1, 2016, the student has an attendance rate of at least 93% during the twelfth grade year.
 - b. The student takes at least four full-year or equivalent courses during the twelfth grade year and has at least the following grade point average:
 - i. For a student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, but prior to July 1, 2016, 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the courses completed during the twelfth grade year;
 - ii. For a student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2016, but prior to July 1, 2017, a cumulative 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 for the courses completed during the eleventh and twelfth grade years.
 - c. During the twelfth grade, the student completed a capstone project. However, in the case of a student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2016, but prior to July 1, 2017, the capstone project shall comply with guidance developed by the ODE describing the components of a successful capstone project and the process for evaluating each component.
 - d. During the twelfth grade, the student completed 120 hours of work in a community service role or in a position of employment, including internships, work study, co-ops, and apprenticeships. However, in the case of a student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2016, but prior to July 1, 2017, the student's completion of such work shall comply with guidance developed by the ODE describing requirements for District approval and verification of the work.
 - e. The student earned three or more transcribed credit hours under the College Credit Plus program, at any time during high school.

- f. The student passed an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course, and received a score of three or higher on the corresponding Advanced Placement examination or a score of four or higher on the corresponding International Baccalaureate examination, at any time during high school.
- g. The student earned at least a level three score on each of the "reading for information," "applied mathematics," and "locating information" components of the job skills assessment selected by the State Board of Education under O.R.C. §3301.0712(G), or a comparable score on similar components of an successor version of that assessment.
- h. The student obtained an industry-recognized credential, as described under O.R.C. §3302.03(B)(2)(d), or a group of credentials equal to at least three total points.
- i. The student satisfies the conditions required to receive an OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal.

In lieu of qualifying for high school graduation under O.R.C. §3313.61, a student shall be eligible to receive a high school diploma if the student:

- 1. Takes all of the end-of-course examinations prescribed under division (B)(2) of section O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(2) required for the student or takes the assessment prescribed under section O.R.C. §3313.619, as applicable;
- 2. Completes the required units of instruction prescribed by the District;
- 3. Completes a career-technical training program approved by the Department of Education that includes at least four career-technical courses;
- 4. Meets one of the following conditions:
 - a. Attains a cumulative score of at least proficient on career-technical education assessments, or test modules, that are required for a career-technical education program;
 - b. Obtains an industry-recognized credential, as described under O.R.C. §3302.03(B)(2)(d), or a group of credentials equal to at least twelve points;
 - c. Demonstrates successful workplace participation, as evidenced by documented completion of two hundred fifty hours of workplace

experience and evidence of regular, written, positive evaluations from the workplace employer or supervisor and a representative of the school district or school. The workplace participation shall be based on a written agreement signed by the student, a representative of the District, and an employer or supervisor.

Children of Military Families Who Have Transferred from Another State

Pursuant to O.R.C. §3301.60, for students who are children of military families and have transferred to the district from another state (the “sending state”), the district shall waive specific courses required for graduation if the student satisfactorily completed similar coursework in a public school district in the sending state or shall provide a reasonable justification for the denial of a waiver. If a waiver is not granted, the district shall provide an alternative means for the student to acquire the required coursework so the student may graduate on time.

Where assessments are required for graduation, the district shall accept the exit or end-of-course assessments required for graduation in the sending state, national norm-referenced achievement test, or alternative testing.

If a student, who has transferred into the district at the beginning of or during his or her senior year, is ineligible to graduate after the district has considered the above-referenced alternatives, the district shall work with the student’s prior public school district in the sending state to determine if the student meets the graduation requirements of that district. If the sending state is not a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, the district shall use its best efforts as set forth above to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student.

LEGAL REFS: O.R.C. §§3301.60; 3313.61; 3313.603

Adopted: November 20, 2019