

Section I: Instructional Goals and Objectives	Knox County Board of Education Policy		
	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
	Graduation Requirements	I-370	7/95
		Rescinds:	Revised:
		12/16	

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Students shall fulfill all state requirements as set by the State Board of Education and earn the prescribed 28 credits required by the Knox County Schools. In instances where a student does not have the opportunity to earn the 32 credits that are available with block scheduling, the required number of credits required for graduation from the Knox County Schools will be four less than the total available, but in any event, a student must earn the state minimum requirement of 22 credits.

The pattern of courses which shall be required of all students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the State Board of Education and the Knox County Board of Education.

To earn a regular high school diploma, students must (1) earn the prescribed number of credits, (2) complete the ACT or SAT, and (3) have satisfactory records of attendance and discipline.¹

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The high school diploma will be awarded to students with disabilities who earn the specified 22 units (at minimum) of credit. A special education diploma may be awarded to students at the end of their fourth year of high school to students with disabilities who have (1) not met the requirements for a high school diploma, (2) have satisfactorily completed an individualized education program, and (3) have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct. Students who obtain the special education diploma may continue to work towards the high school diploma through the end of the school year in which they turn twenty-two (22) years old.

An occupational diploma may be awarded to students with disabilities at the end of their fourth year of high school who have (1) not met the requirements for a high school diploma, (2) have satisfactorily completed an individualized education program, (3) have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct, (4) have completed the occupational diploma Skills, Knowledge, and Experience Mastery Assessment (SKEMA) created by the Tennessee Department of Education, and (5) have completed two years of paid or non-paid work experience. The determination that an occupational diploma is the goal for a student with a disability will be made at the conclusion of the student's tenth grade year or two academic years prior to the expected graduation date. Students who obtain the occupational diploma may continue to work towards the high school diploma through the end of the school year in which they turn twenty-two years old.²

STUDENT COURSE LOAD

All students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall be enrolled each semester in subjects that will allow them to graduate within those four (4) years. Schools may appeal hardship cases to the director of schools.

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11th GRADE ASSESSMENT

To receive a regular high school diploma, all students enrolled in a Tennessee public school during their 11th grade year shall take either the ACT or SAT.

UNITED STATES CIVICS TEST

Beginning January 1, 2017, all high school students shall be given a United States civics test.

PROJECT-BASED CIVICS ASSESSMENT

All LEAs shall implement a project-based assessment in civics at least once in grades nine through twelve.

Legal References:

- 1. TCA § 49-6-6001.
- 2. TSBE High School Policy 2.103.

Approved as to Legal Form
By Knox County Law Director 10/25/2016
/Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director