

<u>Section I:</u> Instructional Goals and Objectives	Knox County Board of Education Policy		
	Descriptor Term: Graduating with Honors or Distinction	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
		I-373	3/13
		Reviewed:	Revised:
	10/17	12/17	

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2 Students may graduate with honors or distinction by meeting the criteria established for the Tennessee
3 diploma with honors or distinction.
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5 **TENNESSEE DIPLOMA WITH HONORS OR DISTINCTION**
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7 **HONORS**
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9 Students who score at or above all of the subject readiness benchmarks on the ACT or equivalent score on
10 the SAT will graduate with honors.¹
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12 **DISTINCTION**
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14 Students will be recognized as graduating with “distinction” by attaining a B average and completing at
15 least one of the following:
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- 17 1) Earn a national and/or state recognized industry certification
- 18 2) Participate in at least one of the Governor’s Schools
- 19 3) Participate in one of the state’s All State musical organizations
- 20 4) Be selected as a National Merit Finalist or Semi-Finalist
- 21 5) Attain a score of 31 or higher composite score on the ACT or SAT equivalent
- 22 6) Attain a score of 3 or higher on at least two Advanced Placement exams
- 23 7) Successfully complete the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme
- 24 8) Earn 12 or more semester hours of transcribed postsecondary credit

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29 Some of the data used to identify students as graduates with honors or distinction may not be available
30 prior to commencement. Therefore, all students who potentially meet the requirements will become
31 candidates for a diploma with honors or distinction and will be recognized at individual schools’
32 ceremonies. A final classification of all candidates will be completed once all relevant data is received.
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34 **TRI-STAR SCHOLAR**
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36 Students will be recognized as graduating as a Tri-Star Scholar by:
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- 38 1) 19 ACT or SAT equivalent
- 39 2) Capstone industry certification

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41 Schools will recognize a student’s scholar status in the graduation ceremony with a diploma credential or
42 wearable cord with a notation on the program.²

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Legal References:

1. Tennessee State Board of Education High School Policy 2.103.
2. T.C.A. § 49-6-6010.

Approved as to Legal Form
By Knox County Law Director 10/23/2017
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