

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board desires that its standards for graduation meet or exceed the minimum standards of the Ohio Department of Education (**ODE**) as well as State law and, further, that our high school compares favorably with other high schools in the state that are recognized for excellence.

The requirements for graduation from high school are as follows.

<u>Minimum</u>		Ohio Core	
English Language Arts	4 units	English Language Arts	4 units
History and government, including one-half unit of American History and one-half unit of American Government	1 units	History and government, including one-half unit of American History and one-half unit of American Government	1 units
Social Studies	2 units	Social Studies	2 units
Science, with inquiry-based lab experience, including one unit each in Physical Science and Life Sciences and one unit in Chemistry, Physics or other physical science, Advanced Biology or other life science, Astronomy, Physical Geology or other earth or space science	3 units	Science, with inquiry-based lab experience, including one unit each in Physical Science and Life Sciences and one unit in Chemistry, Physics or other physical science, Advanced Biology or other life science, Astronomy, Physical Geology or other earth or space science	3 units
Math, including one unit of Algebra II or its equivalent **	4 units	Math, including one unit of Algebra II or its equivalent**	4 units
Health	1/2 unit	Health	1/2 unit
Physical Education	1/2 unit	Physical Education	1/2 unit
Electives*	<u>5 units</u>	Electives**	<u>5 units</u>
Total	20 units	Total	20 units

The statutory graduation requirements also include:

1. student electives\* of any one or combination of the following: foreign language, fine arts (must complete two semesters in any of grades 7-12 unless following a career-technical pathway), business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education or additional English language arts, math, science or social studies courses not otherwise required under the statutory graduation requirements;
2. \*\* Students entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2015 who are pursuing a career-technical instructional track may complete a career-based pathway math course as an alternative to Algebra II;
3. units earned in social studies shall be integrated with economics and financial literacy and
4. passing all state-required examinations.

#### \*Student Ambassador Program

As a requirement for graduation, students must execute community services as described in the “Norton High School Student Ambassador Program”.

#### Summer School

Summer school credits are accepted toward graduation, provided that administrative approval has been given prior to registration for the course.

#### Educational Options

High school credit is awarded to students who successfully complete Board-approved educational options that count toward the graduation requirements and subject area requirements.

#### College Credit Plus and Postsecondary Enrollment Options

Credit is awarded for courses successfully completed at an accredited postsecondary institution. High school credit awarded for a course successfully completed under College Credit Plus, or where applicable the former Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program, counts toward the graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the District. If a course comparable to the course successfully completed is offered by the District, then comparable credit for the completed equivalent course is awarded. If no comparable course is offered, the District grants to the student an appropriate number of credits in a similar subject area.

Selected Sample Policy

OHIO POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL©

### Correspondence Courses

High school courses offered through correspondence courses are accepted for credit toward graduation only when they meet the following criteria.

1. Credits earned in correspondence schools directly affiliated with state universities are evaluated by the school administration for students who wish to qualify for graduation from high school.
2. Credits earned from correspondence schools not directly affiliated with an accredited college or university may not be applied toward graduation.
3. Credits earned from schools that have been established primarily for correspondence study, rather than an institution primarily for residence study, are not accepted toward graduation.

### Coursework Prior to Ninth Grade

Student work successfully completed prior to the ninth grade is applied towards graduation credit if the course is taught by a teacher holding a license valid for teaching high school and is designated by the Board as meeting the high school curriculum requirements and is preapproved by the Superintendent/designee.

### Physical Education Exemption

A student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading for at least two full seasons is not required to complete any physical education courses as a condition to graduate. However, the student is required to complete one-half unit, consisting of at least 60 hours of instruction, in another course of study.

### Graduation Requirements Opt Out

The District does not offer students the ability to participate in the Opt Out program.

[Adoption date:]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3301.07(D)(3)  
3313.60; 3313.6014; 3313.603; 3313.605; 3313.61  
3345.06  
OAC 3301-35-04  
3301-16-05

CROSS REFS.: IGBM, Credit Flexibility  
IGCA, Summer Schools  
IGCD, Educational Options (Also LEB)  
IGCH, College Credit Plus (Also LEC)  
IGCI, Community Service  
JN, Student Fees, Fines and Charges

*NOTE: Although the minimum requirements for graduation are listed in the policy as 20 units of credit, boards are permitted to require more than 20 units in order for its students to graduate from high school and should edit this policy accordingly. District requirements should be reflected in the district minimum column.*

*Senate Bill (SB) 311, passed in 2006, permits boards to adopt a policy that excuses from high school physical education those students who have participated in interscholastic athletics, cheerleading or marching band for at least two full seasons. However, excused (exempted) students must complete one-half unit of at least 60 hours of instruction in another course of study in order to graduate from high school.*

*House Bill (HB) 290, passed in 2009, adds participation in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs approved by the United States Congress to the list of permitted electives within the Ohio Core curriculum. Boards may also excuse (exempt) participating students from high school physical education courses if participation in JROTC is for at least two full years.*

*In addition, under HB 290, boards are permitted to grant high school credit for two full years of participation in JROTC without the student having to take another course of study in order to graduate from high school.*

*HB 487 in 2014 sets forth three diploma pathways in addition to the regular curriculum requirements. These diploma pathways appear in RC 3313.618, and apply to students entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014. In order to qualify for a high school diploma, eligible students must satisfy at least one of the following conditions: 1) be remediation-free on each of the nationally standardized assessments in English, mathematics and reading; 2) attain a cumulative score of 18 points on the seven end-of-course examinations or 3) attain a score that demonstrates workforce readiness and employability on a nationally recognized job skills assessment and obtain either an industry-recognized credential or license issued by a state agency or board for practice in a vocation that requires an examination for issuance of that license.*

*HB 64 required the State Board of Education (SBOE) to adopt new rules permitting students who began ninth grade before July 1, 2014 who are subject to the Ohio Graduation Test requirements, graduation choices that incorporate these new graduation options. The SBOE adopted Ohio Administrative Code 3301-16-05, effective January 1, outlining additional assessment options for these students.*

***THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY***

