Hickman County Board of Education

	Descriptor Term: **Graduation Requirements**	Descriptor Code: **4.605**	Issued Date: **08/03/20**
		Rescinds: **4.605**	Issued: **05/04/20**

General

The program of studies shall include areas required by the State Board of Education.

Before high school graduation, every student shall:[1]

1. Achieve the specified twenty-four (24) units of credit;
2. Have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct;
3. Take the ACT or SAT prior to graduation;[2] and
4. Pass a United States civics test.[3]

Students achieving the minimum twenty-two credits will be awarded a state diploma. In order to receive a Hickman County diploma, students shall obtain twenty-four credits.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS[4]

Special education students who earn the prescribed twenty-four (24) credit minimum shall be awarded a regular high school diploma.

Special Education Diploma

A special education diploma shall be awarded to students who have not met the requirements for a regular high school diploma,[5] but have:

1. Completed four (4) years of high school;
2. Made satisfactory progress on their IEP; and
3. Maintained satisfactory records of attendance and conduct.

Occupational Diploma

Special education students who do not meet the requirements for a regular high school diploma may be awarded an occupational diploma if the student has:[1,4]

1. Completed at least four (4) years of high school;
2. Made satisfactory progress on their IEP;
3. Maintained satisfactory records of attendance and conduct;
4. Completed the occupational diploma Skills, Knowledge, and Experience Mastery Assessment (SKEMA); and
5. Has two (2) years of paid or non-paid work experience.

The decision to attain an occupational diploma shall be made at the conclusion of the student's 10th grade year or two (2) academic years prior to the expected graduation date.

Students who have received a special education diploma or an occupational diploma shall continue to make progress towards a regular high school diploma until the end of the school year in which they turn twenty-two (22) years old.

Alternate Academic Diploma

Special education students who do not meet the requirements for a regular high school diploma may be awarded an alternate academic diploma if the student has:[4]

1. Completed at least four (4) years of high school;
2. Participated in the high school alternate assessments;
3. Earned the prescribed twenty-two (22) credit minimum;
4. Made satisfactory progress on their IEP;
5. Maintained satisfactory records of attendance and conduct; and
6. Completed a transition assessment that measures postsecondary education and training, employment, independent living, and community involvement.

STUDENT LOAD

All full time students in grades 9-12 shall be enrolled each semester in subjects that produce a minimum of five (5) units of credit for graduation per year. Students with hardships and gifted students may appeal this requirement to the director of schools and then to the board.[6]

EARLY GRADUATION[7]

High school students shall be permitted to complete an early graduation program. Students intending to graduate early shall inform the school principal of this intent prior to the beginning of 9th grade or as soon thereafter as the intent is known.

In order to graduate early, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Earn the required eighteen (17) credits;
2. Achieve a benchmark score for each required end-of-course exam;
3. Attain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale;
4. Meet the minimum ACT or SAT benchmark score;
5. Obtain a qualifying benchmark score on a world language proficiency assessment; and
6. Complete at least two (2) types of the following courses:
    a. AP;
    b. IB;
    c. Dual enrollment; or
    d. Dual credit.

The director of schools shall develop administrative procedures to ensure that the early graduation program is conducted in accordance with state law.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-6001; State Board of Education Policy 2.103
2. TCA 49-6-6001(b); State Board of Education Policy 2.103
3. TCA 49-6-408; State Board of Education Policy 2.103
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.06(1)(a); State Board of Education Policy 2.103
5. TCA 49-6-6005; State Board of Education Policy 2.103
6. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.06(1)(a)(7)
7. TCA 49-6-8303; State Board of Education Policy 2.103

Cross References

Basic Curriculum Program 4.201
Alternative Credit Options 4.209
Honor Roll, Awards, & Class Ranking 4.602