

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Date: May 8, 2017

(1.) PURPOSE

This policy specifies graduation requirements for students enrolling in the ninth grade in the Lee County School System for the first time during the 2008-2009 school year and subsequent years, until a new state graduation rule is enacted.

(2.) REQUIREMENTS

Provide secondary school curriculum and instructional and support services that reflect the high school graduation and state assessment requirements and assist all students in developing their unique potential to function in society.

Lee County Board of Education shall require that:

To be eligible for graduation with a secondary school credential as defined in the State Board of Education (SBOE) Rule 160-4-2-.48, High School Graduation Requirements for Students Enrolling in the Ninth Grade for the First Time in the 2008-09 School Year and Subsequent Years, students must successfully complete selected courses specified in the SBOE rule 160-4-2-.20 and satisfy additional requirements specified in this policy. Students who enroll from another state meet the graduation requirements for the graduating class they enter and the state assessment requirements as referenced in Rule 160-3-1- .07 Testing Programs - Student Assessment.

Students who enroll in the ninth grade for the first time in the 2008-2009 school year and withdraw shall meet the graduation requirements specified in this policy and the assessment requirements specified in Rule 160-3-1- .07 Testing Programs - Student Assessment.

The Board shall make available to all students the required areas of study.
A course shall count only once for satisfying any unit of credit requirement for graduation.
See the following chart:

AREAS OF STUDY required by the state

		<u>Units Required</u>
(I)	English/ Language Arts *	<u>4</u>
(II)	Mathematics *	<u>4</u> **
(III)	Science *	<u>4</u>
The 4 th science unit may be used to meet both the science and elective requirement		
(IV)	Social Studies *	<u>3</u>
(V)	CTAE ***and/or Modern Language/ Latin** and/or Fine Arts	<u>3</u>
(VI)	Health and Physical Education *	<u>1</u>
(VII)	Electives	<u>4</u>
TOTAL UNITS (MINIMUM)		<u>23</u>

* Required Courses and/or Core Courses

** Any student going to a University of Georgia college or university must take at least two (2) years of the same modern language to meet admission requirements.

***Any student wishing to receive industry certification in certain areas under Career/Technical/Agricultural Education programs must follow specific pathways.

(3.) COURSE CREDIT

Unit credit shall be awarded only for courses that include concepts and skills based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for grades 9-12 or those approved by the State Board of Education. Unit credit may be awarded for courses offered in the middle grades that meet 9-12 GSE requirements. The Individualized Education Program (IEP), if applicable, shall specify whether core courses taken as part of an IEP shall receive core unit credit.

No course credit may be awarded for courses in which instruction is based on the GSE curriculum for grades K-8.

Completion of diploma requirements does not necessarily qualify students for the HOPE Scholarship Program.

(4.) STATE REQUIRED PROCEDURES FOR AWARDING UNITS OF CREDIT

A unit of credit for graduation shall be awarded to students only for successful completion of state-approved courses of study based on a minimum of 150 clock-hours of instruction provided during the regular school year, 135 clock-hours of instruction in an approved block schedule during the regular school year, or a minimum of 120 clock-hours of instruction in summer school.

(5.) STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE DISABILITIES

Students with significant cognitive disabilities may graduate and receive a regular high school diploma when the student's IEP team determines that the student has:

- completed an integrated curriculum based on the GSE that includes instruction in Mathematics, English/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies as well as career preparation, self determination, independent living and personal care to equal a minimum of 23 units of instruction, and
- participated in the GAA during middle school and high school and earned a proficient score on the high school GAA in Mathematics, English/Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies, and
- reached the 22nd birthday OR has transitioned to an employment/education/training setting in which the supports needed are provided by an entity other than the local school system.

(6.) GRADUATION SUPPORT SERVICES

The Board shall provide instructional, support and delivery services that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) A continuous guidance component beginning in middle school. The purposes of the guidance component are to familiarize students with graduation requirements, to help

them identify the likely impact of individual career objectives on the program of work studies they plan to follow and to provide annual advisement sessions to report progress and offer alternatives in meeting graduation requirements and career objectives.

- (b) Record keeping and reporting services that document student progress toward graduation and include information for the school, parents and students.
- (c) Diagnostic and continuous evaluation services that measure individual student progress in meeting competency expectations for graduation.
- (d) Instructional programs, curriculum and course guides and remedial opportunities to assist each student in meeting graduation requirements.
- (e) Appropriate curriculum and assessment procedures for students who have been identified as having disabilities that prevent them from meeting the prescribed competency performance requirements.