

Hamilton County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in December	Descriptor Term: Graduation Requirements	Descriptor Code: 4.606	Issued Date: 04/20/17
		Rescinds:	Issued: 04/20/17

1 **GENERAL**

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

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5 Before high school graduation, every student shall;

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- 7 1. Achieve the specified units of credit;
- 8 2. Take the required end of course exams;¹
- 9 3. Have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct
- 10 4. Take the ACT or SAT in the 11th grade;² and
- 11 5. Successfully complete a United States civics test.³

12 **SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS⁴**

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15 Special education students who successfully complete their Individualized Educational Program (IEP),
16 pass the required competency assessment and have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct shall be
17 awarded a regular diploma. A special education diploma shall be awarded to students who have
18 satisfactorily completed their IEP and who have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct, but who
19 have not met the proficiency testing requirements.⁵

20
21 Special education students who do not meet the requirements for a high school diploma may be awarded
22 an occupational diploma if the student has:^{1,4}

- 23
- 24 1. satisfactorily completed their IEP;
- 25 2. maintained satisfactory records of attendance and conduct;
- 26 3. completed the occupational diploma Skills, Knowledge, and Experience Mastery Assessment
27 (SKEMA);
- 28 4. completed at least four (4) years of high school; and
- 29 5. has two (2) years of paid or non-paid work experience.

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31 The decision to attain an occupational diploma shall be made at the conclusion of the student's tenth (10th)
32 grade year, or two (2) academic years prior to the expected graduation date. Students who have received
33 an occupational diploma shall continue to make progress towards a high school diploma until the end of
34 the school year in which they turn twenty-two (22) years old.

35 **STUDENT LOAD**

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

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EARLY GRADUATION

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 (18) 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. Public Acts of 2016, Chp. No. 844; State Board of Education Policy 2.103
- 3. Public Acts of 2016, Chapter No. 499; 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-.03(6)
- 7. TCA 49-6-8303; State Board of Education Policy 2.103

Cross References:

- Basic Curriculum Program 4.201
- Class Ranking 4.602