

Graduation Requirements

Ohio law provides the following graduation requirements that are available for the classes of 2021 and beyond. Students entering ninth grade between **July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2019**, have the option to meet the new requirements outlined for the class of 2023 and beyond or meet the requirements of the original three pathways to graduation.

To earn a high school diploma in Ohio, you must complete the courses and requirements **and then** choose a pathway to show that you are ready for college or a job.

Complete Courses and Requirements:

Take and earn a national minimum of 20 credits in specific subjects. You also must receive instruction in economics and financial literacy and complete at least two semesters of fine arts.

Meet one of the following options:

OPTION 1

Satisfy **one** of the three **original pathways** to graduation that were in place when you entered high school. The pathways include:

1. **Ohio's State Tests** - Earn at least 18 points on seven end-of-course state tests. Each test score earns you up to five graduation points. You must have a minimum of four points in math, four points in English and six points across science and social studies.
2. **Industry credential and workforce readiness** - Earn a minimum of 12 points by receiving a State Board of Education-approved, industry-recognized credential or group of credentials in a single career field and earn the required score on WorkKeys, a work-readiness test. The state of Ohio will pay one time for you to take the WorkKeys test.
3. **College and career readiness tests** - Earn remediation-free scores in mathematics and English language arts on either the ACT or SAT.

OPTION 2

Satisfy the **new graduation requirements** for the classes of 2023 and beyond by:

1. **Demonstrating Competency** - Students will demonstrate competency in the foundational areas of English language arts and mathematics through state assessments.

Students who fail to attain a competency score on one or both of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations will be offered remedial support and must retake the examination(s) at least once.

For students on an Individual Education Plan (IEP), the IEP shall specify the manner in which the student will participate in assessments or an alternative assessment under Ohio law. Where an IEP exempts a student from obtaining a competency score on end of course examinations

or alternate assessments, the student will be eligible to receive a diploma if, after taking the exam(s) or alternate assessment(s), the student receives remedial support and re-takes, without obtaining an established or competency score, the exam(s) or alternate assessment(s).

If competency through examinations cannot be demonstrated, Ohio permits alternative demonstrations of competency through:

1. College Credit Plus in math and/or English;
2. U.S. military enlistment;
3. attaining remediation-free status, in accordance with Ohio law, in the failed subject area(s) on the ACT or SAT (for English language arts II, a student must be remediation-free in the subjects of both English and reading); or
4. Demonstrating two career-focused activities, one of which must be foundational:

a. Foundational: earning a cumulative score of proficient or higher on three or more state technical assessments in a single career pathway; obtaining an industry-recognized credential, or group of credentials that is at least equal to the total number of points established under Ohio law to qualify for a high school diploma; obtaining a license approved under section 3313.6113 of the Revised Code that is issued by a state agency or board for practice in a vocation that requires an examination for issuance of that license; completing a pre-apprenticeship aligned with options established under Ohio law in the student's chosen career field; completing an apprenticeship registered with the apprenticeship council established under section 4139.02 of the Revised Code in the student's chosen career field, or providing evidence of acceptance into an apprenticeship program after high school that is restricted to participants eighteen years of age or older.

b. Supporting: completing two hundred fifty hours of a work-based learning experience with evidence of positive evaluations; obtaining an OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal; or attaining a workforce readiness score, as determined by the state, on the nationally recognized job skills assessment selected by the state board

2. **Demonstrating Readiness** - Students will demonstrate readiness for their post-high school paths by earning two state seals that allow them to demonstrate important foundational and well-rounded academic and technical knowledge, professional skills, as well as develop key social and emotional competencies and leadership and reasoning skills, which must include at least one of the following: (1) seal of biliteracy; (2) OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal; or (3) a state diploma seal in one of the following areas: industry-recognized credential seal, college-ready seal, military enlistment seal, citizenship seal, science seal, honors diploma seal, or technology seal.

Note that the School offers the following additional seal(s) in accordance with Form 4301.2: [] community service seal, [] fine and performing arts seal, [] student engagement seal, but these local seals may not be used to demonstrate readiness as defined above. The School will recognize a state diploma seal for community service, fine and performing arts, and/or student engagement earned by a student at another district or a different public or chartered nonpublic school prior to transferring to the School, regardless of whether the School offers such a seal.

In order to graduate, a student must earn twenty units of credit which satisfy the following minimum subject area requirements:

English/Language Arts 4 units

Mathematics 4 units

Science 3 units, including

(1 physical science)

(1 life science)

(1 advanced study in chemistry, physics, or other physical science, advanced biology or other life science, astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science, or computer science).

Computer science may not be substituted for a life science or biology course.

History/Government 1 unit

(½ American History,

(½ American government).

Must include study of the following documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Northwest Ordinance, the Constitution of the United States (with emphasis on the Bill of Rights), and the Ohio Constitution. The General Assembly has further instructed as follows: "The study of each of the documents prescribed ... shall include study of that document in its original context. The study of American history and government ... shall include the historical evidence of the role of documents such as the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers to firmly establish the historical background leading to the establishment of the provisions of the Constitution and Bill of Rights."

Social Studies 2 units.

Health $\frac{1}{2}$ unit

Physical Education $\frac{1}{2}$ unit

Electives 5 units. The five units of electives may consist of one or any combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology (which may include computer science), agricultural education, a junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) program, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies courses not otherwise required.

Beginning with the Class of 2026, Financial Literacy $\frac{1}{2}$ unit, either in lieu of one-half credit of the mathematics requirement or as one-half credit of the 5 units of required electives.

____ unit, either in lieu of ____ credit of the _____ requirement, or as ____ credit of the 5 units of required electives

Beginning with the Class of 2026, Interactions With Peace Officers

Students may fulfill one unit of mathematics by completing one-half unit of financial literacy instruction as aligned with Ohio academic content standards and one-half unit of a mathematics course. The one-half unit course in mathematics shall not be in algebra II, or its equivalent, or a course for which the State Board requires an end-of-course examination under Ohio law. Students who choose to take one unit of advanced computer science in lieu of algebra II shall not be permitted to complete one-half unit of financial literacy instruction to satisfy the mathematics unit requirements of that division, and must incorporate it into the 5 units of required electives.

Required Total: 20 units minimum (For the class of 2026 and beyond, 20.5 units.)

Note the following:

- Credits toward either curricula may be granted for “advanced work” by students below the ninth grade if taught by a properly licensed instructor and specifically designated by the Board as meeting the high school curriculum requirements.
- Units earned in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies that are delivered through integrated academic and technical instruction (typically in a vocational school setting) will also satisfy the unit requirements set forth above.
- For students who choose to take advanced computer science in lieu of algebra II as permitted by law, the School shall communicate to those students that some institutions of higher education may require algebra II for the purpose of college admission. Also, the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of each student who chooses to take advanced computer science in lieu of algebra II shall sign and submit to the School a document containing a statement acknowledging that not taking algebra II may have an adverse effect on college admission decisions.

There are two major “flexibility” concepts: 1. a broad authority given to schools to integrate course content from different academic subject areas into a single course, including a career-technical education course, for which the student may then receive graduation credits in multiple subject areas. 2. the authority to grant units of high school credits to students who demonstrate subject area competency through work-based learning experiences, internships, or cooperative education. Boards of education wishing to grant credit for subject area competencies demonstrated in these ways may do (beginning with the 2018–19 school year) in accordance with a framework developed by the Department of Education.

It should be noted that special requirements or options exist with respect to the social studies, physical education, and fine arts units required by the Ohio Core curriculum. Social studies must also include at least one-half unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilizations.

Fine arts, although classified as an elective high school course, is subject to the broader requirement that all students in grades 7-12 complete two semesters of fine arts.

Physical education, a minimum $\frac{1}{2}$ unit of the Ohio Core curriculum, may be waived by policy for any student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two full seasons or in the junior reserve officer training corps for at least two full years. Students who are granted the physical education waiver must, however, “fill in” the $\frac{1}{2}$ unit with other course work consisting of at least 60 hours of instruction.

The School retains the right to impose “even more challenging” course requirements than those set in this Policy. This includes the right to require more than 20 units of academic credit.

If, however, the School wishes to require a foreign language as a graduation requirement, students must be allowed to substitute instruction in computer coding for a foreign language on a unit-for-unit basis.

Transferring students who previously attended an Ohio school complying with state minimum standards or an out-of-state school approved by the Department of Education must be placed at a grade level that corresponds to their previous placement, with full recognition for graduation units of credit previously earned. However, the specific academic subject grades from the previous school shall be accepted and the School shall translate the specific academic grades received at the previous school whenever this is deemed necessary due to the use of different grading scales or methodologies.

Students transferring from another state, after receiving home instruction, or from a nonchartered, nontax-supported school after the start of the student's twelfth grade year and fails to attain a competency score on the Algebra I or English language arts II end-of-course examination shall not be required to retake the applicable examination prior to demonstrating competency in the failed subject area under the options established by Ohio law.

Students may be able to "test out" of the required class time or to earn such credits through other alternative means. Under a "credit flexibility" plan, students may earn high school credits by demonstrating competency in the subject area on a test or through the pursuit of other educational options. See Policy No. **3620** Credit Flexibility Plan.

See Form No. **4301.1** Overview Handout about the Classes of 2021 and 2022 Graduation Requirements for Students and their Families.

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