HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Kentucky Department of Education

Additional Information

This document identifies high school graduation requirements. Please select the year of entry into grade 9. The year of entry into 9th grade dictates the high school graduation requirements for students.

PLEASE SELECT THE YEAR THE CANDIDATE ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE CORRESPONDING CHECKLIST OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL- 1979, 1980, 1981

Content Area	Total Credits Required	Checklist of credits earned
English Language Arts	3	✓ English Language Arts ✓ English Language Arts ✓ English Language Arts
Math	2	✓ Math ✓ Math
Science	2	✓ Science ✓ Science
Social Studies	2	✓ US History ✓ Citizenship (for students graduating in 1984-1987)
Health	.5	✓ Health
Physical Education	.5	✓ Physical Education
Electives	8	✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective
Academic and Career Interest Standards-Based learning experiences	No Requirement	No Requirement
Technology	No Requirement	No Requirement
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts	No Requirement	No Requirement
Total Credits Required	18 credits, 10 required and 8 electives	18 credits, 10 required and 8 electives

High School Graduation Requirements

Content Area	Total Credits Required	Checklist of credits earned
English Language Arts	4	✓ English Language Arts ✓ English Language Arts ✓ English Language Arts ✓ English Language Arts
Math	3	✓ Math ✓ Math ✓ Math
Science	3	✓ Science ✓ Science ✓ Science
Social Studies	2	✓ US History ✓ Citizenship (for students graduating in 1984-1987)
Health	.5	✓ Health
Physical Education	.5	✓ Physical Education
Electives	8	✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective (***one elective must be from the curriculum areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, or approved vocational studies)**
Academic and Career Interest Standards-Based learning experiences	No Requirement	No Requirement
Technology	No Requirement	No Requirement
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts	No Requirement	No Requirement
Total Credits Required	20 credits total, 8 credits can be electives	20 credits, 8 electives

ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL 1987-1997

Content Area	Total Credits Required	Checklist of credits earned
English Language Arts	4	✓ English Language Arts ✓ English Language Arts ✓ English Language Arts ✓ English Language Arts
Math	3	✓ Math ✓ Math ✓ Math
Science	2	✓ Science ✓ Science
Social Studies	2	✓ US History ✓ Social Studies
Health	.5	✓ Health
Physical Education	.5	✓ Physical Education
Electives	8	✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective
Academic and Career Interest Standards-Based learning experiences	No Requirement	No Requirement
Technology	No Requirement	No Requirement
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts	No Requirement	No Requirement
Total Credits Required	20 credits total, 8 credits can be electives	20 credits, 8 electives

ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL 1997, 1998

Content Area	Total Credits Required	Checklist of credits earned
English Language Arts	4	✓ English Language Arts I ✓ English Language Arts II ✓ English Language Arts III ✓ English Language Arts IV
Math	3	✓ Math ✓ Math ✓ Math
Science	3	✓ Science (life) ✓ Science (physical) ✓ Science (earth and space)
Social Studies	3	✓ US History ✓ Economics, Government ✓ World Geography, World Civilization ***courses must include the content areas above**
Health	.5	✓ Health
Physical Education	.5	✓ Physical Education
Electives	7	✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective
Academic and Career Interest Standards-Based learning experiences	No Requirement	No Requirement
Technology	No Requirement	No Requirement
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts	1	History and appreciation of visual and performing arts
Total Credits Required	At least 22 credits	At least 22 credits

*All graduation requirements assume a four-year high school attendance. Date entered high school is the 9th grade school year.

ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL 1998-2007

Content Area	Total Credits Required	Checklist of credits earned
English Language Arts	4	✓ English Language Arts I ✓ English Language Arts II ✓ English Language Arts III ✓ English Language Arts IV
Math	3	✓ Algebra I ✓ Geometry ✓ Math elective
Science	3	✓ Science (life) ✓ Science (physical) ✓ Science (earth and space)
Social Studies	3	✓ US History ✓ Economics, Government ✓ World Geography, World Civilization *courses must include the content areas above
Health	.5	✓ Health
Physical Education	.5	✓ Physical Education
Electives	7	✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective ✓ Elective
Academic and Career Interest Standards-Based learning experiences	No Requirement	No Requirement
Technology	No Requirement	No Requirement
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts	1	History and appreciation of visual and performing arts
Total Credits Required	At least 22, 7 electives, 15 required credits	At least 22, 7 electives, 15 required credits

*All graduation requirements assume a four-year high school attendance. Date entered high school is the 9th grade school year.

High School Graduation Requirements

ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL 2008-2010

Content Area	Total Credits Required	Checklist of credits earned	Required Course content
English Language Arts	4	✓ English Language Arts I ✓ English Language Arts II ✓ English Language Arts III ✓ English Language Arts IV	To include the content strands of reading, writing, speaking, listening, observing, inquiry, conventions, analysis and using technology as a communication tool. ELA shall be taken each year of high school.
Math	3	✓ Algebra I ✓ Algebra II ✓ Geometry ✓ Math	Pre-Algebra can count as an elective Not one of required 3 courses. Math shall be taken each year of high school.
Science	3	✓ Science ✓ Science ✓ Science	Credits shall incorporate lab-based scientific investigation, experiences and to include the strands of biological science, physical science, earth and space science and unifying concepts.
Social Studies	3	✓ Social Studies ✓ Social Studies ✓ Social Studies	To include the content strands of historical perspective, including US History, geography, economics, government and civics, and cultures and societies.
Health	.5	✓ Health	To include the content strands of individual well-being, consumer decision, personal wellness, mental wellness and community services
Physical Education	.5	✓ Physical Education	To include the content strands of personal wellness, psychomotor, and lifetime activity.
Electives		No requirement	No requirement
Academic and Career Interest Standards-Based learning experiences	7	✓ 1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6 ✓ 7	7- Academic and Career interest standards-based learning experiences to include: 4- Standards-based learning experiences in an academic or career interest based on a student's ILP.
Technology		✓ Demonstrated performance-based competency in technology.	Demonstrated performance-based competency in technology.
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts	1	✓ History and appreciation of visual and performing arts	To include the content strands of arts, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the students individualized learning plan.
Total Credits Required	At least 22	At least 22	

All graduation requirements assume a four-year high school attendance. Date entered high school is the 9th grade school year.

ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL 2011-2018

Content Area	Total Credits Required	Checklist of credits earned	Required Course content
English Language Arts	4	✓ English Language Arts I ✓ English Language Arts II ✓ English Language Arts III ✓ English Language Arts IV	4 credits- (English I, II, III, and IV) to include the content contained in the Kentucky core academic standards for English and language arts and comply with the following: Language arts shall be taken each year of high school; and (a) If a student does not meet the college readiness benchmarks for English and language arts as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13 KAR 2:020, the student shall take an English and language arts transitional course or intervention, which is monitored to address remediation needs, before exiting high school;
Math	3	✓ Algebra I ✓ Algebra II ✓ Geometry ✓ 4th year of Math	(3) credits to include the content contained in the Kentucky core academic standards for mathematics and include the following minimum requirements: (a) Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. An integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, occupational, or technical course that prepares a student for a career path based on the student's individual learning plan may be substituted for a traditional Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II course on an individual student basis if the course meets the content standards in the Kentucky core academic standards, incorporated by reference in 704 KAR 3:303; (b) A mathematics course or its equivalent as determined by the district shall be taken each year of high school to ensure readiness for postsecondary education or the workforce; (c) Any mathematics course other than Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II shall be counted as an elective; and (d) If a student does not meet the college readiness benchmarks for mathematics as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13 KAR 2:020, the student shall take a mathematics transitional course or intervention, which is monitored to address remediation needs, before exiting high school;

*All graduation requirements assume a four-year high school attendance. Date entered high school is the 9th grade school year.

ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL 2011-2018

Content Area	Total Credits Required	Checklist of credits earned	Required Course content
Science	3	✓ Science ✓ Science ✓ Science	Three (3) credits that shall incorporate lab-based scientific investigation experiences and include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Science*;
Social Studies	3	✓ Social Studies ✓ Social Studies ✓ Social Studies	Three (3) credits to include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies.* Additional course options aligned to the *KAS for Social Studies* could include, but are not limited to: Social Studies 1, 2, 3, Geography/AP Human Geo, World History (or AP), US History (or AP), Economics, etc.
Health	.5	✓ Health	One-half (1/2) credit to include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Health*;
Physical Education	.5	✓ Physical Education	One-half, (1/2) credit to include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Physical Education*;
Academic and Career Interest Standards-Based Learning Experiences	7	✓ 1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6 ✓ 7	Seven, (7) credits including four (4) standards-based learning experiences in an academic or career interest based on the student's individual learning plan.
Technology		✓ Demonstrated performance-based competency in technology.	Demonstrated performance-based competency in technology.
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts	1	✓ History and appreciation of visual and performing arts	History and appreciation of visual and performing arts - one (1) credit to include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Visual and Performing Arts* or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's individual learning plan.

*All graduation requirements assume a four-year high school attendance. Date entered high school is the 9th grade school year.

ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL 2019-present

Language Arts	4	✓ English Language Arts I ✓ English Language Arts II ✓ Personalized English/Language Arts Credit ✓ Personalized English/Language Arts Credit	English/language arts - two (2) credits (English I and II) to include the content contained in the Kentucky academic standards for this content area; Two (2) additional English/Language Arts credits that include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards* for this content area and are aligned to the student's individual learning plan.
Math	4	✓ Algebra I ✓ Geometry ✓ Personalized Math Credit ✓ Personalized Math Credit	Mathematics - two (2) credits (Algebra I and Geometry) to include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards* for this content area. Two (2) additional mathematics credits that include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards* for this content area and are aligned to the student's individual learning plan.
Science	3	✓ Science Credit ✓ Science Credit ✓ Personalized Science Credit	Science - two (2) credits that shall incorporate lab-based scientific investigation experiences and include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards* for this content area; One (1) additional science credit that includes the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards* for this content area and is aligned to the student's individual learning plan.
Social Studies	3	✓ Social Studies Credit ✓ Social Studies Credit ✓ Personalized Social Studies Credit	Social studies - two (2) credits to include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards* for this content area. One (1) additional social studies credit that includes the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards* for this content area and is aligned to the student's individual learning plan;
Health	.5	✓ Health Credit	Health - one-half (1/2) credit to include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards* for this content area.
Physical Education	.5	✓ Physical Education Credit	Physical education - one-half (1/2) credit to include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards* for this content area.

*All graduation requirements assume a four-year high school attendance. Date entered high school is the 9th grade school year.

ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL 2019-present

Academic and Career Interest Standards – Based Learning Experiences	6	✓ 1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6	Academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences - six (6) credits including four (4) standards-based learning experiences based on the student's individual learning plan.
Technology		✓ Demonstrated performance-based competency in technology.	Demonstrate performance-based competency in technology as approved by the Kentucky Department of Education;
Visual and Performing Arts	1	✓ Visual and Performing Arts Credit	Visual and performing arts - one (1) credit to include the content contained in the *Kentucky Academic Standards* for this content area or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's individual learning plan.
Civics Test			Required by KRS 158.141
Financial Literacy		✓ Financial Literacy Course or Program	Beginning with students entering grade 9 on or after the first day of the 2020-2021 academic year, successfully complete one (1) or more courses or programs that meet the financial literacy requirements pursuant to KRS 158.1411 and standards as established in 704 KAR Chapter 8.
Total Credits Required	At least 22	✓ At least 22	Per 704 KAR 3:305, in order to receive a high school diploma, each student in a public school shall earn a total of at least twenty-two (22) credits for high school graduation and additional requirements as may be imposed by a local board of education.

*All graduation requirements assume a four-year high school attendance. Date entered high school is the 9th grade school year.