

## Course of Study Leading to the Alternative High School Diploma

(Use for drafting student's multi-year course of study as required by [707 KAR 1:320 Section 7](#))

### Introduction

[704 KAR 3:305](#) requires in Section 8:

Beginning with the graduating class of 2013, if the severity of an exceptional student's disability precludes a course of study that meets the high school graduation requirements established in Section 1 of this administrative regulation leading to receipt of a high school diploma, an alternative course of study shall be offered.

- (1) This course of study shall be based upon student needs and the provisions specified in [704 KAR 3:303](#), required academic standards, and shall be reviewed at least annually.
- (2) A student who completes this course of study shall receive an Alternative High School Diploma to be awarded by the local board of education consistent with the graduation practices for all students.
- (3) A local board of education may establish policies to award an Alternative High School Diploma to a former student who has received a certificate or certificate of attainment.

As stated above, the alternative course of study must be based on individual student needs. The following information has been developed to provide guidance for Admissions and Release Committees (ARCs) for developing an individualized multi-year course of study for students earning an Alternative High School Diploma. This requirement aligns with the special education regulation [707 KAR 1:320 Section 7](#), which requires that a course of study is one of the transition services included in every student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

When developing an IEP, the ARC must determine the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for each student. LRE places students with disabilities in an education setting to the maximum extent appropriate with children who do not have disabilities. The ARC discusses and documents the location and placement of IEP services.

A full list of all alternative course of study course codes and titles are listed in [Appendix A](#). Students working towards the Alternative High School Diploma may have a combination of both general education courses and special education courses. [Appendix B](#) includes the course of study requirements for an alternative diploma. Specific course code descriptions are available in the Special Education section of the [KY Standards page](#) of the KDE website.

Students are not required to take the courses leading to the Career Work Experience Certification (CWEC) as their electives. However, the four courses are required for students working toward achievement of career readiness within the Transition Readiness indicator of Kentucky's accountability system. For more information on the CWEC please refer to the Working with Exceptional Children in CTE page on the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) webpage.

When a student earning an Alternative High School Diploma enrolls in a general education course and the content standard being taught is the same as for nondisabled students, a grade and credit for the course is given in the same manner as the nondisabled student. This situation

typically occurs with enrollment in elective classes or collaborative core content classes. For example, a student participates in physical education, art or science and receives instruction with no change in content or standards (accommodations and modifications can be provided according to the student's IEP). If a student is enrolled in a regular humanities class, it will fulfill the Visual and Performing Arts class requirement in the alternate course of study graduation requirements.

If a student is enrolled in a general education course but the content (standard being taught) has been modified to the extent that it is not the same as for nondisabled students, then the student is not completing that specific course. The student may need to be enrolled in a 600-level course. For example, the student enrolls in an algebra course, but the content is changed for the student, to the extent that it does not represent the same content as for nondisabled students. District policies must be followed for assigning credits and grades to courses.

The courses found in this document can also be found in the Kentucky Academic Course Code list located on the [Kentucky Uniform Academic Course Code webpage](#). ARCs should use these course titles and descriptions when developing the student's multi-year course of study. The descriptions are included to help the ARC determine which course title and description best describes the course needed by the student. ARCs may also use general education courses as appropriate. If the ARC determines a student will receive instruction in a regular education class, the regular course code is utilized. If a student will receive instruction in a resource or separate/special class taught by a Moderate to Severe Disabilities (MSD) certified teacher, the 600 level course codes for the Alternative High School Diploma are used.

District policies must be followed for assigning grades and credits to courses leading to the Alternative High School Diploma. The Kentucky Department of Education recommends the minimum credits listed for graduation with an alternative diploma ([704 KAR 3:305](#)) and the local district should set the local requirements in its district graduation policy.

*Appendix A: Example Student Sample Schedule – includes all courses leading to an alternative diploma and courses required to receive a CWE Certification*

Area/Course Title	Course Code	Recommended Grade Level									Guidance		
		Middle School			High School				Grade 14				
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Year 5	Year 6		Year 7	
<b>English Language Arts</b>													<b>English Language Arts</b>
Middle School Language Arts	600120	X	X	X									4 required in grade 9-12. Courses may also be selected from general education course codes
English I	600121				X								
English II	600122					X							
English III	600123						X						
English IV	600124							X					
<b>Mathematics</b>													<b>Mathematics</b>
Middle School Math	600130	X	X	X									3 required in grades 9-12. Courses may also be selected from general education course codes
Math 1	600131				X								
Math 2	600132					X							
Math 3	600133						X						
Math 4	600134							X					
<b>Science</b>													<b>Science</b>
Integrated Science	600140				X	X	X	X					3 required in grades 9-12. Courses may also be selected from general education course codes
Life/Science/Biology	600141				X	X	X	X					
Earth/Space Science	600142				X	X	X	X					
<b>Social Studies</b>													<b>Social Studies</b>
Integrated Social Studies	600150				X	X	X	X					3 required in grades 9-12. Courses may also be selected from general education course codes
World History	600151				X	X	X	X					
U.S. History	600152				X	X	X	X					
Humanities (Visual & Performing Arts) or a standards-based specialized arts course													Humanities (Visual & Performing Arts) or a standards-based specialized arts course
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts	600160	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					1 required in Middle School; 1 required in High School
<b>Health &amp; Physical Education</b>													<b>Health &amp; Physical Education</b>
Health and Physical Education	600170	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					1 required in Middle School; 1 required in High School - 0.5 Health; 0.5 PE

Area/Course Title	Course Code	Recommended Grade Level									Guidance		
		Middle School			High School				Grade 14				
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Year 5	Year 6		Year 7	
Electives												Electives	
Developing Career Choices	600183	X	X	X									At least 3 required in Grades 9-12. Electives may also be selected from general education course codes, including CTE courses
Daily Living Skills	600180				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Life Skills	600290				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Basic Money Skills	600181				X	X	X	X					
Money Skills for Independent Living	600182							X	X	X	X		
Career Work Experience Certification Electives: 1/year Grades 9-12, Grade 14 as appropriate													Career Work Experience Certification Electives: 1/year Grades 9-12, Grade 14 as appropriate
Developing Career Options	600184				X	X							1 Year recommended at either grade or in alignment with the length requirement for CTE courses. Prerequisite to last two courses
Developing Leadership Skills	600190				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		1 Year recommended at either grade or in alignment with the length requirement for CTE courses. Prerequisite to last two courses
Experience in Workplace Principles	600189					X	X	X	X	X	X		1 Year recommended at either grade or in alignment with the length requirement for CTE courses.
Individualized Career Work Experience	600185						X	X	X	X	X		1 Year recommended at either grade or in alignment with the length requirement for CTE courses.

*Appendix B: Alternative Course of Study (can include a combination of regular education and special education classes) leading to the Alternative High School Diploma*

**Language Arts – 4 classes** to include the Kentucky Alternate Assessment aligned to Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) content strands of reading, writing, speaking, listening, observing, inquiry, conventions, analysis, and using technology as a communication tool and must also include Kentucky Employability and Foundational Academic Standards-Alternate Assessment (EFAS-AA).

**Mathematics – 4 classes** to include the Kentucky Alternate Assessment aligned to Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) content standards and must also include Kentucky EFAS-AA

**Social Studies – 3 classes** to include the Kentucky Alternate Assessment aligned to Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) content strands of historical perspective, including U.S. History, World History, and Integrated Social Studies and must also include Kentucky EFAS-AA

**Science – 3 classes** to include the Kentucky Alternate Assessment aligned to Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) content standards of Life Science (Biology), Physical Science, and Earth/Space Science concepts and must also include Kentucky EFAS-AA

**Health and Physical Education – 1 class (½ Health, ½ PE)** to include the content strands of individual well-being, consumer decision, personal wellness, mental wellness, and community services as well as psychomotor and lifetime activity.

**Visual and Performing Arts – 1 class** a performing arts course (or another arts course which incorporates this content) which incorporates the content strands of arts, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's Individual Learning Plan.

**Electives – 3 classes** in academic and career interest the Kentucky Alternative Assessment aligned to Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) and Kentucky EFAS-AA based learning experiences to include standards-based learning experiences in an academic or career interest based on the student's Individual Learning Plan; and demonstrated performance based competency in technology. (For more information on the CWEC please refer to the [Working with Exceptional Children in CTE](#) page on the KDE webpage)

**Technology** - Demonstrated performance-based competency in technology

Kentucky Accountability – More information is located on the [Accountability page](#) of the KDE website