

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Students who have completed all required course work, as set forth below, but who have not successfully completed all state mandated proficiency or graduation assessment requirements may return at subsequent regularly scheduled proficiency or graduation assessment administrations to retake failed areas. Upon the successful completion of proficiency or graduation assessment requirements such student shall be eligible to be awarded a high school diploma.

Each diploma shall be signed by the President and Treasurer of the Board, the Superintendent, and the Principal of the High School and shall bear the date of its issue.

The requirements for graduation and participation in commencement shall be the completion of work and studies representing the instructional program assigned to grades 9 through 12, including all state mandated proficiency or graduation assessments.

The Superintendent shall determine whether the credit that a student has earned from another school satisfies any of the educational unit requirements for graduation, as set forth below.

#### **Students Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time Before July 1, 2010**

The requirements for participation in commencement and receiving a diploma shall include twenty-two credits earned in grades 9-12 to be distributed as follows:

1. English language arts, four credits;
2. Health, one-half credit;
3. Mathematics, three credits;
4. Physical education, one-half credit;
5. Science, three credits, which at all times shall include both of the following:
  - a. Biological sciences, one credit;
  - b. Physical sciences, one credit.
6. Social studies, three credits, which shall include the following:
  - a. American history, one-half credit;
  - b. American government, one-half credit;
  - c. Beginning with students who enter 9th grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017, at least one-half credit of instruction in the study of world history and civilization.

7. Elective credits, eight credits.

Each student's electives shall include at least one credit, or two half credits, chosen from among the areas of business/technology, fine arts, and/or foreign language.

Students Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time On or After July 1, 2010.

Beginning with students who enter the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2010, the requirements for participation in commencement and receiving a diploma shall include twenty units in grades 9-12 to be distributed as follows:

1. English language arts, four units;
2. Health, one-half unit, which shall include instruction in nutrition and the benefits of nutritious foods and physical activity for overall health;
3. Mathematics, four units, which shall include one unit of Algebra II or its equivalent. However, students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2015, and who are pursuing a career-technical instructional track, shall not be required to take Algebra II, and instead may complete a career-based pathway mathematics course approved by the Ohio Department of Education as an alternative;
4. Physical education, one-half unit;
5. Science, three units with inquiry-based laboratory experience that engages students in asking valid scientific questions and gathering and analyzing information, which shall include the following or their equivalent:
  - a. Physical sciences, one unit;
  - b. Biology, one unit;
  - c. Advanced study in one or more of the following sciences, one unit:
    - i. Chemistry, physics, or other physical science;
    - ii. Advanced biology or other life science;
    - iii. Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science.
6. History and government, one unit, which shall include both of the following:
  - a. American history, one-half unit;
  - b. American government, one-half unit;

Beginning with students who enter the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2012, the content shall include the study of the Declaration of Independence; the Northwest Ordinance; the U.S. Constitution and its amendments, with emphasis on the Bill of Rights; and the Ohio Constitution; including study of such documents in their original context. In

addition, such content 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 the Bill of Rights;

7. Social studies, two units;

The study of economics and financial literacy as expressed in the social studies content standards shall be integrated into one or more existing social studies credits or into the content of another class.

Beginning with students who enter 9th grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017, the two units of instruction prescribed by this paragraph shall include at least one-half credit of instruction in the study of world history and civilization.

8. Five units consisting of one or any combination of foreign language, fine arts (two (2) semesters in any of grades 7-12), business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies not otherwise required.

A student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010, and before July 1, 2016, may qualify for graduation even though he/she has not completed the requirements for graduation, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. During the student's third year of attending high school, as determined by the school, the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian sign and file with the school a written statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or custodian's consent to the student's graduating without completing the requirements for graduation prescribed by O.R.C. §3313.603(C) and acknowledging that one consequence of not completing those requirements is ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio without further coursework. The District shall notify the Ohio Department of Education of the number of students who choose to qualify for graduation in this way and the number of students who complete the student's success plan and graduate from high school.
2. The student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian and a representative of the student's high school jointly develop a student success plan for the student in the manner described in O.R.C. §3313.6020(C)(1). The student success plan must specify the student matriculating to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business and industry-recognized credential, or entering an apprenticeship. The high school shall provide counseling and support for the student related to the plan during the remainder of the student's high school experience.
3. The student successfully completes, at a minimum, the curriculum prescribed for participation in commencement and receiving a diploma listed in the paragraph entitled "Students Who Entered Ninth Grade Before July 1, 2010," above.

4. Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, a student shall be required to complete successfully, at a minimum, the curriculum prescribed for participation in commencement and receiving a diploma listed in the paragraph entitled “Students Who Entered Ninth Grade Before July 1, 2010,” above, with the following exceptions:
  - (a) Mathematics, four units, one unit of which shall be one of the following:
    - (i) Probability and statistics;
    - (ii) Computer programming;
    - (iii) Applied mathematics or quantitative reasoning;
    - (iv) Any other course approved by the ODE using standards established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction;
  - (b) Elective units, five units;
  - (c) Science, three units, which shall include inquiry-based laboratory experience that engages students in asking valid scientific questions and gathering and analyzing information.

The District may integrate academic content in a subject area for which the state board has adopted standards under O.R.C. §3301.079 into a course in a different subject area, including a career-technical educational course, in accordance with guidance for integrated course work developed by the ODE. Upon successful completion of an integrated course, a student may receive credit for both subject areas. Credits earned for subject area content delivered through integrated academic and technical instruction are eligible to meet graduation requirements.

Advanced student work completed prior to the ninth grade shall be applied toward graduation requirements if the advanced work was taught by a teacher who possessed a license valid for teaching high school and designated by the Board of Education as meeting the high school curriculum requirements.

#### Additional High School Diploma Requirements for Students Entering Ninth Grade On or After July 1, 2014

In addition to the applicable curriculum requirements, each student entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, but prior to July 1, 2019, shall satisfy at least one of the following conditions in order to qualify for a high school diploma:

1. Be remediation-free, in accordance with standards adopted under O.R.C. §3345.061, on each of the nationally standardized assessments in English, mathematics, and reading;
2. Attain a score specified under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(5)(c) on the end-of-course examinations prescribed under division O.R.C. §3301.0712(B);
3. Attain a score that demonstrates workforce readiness and employability on a nationally recognized job skills assessment selected by the state board of education under O.R.C.

3301.0712(G) and obtain either an industry-recognized credential, as described under O.R.C. §3302.03(B)(2)(d), or a license issued by a state agency or board for practice in a vocation that requires an examination for issuance of that license.

4. Satisfy the curriculum requirements applicable to students entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2019.

A student may choose to qualify for a high school diploma by satisfying any of the separate requirements prescribed by divisions (1) to (3) of this section. If the District does not administer the examination prescribed by one of those divisions that the student chooses to take to satisfy the requirements of this section, the District may require that student to arrange for the applicable scores to be sent directly to the District by the company or organization that administers the examination.

Additional High School Diploma Requirements for Students Entering Ninth Grade On or After July 1, 2019

In addition to the applicable curriculum requirements, each student entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2019, shall satisfy the following conditions in order to qualify for a high school diploma:

1. Attain a competency score on each of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations prescribed under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(2). Following the first administration of the exam, if a student fails to attain a competency score on one or both of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations that student must retake the respective examination at least once. If a student fails to attain a competency score on a retake examination, the student may demonstrate competency in the failed subject area through one of the following options:
  - a. Earn course credit taken through the college credit plus program in the failed subject area;
  - b. Complete two (2) of the following options, one of which must be foundational:
    - i. Foundational options to demonstrate competency, which include earning a **cumulative** score of proficient or higher on three or more state technical assessments aligned with O.R.C. §3313.903 in a single career pathway, obtaining an industry-recognized credential, **or group of credentials**, approved under O.R.C. §3313.6113 **that is at least equal to the total number of points established under that section to qualify for a high school diploma, obtaining a license approved under R.C. 3313.6113 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 R.C. 3313.904 in the student's chosen career field, completing an ~~or~~ apprenticeship registered with the apprenticeship council established under R.C. 4139.02 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;

- ii. Supporting options to demonstrate competency, which include completing two hundred fifty (250) 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 Ohio Department of Education, on the nationally recognized job skills assessment.
- c. Provide evidence that the student has enlisted in a branch of the armed services of the United States.
- d. **Be remediation-free, in accordance with standards adopted under R.C. 3345.061(F) in the failed subject area on a nationally standardized assessment prescribed under R.C. 3301.0712(B)(1). For English language arts II, a student must be remediation-free in the subjects of English and reading on the nationally standardized assessment.**

A student shall not be required to retake the Algebra I end-of-course examination or the English language arts II end-of-course examination in grades nine through twelve if the student demonstrates at least a proficient level of skill, as prescribed under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(5)(a), or achieves a competency score, as prescribed under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(10), in an administration of the examination prior to grade nine.

2. Earn at least two (2) of the state diploma seals prescribed under O.R.C. §3313.6114(A), at least one of which shall be any of the following:
  - a. The state seal of biliteracy established under O.R.C. §3313.6111;
  - b. The OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal established under O.R.C. §3313.6112;
  - c. One of the state diploma seals established under O.R.C. §3313.6114(C)(1) to (7).

**A student who transfers into the District’s high school from another state or enrolls after receiving home instruction or attending a nonchartered, nontax-supported school in the previous school year shall meet the requirements set forth above in order to qualify for a high school diploma. However, any such student who transfers or enrolls 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 prescribed in Section 1 above.**

**A student may be awarded a diploma without meeting the requirements prescribed above, provided the student’s individualized education program specifically exempts the student from meeting such requirements and either (1) or (2) below apply to the student:**

1. a. **The student took an alternate assessment in mathematics and English language arts administered to the student in accordance with R.C. 3301.0711(C)(1) and failed to attain a score established by the state board on one or both assessments.**
- b. **The District offered remedial support to the student in each subject area in which the student did not attain the established score and the student received that support.**
- c. **The student retook each alternate assessment in which the student did not attain the established score and the student did not attain the established score on the retake assessment.**
2. a. **The student took the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations and failed to attain the competency score under R.C. 3301.0712(B)(10) on one or both examinations.**
- b. **The District offered remedial support to the student in each subject area in which the student did not attain the competency score and the student received that support.**
- c. **The student retook each examination in which the student did not attain the competency score and the student did not attain the competency score on the retake examination.**

District-Determined Diploma Seals

1. Community Service Seal: A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by completing a community service project that is aligned with the following guidelines:  
  
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2. Fine and Performing Arts Seal: A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by demonstrating skill in the fine or performing arts according to an evaluation that is aligned with the following guidelines:  
  
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3. Student Engagement Seal: A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by participating in extracurricular activities such as athletics, clubs, or student government to a meaningful extent, as determined by the following guidelines:

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**For purposes of determining whether a student who transfers into the District has satisfied the state diploma seal requirement, the District shall recognize a state diploma seal earned by a student at another district or a different public or chartered nonpublic school, regardless of whether the District has developed guidelines for that state seal.**

**The District shall use the following method to give, to the extent feasible, a student who transfers into the District a proportional amount of credit for any progress the student was making toward earning that state seal at the school district or different public or chartered nonpublic school from which the student transfers:**

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College and Work Ready Assessment System

Beginning with students who enter the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, the system of college and work ready assessments adopted by the State Board of Education shall replace the Ohio graduation tests as a measure of student academic performance and one determinant of eligibility for a high school diploma in the manner prescribed by rule of the state board, adopted under O.R.C. §3301.0712(D).

Pursuant to O.R.C. §3301.0712, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, if a student is enrolled in an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course or is enrolled under any other dual enrollment or advanced standing program, that student shall take the advanced placement or international baccalaureate examination or applicable examination under dual enrollment or advanced standing in lieu of the physical science, American history, or American government end-of-course examinations prescribed under O.R.C. 3301.0712(B).

No student shall take a substitute examination or examination prescribed under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(4)(a) in place of the end-of-course examinations in English Language Arts I, English Language Arts II, Algebra I, or Geometry prescribed under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(2).

Pursuant to O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(2)(b), beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2019, the college and work ready assessment system shall require five end-of-course examinations, one each in areas of English language arts II, science, Algebra I, American history, and American government. However, only the end-of-course examinations in English language arts II and Algebra I shall be required for graduation.

Any student who received high school credit prior to July 1, 2014, for a course for which an end-of-course examination is prescribed by O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(2), shall not be required to take that end-of-course examination. Receipt of credit for that course shall satisfy the requirement to take the end-of-course examination.



Participation in Interscholastic Athletics, Marching Band, Show Choir, or Cheerleading

A student who participates in interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two (2) full seasons is not required to complete the physical education one-half unit to graduate, although the student must complete one-half unit consisting of at least sixty (60) hours of instruction in another course of study. Students qualify for this physical education waiver if they meet all of the following:

1. Maintain active membership on a school team sanctioned by the Ohio High School Athletic Association throughout two (2) full seasons, or membership on two (2) different OHSSA sanctioned NLHS school teams, each at least one (1) full season. Involvement in two (2) sports and/or one (1) sport and marching band during the same season would not be considered meeting the “two (2) full season” requirement.
2. Meet ninety percent (90%) of the practice and game events or as approved by the coach/director and submitted to the Guidance Office by the Athletic Director.
3. Attend practices beginning on the official start date if this date is prior to the opening of school in the fall. Membership, thus, participation must extend throughout all post season play into sectional, district, regional, and state levels.
4. Remain academically eligible and completing the season in good standing on the team.
5. Student who is injured during the season and has not completed the ninety percent (90%) criteria as stated in item 2 above will not receive physical education credit for the injured season unless the coach/director can verify that student has continued to attend all practices and participate in activity in other ways.
6. This option must be completed by the end of student’s junior year to ensure fulfillment of graduation requirement.

The coach/director’s responsibility is to communicate both to parents and the high school administration when a student is in danger of not satisfying some aspect of the criteria. The timing of this notification must be such that the student still has the opportunity to make changes that will enable him/her to meet the criteria.

New London High School sports team and/or marching band membership meeting the above criteria will waive the PE graduation requirement: one (1) full season for one-quarter (1/4) credit of the requirement; two (2) full seasons for the entire one-half (1/2) credit. Student must request this option when scheduling until requirement is met.

Alternative Conditions for Graduation

This section shall apply to diplomas awarded after September 15, 2006, to students who are required to take the five Ohio graduation assessments. This section does not apply to any student who enters ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014.

As an alternative to the requirement that a person successfully complete all of the Ohio graduation assessments in order to be eligible for a high school diploma, a person who has successfully completed all but one of the tests may be awarded a diploma if he or she has satisfied all of the following conditions:

1. On the assessment that the person failed to attain the designated score, he or she missed that score by ten points or less;
2. The person has a ninety-seven percent school attendance rate in each of the last four years of school, excluding any excused absences;
3. The person has not been expelled from school in any of the last four school years;
4. The person has a grade point average of at least 2.5 in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed in accordance with rules established by the State Board of Education;
5. The person has completed the high school curriculum requirements in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed;
6. The person has taken advantage of any intervention programs provided by the District or school in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed, and has a ninety-seven percent attendance rate, excluding any excused absences, in any of those programs that are provided at times beyond the normal school day, school week, or school year or has received comparable intervention services from a source other than the District or school;
7. The person holds a letter recommending graduation from each of his or her high school teachers in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed and from the High School Principal.

This section shall apply only to students who are enrolled in the District who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, but prior to July 1, 2017. This section does not apply to any student who entered ninth grade for the first time prior to July 1, 2014, or to any student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017.

In lieu of qualifying for high school graduation under O.R.C. §3313.61, a student shall be eligible to receive a high school diploma if the student:

1. Takes all of the end-of-course examinations prescribed under O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(2) required for the student, or takes the assessment prescribed under O.R.C. §3313.619, as applicable;
2. Retakes, at least once, any end-of-course examination in the area of English language arts or mathematics for which a student received an equivalent score of lower than “3”;
3. Completes the required units of instruction prescribed by the District or school;
4. Meets at least two of the following conditions:

- a. For a student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, but prior to July 1, 2016, the student has an attendance rate of at least 93% during the twelfth grade year.
- b. The student takes at least four full-year or equivalent courses during the twelfth grade year and has at least the following grade point average:
  - i. For a student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, but prior to July 1, 2016, 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the courses completed during the twelfth grade year;
  - ii. For a student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2016, but prior to July 1, 2017, a cumulative 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 for the courses completed during the eleventh and twelfth grade years.
- c. During the twelfth grade, the student completed a capstone project. However, in the case of a student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2016, but prior to July 1, 2017, the capstone project shall comply with guidance developed by the ODE describing the components of a successful capstone project and the process for evaluating each component.
- d. During the twelfth grade, the student completed 120 hours of work in a community service role or in a position of employment, including internships, work study, co-ops, and apprenticeships. However, in the case of a student who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2016, but prior to July 1, 2017, the student's completion of such work shall comply with guidance developed by the ODE describing requirements for District approval and verification of the work.
- e. The student earned three or more transcribed credit hours under the College Credit Plus program at any time during high school.
- f. The student passed an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course, and received a score of three or higher on the corresponding Advanced Placement examination, or a score of four or higher on the corresponding International Baccalaureate examination, at any time during high school.
- g. The student earned at least a level three score on each of the "reading for information," "applied mathematics," and "locating information" components of the job skills assessment selected by the State Board of Education under O.R.C. §3301.0712(G), or a comparable score on similar components of an successor version of that assessment.
- h. The student obtained an industry-recognized credential, as described under O.R.C. §3302.03(B)(2)(d), or a group of credentials equal to at least three total points.

- i. The student satisfies the conditions required to receive an OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal.

In lieu of qualifying for high school graduation under O.R.C. §3313.61, a student shall be eligible to receive a high school diploma if the student:

1. Takes all of the end-of-course examinations prescribed under division (B)(2) of O.R.C. §3301.0712(B)(2) required for the student, or takes the assessment prescribed under O.R.C. §3313.619, as applicable;
2. Completes the required units of instruction prescribed by the District;
3. Completes a career-technical training program approved by the Department of Education that includes at least four career-technical courses;
4. Meets one of the following conditions:
  - a. Attains a cumulative score of at least proficient on career-technical education assessments, or test modules, that are required for a career-technical education program;
  - b. Obtains an industry-recognized credential, as described under O.R.C. §3302.03(B)(2)(d), or a group of credentials equal to at least 12 points;
  - c. Demonstrates successful workplace participation, as evidenced by documented completion of 250 of workplace experience and evidence of regular, written, positive evaluations from the workplace employer or supervisor and a representative of the District or school. The workplace participation shall be based on a written agreement signed by the student, a representative of the District, and an employer or supervisor.

#### Children of Military Families Who Have Transferred from Another State

Pursuant to O.R.C. §3301.60, for students who are children of military families and have transferred to the District from another state (the “sending state”), the District shall waive specific courses required for graduation if the student satisfactorily completed similar coursework in a public school district in the sending state or shall provide a reasonable justification for the denial of a waiver. If a waiver is not granted, the District shall provide an alternative means for the student to acquire the required coursework so the student may graduate on time.

Where assessments are required for graduation, the District shall accept the exit or end-of-course assessments required for graduation in the sending state, national norm-referenced achievement test, or alternative testing.

If a student who has transferred into the District at the beginning of or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate after the District has considered the above-referenced alternatives, the District shall work with the student’s prior public school district in the sending state to determine if the student meets the graduation requirements of that district. If the sending state is not a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, the District shall use its best efforts as set forth above to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student.

**Graduation Under House Bill 197**

**This section applies to students meeting both of the following criteria:**

- 1) The student was enrolled in the twelfth grade in the 2019-2020 school year or was on track to graduate in the 2019-2020 school year, as determined by the District, regardless of the graduation cohort in which the student is included; and**
- 2) The student had not completed the requirements for a high school diploma under O.R.C. §3313.61, 3313.612, or 3325.08 or under Section 3 of H.B. 491 of the 132nd General Assembly, as of March 17, 2020.**

**The District shall grant a high school diploma to any student meeting the above criteria, if the student’s principal, in consultation with teachers and counselors, reviews the student’s progress toward meeting the requirements for a diploma and determines that the student has successfully completed the curriculum in the student’s high school or the individualized education program developed for the student by the student’s high school pursuant to O.R.C. §3323.08, or qualified under O.R.C. §3313.603(D) or (F), at the time the District closed pursuant to the Director of Health’s Order O.R.C. §3701.13, “In Re: Order the Closure of All K-12 Schools in the State of Ohio,” issued on March 14, 2020. No high school diploma shall be granted under this section after September 30, 2020.**

LEGAL REFS: O.R.C. §§3301.60, 3313.61, 3313.603; 3313.615; 3313.618; 3301.0712  
**H.B. 197 (03-27-20)**

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_