

Date: May 11, 2009

AREA: Curriculum and Instruction
AGENDA ITEM(S): Policy Revision: Policy 3460 Graduation Requirements-- Second Reading
CONTACT PERSON(S): Robin McCoy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATION

I. Synopsis of Agenda Item (Overview & Purpose)

As part of our Alternative School program, the Board approved offering a 21 credit diploma option to those students that the principal recommends for a differentiated diploma. In addition, Policy 3460, Graduation Requirements, must be updated to reflect recent changes in state board policy regarding the new Future Ready Core. The proposed policy revision reflects changes to address both.

II. Organizational Impact (Academic, Fiscal & Personnel)

The 21 credit diploma is a diploma option for students enrolled in our alternative school, SAGE. The 21 credit diploma would not be a less valid or acceptable high school diploma. As reflected in the policy revision, it would meet the 21 credits required by the state board of education. However, our district requires 28 credits for graduation. The 21 credit diploma would, therefore, be a differentiated diploma based on student need and principal recommendation for students enrolled at SAGE.

III. Superintendent's Recommendation: Accept the revised *Policy 3460, Graduation Requirements* for the second reading and adoption.

<p><u>Suggested Motion: I move that the Board accept the revised <i>Policy 3460, Graduation Requirements</i> for the second reading and adoption as presented.</u></p>
--

Policy 3460

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS *Policy Code: 3460*

The board recognizes the importance of setting rigorous graduation requirements in order to help ensure that students are receiving an education that will prepare them to be productive members of society. All students will be encouraged and supported to work toward satisfying the requirements for graduation within four years of entering 9th grade.

Robin McCoy 5/6/09 9:11 PM
Formatted: Superscript

Students entering grade 9 for the first time through 2008-09 school year will be required to meet the following requirements:

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 9:47 PM
Deleted: In order to graduate from high school, s

- the minimum requirements of the state competency examination or other state-mandated exam of essential skills;
- the high school exit standards (effective for freshman entering in 2006-07 who are taking the Career Prep Course of Study, the College Tech Prep Course of Study, or the College/University Prep Course of Study) (see section A: Course Requirements for Students Entering Grade 9 for the First Time Through 2008-2009 School Year);
- the minimum requirements of the state computer skills test;
- successful completion of 28 course credits in the chosen course of study or 21 credits for students enrolled in the district's alternative school program and recommended by the principal for a 21 credit diploma, and all other course requirements mandated by the State Board of Education; and
- other requirements mandated by the board of education.

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 9:49 PM
Deleted: 20

Students entering grade 9 for the first time in 2009-2010 and subsequent years will fulfill the requirements under B: Course Units Required for Students Entering 9th Grade for the First Time in the 2009-2010 School Year and Subsequent Years

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 9:51 PM
Deleted: successful completion of 28 course credits and

The principal is responsible for ensuring that parents and students are aware of all graduation requirements. The guidance program should assist students in planning their high school courses to help ensure that students are taking all of the required units and selecting electives consistent with their post-graduate plans. For students who have transferred to the school district

during high school, or who for other reasons have completed course work outside of the school district, the principal will determine what course work will be applied as credit for graduation.

A. Course Requirements for Students Entering Grade 9 for the First Time Through 2008-2009 School Year

All students must meet the following course requirements for the specific course of study chosen by the student.

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:03 PM
 Deleted: Units
 Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:03 PM
 Deleted: ed

1. Career Prep Course of Study Credits Required

Courses Required	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4 (including English I, II, III, and IV)	4
Mathematics	3 (including Algebra I)	3
Science	3 (including a physical science course, biology, and earth/environmental science)	3
Social Studies	3 (including Civics & Economics, U.S. History and world history)	3
Health/P.E.	1	1
Career/Technical	4 (courses appropriate for career pathway including a second level (advanced) or courses for an arts education pathway or courses for R.O.T.C.**)	4
Foreign Language	0	0
Computer Skills/Technology	Proficiency on state computer test	
Electives	2 (arts recommended but not required)	10
Other Requirements		
Total Credits	20	28

**Four R.O.T.C. credits may be used.

2. College Tech Prep Course of Study Credits Required

Courses Required	State Requirement	Local Requirements
English	4 (including English I, II, III, and IV)	<u>4</u>
Mathematics	3 (including either Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II; Algebra I and Technical Math I & II; or Integrated Mathematics I, II, III)	<u>3</u>
Science	3 (including a physical science course, biology, and earth/environmental science)	<u>3</u>
Social Studies	3 (including Civics & Economics, U.S. History and world history)	<u>3</u>
Health/P.E.	1	<u>1</u>
Career/Technical	4 (courses appropriate for career pathway including a second level (advanced) course)	<u>4</u>
Foreign Language	0	<u>0</u>
Computer Skills/Technology	Proficiency on state computer test	
Electives	2 (arts recommended but not required)	<u>10</u>
Other Requirements		
Total Credits	20	<u>28</u>

- A student pursuing this course of study may meet the requirements of a College/University Prep course of study by completing 2 credits in the same foreign language and one additional unit of math for which Algebra II is a prerequisite.

3. College/University Prep Course of Study Credits Required

Courses Required	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4 (including English I, II, III, and IV)	<u>4</u>
Mathematics	4 (including either Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and a higher course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite; or Integrated Mathematics I, II, III and one course beyond Integrated Math III)	<u>4</u>
Science	3 (including a physical science, biology, and earth/environmental science)	<u>3</u>
Social Studies	3 (including Civics & Economics, U.S. History and world history)	<u>3</u>
Health/P.E.	1	<u>1</u>
Foreign Language	2 (in the same language)	<u>2</u>
Computer Skills/Technology	Proficiency on state computer test	
Electives	3 (arts recommended but not required)	<u>11</u>
Other Requirements		
Total	20	<u>28</u>

4. Occupational Course of Study Credits Required (only available for certain students with disabilities who have an IEP)

Courses Required	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4 (including Occupational English I, II, III, and IV)	<u>4</u>
Mathematics	3 (including Occupational Mathematics I, II, III)	<u>3</u>
Science	2 (including Life Skills Science I, II)	<u>2</u>
Social Studies	2 (including government/U.S. History and self-advocacy/problem solving)	<u>2</u>
Health/P.E.	1	<u>1</u>
Career/Technical	4 (vocational education electives)	<u>4</u>
Foreign Language	0	
Occupational Preparation	6 (including Occupational Preparation I, II, III and IV, which requires 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training and 360 hours of paid employment)	<u>6</u>
Computer Skills/Technology	Computer proficiency as specified in IEP	
Electives	0	<u>6</u>
Other Requirements	Completion of IEP objectives; Career Portfolio required	
Total	22	<u>28</u>

DRAFT

B. Course Requirements for Students Entering Grade 9 for the First Time in the 2009-2010 School Year and Subsequent Years

Effective with the class entering ninth grade for the first time in the 2009-2010 school year, students will be required to complete the North Carolina Future-Ready Core Curriculum. Eligible students may still earn a diploma through the Occupational Course of Study.

C. Differentiated Graduation Requirements

In keeping with CCS Board Policy 3110 (Innovation in Curriculum and Instruction) the Board of Education approves the following alternative path to graduation. Students approved for this course of study must be enrolled in the high school program of the school district's alternative school.

<u>Courses Required</u>	<u>State Requirements</u>	<u>Local Requirements</u>	<u>For Students Entering 2008-2009 9th grade 2008-09 only</u>
<u>English</u>	<u>4 (English I,II,III,IV)</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>4 (Algebra I,Geometry,two additional math courses)</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3 (see College Prep and College Tech Prep)</u>
<u>Social Studies</u>	<u>3 (World History, Civics and Economics, US History)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Science</u>	<u>3 (Earth/Environmental, Biology, Physical science)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Health/PE</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Computer Skills/Technology</u>	<u>Proficiency on state computer test</u>	<u>Proficiency on state computer test</u>	<u>Proficiency on state computer te</u>
<u>Electives</u>	<u>6 (Two electives must be any combination of Career Technical Education, Arts Education or Second Language</u>	<u>6 (4 course concentration in CTE is recommended)</u>	<u>7 (4 course concentration in CTE recommended)</u>

DRAFT

Other requirements (High School Exit Standards)	Passing scores on 5 required EOCs; Graduation Project	Passing scores on 5 required EOCs; Graduation Project	Passing scores on 5 required EOCs; Graduation Project
Total	21	21	21

D. High School Exit Standards

Beginning with students entering the 9th grade in 2006-07 who are taking the Career Prep Course of Study, the College Tech Prep Course of Study, or the College/University Prep Course of Study, students must meet the high school exit standards in order to graduate. The exit standards consist of the following requirements:

1. Students must receive a passing grade on all of the following end-of-course tests:

- Algebra I;
- Biology;
- English;
- Civics and Economics; and
- U.S. History.

[As provided in board policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability,](#)

[students who do not receive a passing grade on any of the five end-of-course tests will be provided opportunities through retest or portfolio review to satisfy the exit standard.](#)

2. [Students must satisfactorily complete a graduation project. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee will develop, monitor and score the graduation projects, using district graduation project guidelines.](#)

The superintendent or the superintendent's designee will give special consideration to transfer students arriving in the second semester of the senior year [regarding this requirement.](#)

Robin McCoy 5/6/09 9:20 PM

Deleted: S

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 9:47 PM

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Robin McCoy 5/6/09 9:19 PM

Deleted: retest

Robin McCoy 5/6/09 9:20 PM

Deleted: as provided in board policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability.

Robin McCoy 5/6/09 9:21 PM

Formatted: Font:(Default) Arial

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:20 PM

Deleted: senior

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:20 PM

Deleted: senior

Robin McCoy 5/6/09 9:23 PM

Deleted: state adopted rubrics

Robin McCoy 5/6/09 9:21 PM

Formatted: Font:(Default) Arial

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:21 PM

Deleted: The superintendent or his/her designee may incorporate any senior project requirements that are already in place in the district. In addition, requirements of the senior project will include:

- a review process;
- an eight to ten page research paper written on an approved topic of the student's choice;
- a product related to the paper that requires significant hours of work;
- a portfolio that reflects the Senior Project process;
- a presentation to a panel of community and faculty members; and
- literature, service-based learning or work-based learning experiences as defined by state models.

E. Additional Local Requirements

The board also may require that students successfully complete additional graduation requirements. Students will be notified of any requirement no later than the beginning of their junior year.

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:22 PM
Deleted: C

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:23 PM
Deleted: , a research project or a community service project like that mentioned in board policy 3530, Citizenship and Character Education

F. Special Circumstances

The board adopts the following policies to address special circumstances regarding graduation:

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:24 PM
Deleted: Students who seek assistance or are identified as likely to need assistance in meeting an academic requirement must be provided opportunities for remedial or additional instruction in accordance with board policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability. Students whose academic projects do not meet the expected standard must be given additional opportunities to successfully complete the research project and additional opportunities for remedial instruction.

1. Honor Graduates

Honor graduates may be designated by the principals on the basis of criteria established by the superintendent. Students who complete the requirements of the North Carolina Academic Scholars Program will receive recognition including a seal affixed to his or her diploma. Recognition of honor graduates may be included in graduation programs.

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:24 PM
Deleted: D

2. Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities, other than students who are following the occupational course of study, may apply in writing to the board to be exempted from taking the competency test. Before it approves the request, the board will ensure that the parents, or the child if aged 18 or older, understand that the student must pass the competency test to receive a high school diploma.

Students with Disabilities who are following the occupational course of study will not be required to pass the competency test or the high school exit standards in order to graduate and receive a diploma.

3. Early Graduation

Graduation prior to that of one's class is permitted and encouraged when students successfully complete all state board and local board requirements and upon recommendation by the principal and superintendent.

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:26 PM
Deleted: may be

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:26 PM
Deleted: under criteria to be

4. Graduation Certificate

A graduation certificate will be awarded to students enrolled in programs for exceptional children who have not met the requirements for graduation if the

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:29 PM
Deleted: approved by the

Robin McCoy 5/6/09 10:51 PM
Deleted: on the state competency examinations

DRAFT

students have successfully completed 20 course units by general subject area (four English, three math, three science, three social studies, one health and physical education and six local electives) and their individualized education program requirements. The certificates may be awarded at the regular graduation ceremony.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -174.11, -276, -288; 16 NCAC 6D .0103, 16 NCAC 6D .0502, State Board of Education Policy HSP-N-003; 16 NCAC 6D .0503, State Board of Education Policy HSP-N-004

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program ([policy 3000](#)), Student Promotion and Accountability ([policy 3420](#))

Issued:

Revised: July 15, 2005; August 1, 2007, November 26, 2007

Robin McCoy 3/29/09 10:33 PM

Deleted: 5. Certificate of Achievement
Other students who have met course requirements for graduation but have not passed the minimum competency test will receive a certificate of attendance and transcript and will be allowed to participate in graduation exercises. These students will be encouraged to continue to work toward satisfying the requirements of graduation and earning the diploma until the students reach maximum school age.