

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date Submitted: May 15, 2001 Date Reviewed: May 15, 2001 December 13, 2005 August 15, 2006	Number: 500-34
Subject: High School Course Requirements for Graduation	Date Approved: June 19, 2001 January 17, 2006 September 19, 2006 Date Revised: December 13, 2005 August 15, 2006 Date Effective: January 17, 2006 September 19, 2006

1. PURPOSE

To establish standards for high school graduation requirements that will effectively prepare Somerset County Public School graduates for success in their chosen field beyond high school graduation.

2. POLICY

A. **Credit and Course Requirements for Graduation**

(1) To meet the Somerset County graduation requirements, high school students must:

(2) Meet the minimum number of the twenty-one (21) credits required for graduation as specified by the Maryland State Board of Education and the additional three (3) credits required by the Somerset County Board of Education for a total of twenty-four (24) credits. The Somerset County Board of Education requires an additional credit in mathematics, science and contemporary issues.

(3) Complete the course requirements prescribed for level one, two or three of the Higher Education Core Career Pathway or the course requirements of the Career and Technology Core Career Pathway.

(4) Course credit requirements for graduation in Somerset County Public Schools. See Administrative Procedures

B. High School Assessments-Students in graduation classes of 2005-2008 must take the HSA's in English, Algebra/Data Analysis, Biology and Government.

Students entering the ninth grade during 2005-2006 and graduating in 2009:

(1) Students must take the Maryland High School Assessments for English II, algebra/data analysis, biology and government. The student must achieve one of the following: (1) the passing score on each test, (2) a minimum score for each test and combined overall score, (3) a specific score on an MSDE-approved comparable assessment(s), or (4) a passing score on the four High School Assessments by a combination of (1) and (3).

C. The two Career Pathways and prescribed levels. (See Administrative Procedures)

(1) Higher Education Core

- (a) Level One – Distinguished Student
- (b) Level Two – Certificate of Merit – Minimum Entrance Requirements for University of Maryland System
- (c) Advanced Technology Completer

(2) Career and Technology Core

- (a) Preparation for entering the work force upon graduation

D. Recognition of Distinguished Student Achievement at Graduation Ceremony

A distinguished Student Certificate and special recognition of students who have met the Level One – Distinguished Student requirements will be provided at the graduation ceremony at each high school.

See Administrative Procedures