

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 career and college ready and productive members of society.

In order to graduate from high school, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must successfully complete all accountability and exit standards for high school set by the State Board of Education based on when the student entered the ninth grade.
2. Students must successfully complete all specific course requirements for high school set by the State Board of Education based on when the student entered the ninth grade.
3. All students, with the exception of students enrolled in the Occupational Course of Study, must successfully complete an approved technology course. The superintendent shall compile a list of courses that can be used to meet this requirement.
4. Except as noted below, students must complete 26 course credits for graduation.

Exceptions

- Students enrolled in the Occupational Course of Study must complete 22 units of credit and all requirements set by the State Board of Education for the Occupational Course of Study.
- The principal may request a waiver to the superintendent for a student who is highly at risk. If the waiver is granted, the student may graduate with 22 credits and all course requirements set by the State Board of Education.
- Upon reaching 19 years of age, a student may graduate upon the completion of 22 units of credit and completion of all course requirements set by the State Board of Education and the Martin County Board of Education.
- The principal may adjust on a proportional basis the total number of units required for graduation for students who transfer into Martin County Schools after the ninth grade who previously attended a high school that was not on a block schedule. The principal may not adjust the graduation requirement to less than 22 units of credit.
- Upon recommendation of the superintendent, the Board may waive the 26-unit requirement or the local technology requirement on a case by case basis. Students must complete all State requirements in order to graduate.

The principal shall ensure that students and parents are aware of all graduation requirements. Guidance program staff shall assist students in selecting their high school

courses to ensure that students are taking all of the required units and selecting electives consistent with their post-graduation plans. For students who have transferred to the school system during high school or who, for other reasons, have completed course work outside of the school system, the principal shall determine what course work will be applied as credit for graduation. The principal shall consider the requirements of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (G.S. 115C-407.5) and the requirements of section A.3 of this policy in determining the graduation requirements for children of military families.

A. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Board adopts the following policies with regard to graduation.

1. Honor Graduates

Honor graduates may be designated by principals on the basis of criteria established by the superintendent. (A student who completes 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.

2. Students with Disabilities

Accountability standards and graduation requirements must be applied to students with disabilities to the extent required by state and federal law and State Board policy.

3. Children of Military Families

In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the Board adopts the following policy provisions for students covered by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

a. Waiver Requirements

Specific course work required for graduation will be waived, if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school system. If a waiver is not granted, school administrators shall provide the student with reasonable justification for the denial. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the superintendent or designee shall provide the student with an alternative means of acquiring the required course work so that the student may graduate on time.

b. Transfers during Senior Year

If a child of a military family transferring at the beginning of or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school system after all of the alternatives listed above have been considered and the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school, then school officials from the school system and the sending school system shall collaborate to ensure that the student will receive a diploma from the sending Board of Education.

4. Early Graduation

Students may graduate when they have satisfied all State and Local requirements that apply to the student as outlined in this policy. Students who apply according to the Early Graduation Procedure may participate in the normal graduation ceremony at the school.

5. Graduation Certificates

Graduation certificates will be awarded to eligible students in accordance with the standards set forth in State Board policy.

6. Diploma Endorsements

Students have the opportunity to earn one or more diploma endorsements as outlined by the State Board of Education. No endorsement is required to receive a diploma.

7. Effective Date

The graduation requirements in this policy become effective upon adoption of the policy.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -174.11, -276, -288, -407.5; State Board of Education Policies GCS-C-003, GCS-C-031, GCS-N series

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530), Children of Military Families (policy 4050)

ADOPTED: March 1, 2010

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