



Appendix 2.2130-A
What It Takes to Earn an Ohio High School Diploma

Ohio law outlines the course requirements all students must complete to earn a diploma. Ohio students must earn a minimum of 20 course units in specific subject areas.

Complete Courses

Take and earn a state minimum of 20 credits in specific subjects.

Courses	Required Credits
English Language Arts	4 credits
Health	½ credit
Mathematics	4 credits ¹
Physical Education	½ credits ²
Science	3 credits ³
Social Studies	3 credits ⁴
Electives	5 credits ⁵

Other Requirements

Students must receive instruction in economics⁶ and financial literacy⁶ (in high school) and complete at least two semesters of fine arts⁵ (during grades 7-12).

1 Mathematics – Students must earn 4 mathematics units, which must include one unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II. Exceptions: Algebra II or advanced computer science is not a requirement for students following a [career-technical pathway](#). However, students still must have four units in mathematics. A student may choose to apply one unit of advanced computer science to satisfy one unit of algebra II/math III or equivalent. Districts also may use credit in a computer science course approved by the Department to satisfy a student’s mathematics credit.

Notes: [Curriculum Choice](#) expired with the class of 2019 and is no longer an available option for students. Postsecondary institutions may require algebra II, or its equivalent, for college admission.

2 Physical education – School districts may adopt policies that would exempt students who participate in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading for two full seasons or an approved Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program for two years from the physical education requirement. Starting with the 2019-2020 school year, districts may include show choir as a permissible activity as part of the PE Waiver policy. Students satisfying the physical education waiver must take another course of study of at least 60 hours of instruction (1/2 unit).

3 Science – Science units must include one unit of physical sciences, one unit of life sciences and one unit of advanced study in one or more of the following sciences: chemistry, physics or other physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology or other earth or space science. A student can choose to apply one credit in advanced computer science to satisfy one unit of advanced science (excluding biology or life sciences).

4 Social studies – Students must include ½ unit of American history, ½ unit of American government, and ½ unit in world history and civilizations (for students in the classes of 2021 and beyond) in the three required social studies units.

5 Elective credits – Elective units must include one or any combination of world language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education or English language arts, mathematics, science or social studies courses not otherwise required.

Note: While not a state requirement for graduation, many four-year colleges and universities require a minimum of two years of sequential world language study at the secondary level as a college admissions requirement. This is the case for many in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities.

6 Financial Literacy – Ohio law requires students to receive instruction in financial literacy as part of the high school graduation requirements. However, it is up to local districts to determine how to best meet the needs of their students.

For example, the financial literacy content may be incorporated into another course, or some districts may require students to take a standalone financial literacy course for a half credit that can meet either a graduation requirement for social studies or an elective.

Earning an Ohio High School Diploma for the Classes of 2021 and 2022

To earn a high school diploma in Ohio, students entering ninth grade between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019 must complete the 20 course unit requirements and then choose a pathway to show they are ready for college or a job. In addition to completing the 20 course unit requirements, students must also meet one of the following options;

Option One:

Satisfy one of the three original pathways to graduation that were in place when the student entered high school. The pathways include:

1. Ohio's State Tests - Earn at least 18 points on seven end-of-course state tests. Each test score earns you up to five graduation points. You must have a minimum of four points in math, four points in English and six points across science and social studies.
2. Industry credential and workforce readiness - Earn a minimum of 12 points by receiving a State Board of Education-approved, industry-recognized credential or group of credentials in a single career field and earn the required score on WorkKeys, a work-readiness test.
3. College and career readiness tests - Earn remediation-free scores in mathematics and English language arts on either the ACT or SAT.

Option Two:

Satisfy the new graduation requirements for the classes of 2023 and beyond by:

1. Demonstrating Competency - Students will demonstrate competency in the foundational areas of English language arts and mathematics or through alternative demonstrations, which include College Credit Plus, career-focused activities or military enlistment.
2. Demonstrating Readiness - Students will demonstrate readiness for their post-high school paths by earning two seals that allow them to demonstrate important foundational and well-rounded academic and technical knowledge, professional skills, as well as develop key social and emotional competencies and leadership and reasoning skills.

Earning an Ohio High School Diploma for the Classes of 2023 and beyond.

To earn a high school diploma in Ohio, students entering ninth grade on or after July 1, 2019 must complete the 20 course unit requirements and then meet one of the criteria identified below;

1. Earn a passing score on Ohio's high school Algebra I and English II tests.
2. Demonstrate Two Career-Focused Activities* :
 1. Foundational:
 1. Proficient scores on WebXams
 2. A 12-point industry credential
 3. A pre-apprenticeship or acceptance into an approved apprenticeship program
 2. Supporting:
 1. Work-based learning
 2. Earn the required score on WorkKeys
 3. Earn the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal

*At least one of the two must be a foundational skill

3. Complete College Coursework
 1. Earn credit for one college-level math and/ or college-level English course through Ohio's College Credit Plus program.
4. Show evidence that you have signed a contract to enter a branch of the U.S. armed services upon graduation.

In addition, students will need to earn two of the following diploma seals, choosing those that line up with the student's goals and interests. These seals give students the chance to demonstrate academic, technical and professional skills and knowledge that align to the next steps after high school.

At least one of the two must be an Ohio-designed Seal:

OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal (Ohio)
College-Ready Seal (Ohio)
Citizenship Seal (Ohio)
Honors Diploma Seal (Ohio)
Technology Seal (Ohio)
Fine and Performing Arts Seal (Local)

Industry-Recognized Credential Seal (Ohio)
Military Enlistment Seal (Ohio)
Science Seal (Ohio)
Seal of Biliteracy (Ohio)
Community Service Seal (Local)
Student Engagement Seal (Local)

I. Graduation Tests Requirements.

For Students Required to Pass End-of-Course Exams Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time Prior to July 1, 2019:

- A) Students must take seven end-of-course State Tests
- B) For each of the seven end-of-course tests, a student must earn a minimum of 18 out of a maximum total of 35 possible points towards graduation overall from all tests. Students are scored between one and five points per test.

Students taking Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in American history or American government may take tests specially designed for these courses instead of the state end-of-course test to avoid double testing. Similarly, students taking College Credit Plus courses in these subjects will use their course grade, not end-of course test points, to determine their points earned towards graduation.

For Students Required to Pass End-of-Course Exams Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time on or after July 1, 2019:

- A) Students must take five end-of-course State Tests (or six if required by the Ohio Department of Education).
- B) Only passage of the end-of-course tests for English language arts II and Algebra I shall be required for graduation. The school shall offer remedial support to any student who fails to attain a competency score on one or both of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations. 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.

II. Alternative Way to Meet the Testing Requirements.

For Students Who Need to Pass the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT):

Current law requires students who first enrolled in grade 9 before July 1, 2014, to take and pass the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) to earn a high school diploma. A student may meet the testing requirements for passing all five Ohio Graduation Tests if he/she meets ALL of the following criteria:

- Passes 4 of the 5 tests and has missed passing the 5th test by no more than 10 points;
- Has a 97% attendance rate, excluding any excuses absences, through all four years of high school and must not have had an expulsion in high school;
- Has at least a grade point average of 2.5 out of 4.0 in the courses of the subject area not yet passed;
- Has completed the high school curriculum requirements;
- Has participated in any intervention programs offered by the school and must have had a 97% attendance rate in any programs offered outside the normal school day; and
- Has letters recommending graduation from the high school principal and from each high school teacher in the subject area not yet passed.

To provide flexibility for individuals who need to complete OGT requirements, the OGT will be administered as an online test beginning with the 2018-2019 school year until its final administration in July of 2022. Testers without approved accommodations have up to two and one-half hours to take each subject of the OGT.

For Students Required to Pass End-of-Course Exams Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time Prior to July 1, 2019:

A student shall satisfy at least one of the following conditions in order to qualify for a high school diploma:

- Earn a remediation-free score in English, mathematics, and reading on the ACT or SAT;
- Attain a score that demonstrates workforce readiness and employability WorkKeys assessment;

- Satisfy all diploma conditions required for students entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2019.

For Students Required to Pass End-of-Course Exams Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time Prior to July 1, 2019:

A student shall satisfy at least one of the following conditions in order to qualify for a high school diploma:

- Demonstrate competency in the failed subject area (ELA II or Algebra I) through one of the following options:
 - a. Earn course credit in the failed subject area through the College Credit Plus program;
 - b. Provide evidence that the student has enlisted in a branch of the armed services of the United States.
 - c. Complete two of the following options, one of which must be foundational:
 1. Foundational options to demonstrate competency:
 - Earn a score of proficient or higher on three or more state technical assessments in a single career pathway;
 - Obtain an industry-recognized credential;
 - Complete a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship in the student’s chosen career field; or
 - Provide evidence of acceptance into an apprenticeship program after high school that is restricted to participants eighteen years of age or older;
 2. Supporting options to demonstrate competency:
 - Complete two hundred fifty hours of a work-based learning experience with evidence of positive evaluations;
 - Obtain an OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal; or
 - Attain a workforce readiness score, as determined by the department of education, on the nationally recognized job skills assessment selected by the state board.

For any students receiving special education and related services, the individualized education program developed for the student under that chapter shall specify the manner in which the student will participate in the assessments administered above.

III. Diploma Seal Requirements for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time on or after July 1, 2019.

Earn at least two of the state diploma seals, at least one (1) of which shall be a State-designed seal:

1. Local-designed Seal:
 1. A community service seal;
 2. A student engagement seal;
 3. Fine and Performing Arts seal.
2. State-designed Seal:
 1. Biliteracy seal;
 2. OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal;
 3. One of the following seals:
 - An industry-recognized credential seal;
 - A college-ready seal;
 - A military enlistment seal;
 - A citizenship seal;
 - A science seal;
 - An honors diploma seal; or
 - A technology seal.