

**Floyd County Schools
Graduation Requirements –IHF**

2/18/08

**STUDENTS ENROLLING IN THE NINTH GRADE FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.**

PURPOSE

This rule specifies programs of study that shall be offered in the Floyd County School system for students enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time in the 2008-2009 school year and for subsequent years.

DEFINITIONS

Core Course - courses identified as "c" or "r" in State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.03 (List of State-Funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses) for the specified program of study.

Elective Courses - any courses identified as "e" in State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.03 (List of State-Funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses) that a student may select beyond the core requirements to fulfill the unit requirements for graduation.

Pathway-a sequence of courses that concentrates on a strategic focus in an area of interest or expertise designed to prepare a student for postsecondary readiness. Students may elect to pursue either or both of the following pathways.

- **Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Pathways** –A coherent sequence of courses that include rigorous content aligned with industry-related standards leading to college and work readiness in a focused area of student interest. Students must complete three (3) units in a selected pathway and one (1) related unit or four (4) units in a selected pathway.
- **Liberal Arts Pathway**-locally developed pathway that includes rigorous content aligned with industry related work standards, Modern Language/Latin standards, and/or fine arts standards leading to postsecondary and work readiness in a focused area of student interest. At a minimum, students shall choose from the following options: 1) three units in the same Modern Language/Latin and one unit in fine arts or CTAE; OR 2) two units of the same Modern Language/Latin plus a minimum of two units in fine arts or CTAE; OR 3) four units in fine arts.

Program of study - selected courses as specified by the State Board of Education and/or the Floyd County Board of Education that, when successfully completed, will result in a specific seal of endorsement on the High School Diploma as identified in Georgia State Board of Education rule 160-4-2-.48 (High School Graduation Requirements for Students Enrolling in the Ninth Grade For the First Time in the 2008-2009 School Year and Subsequent Years).

Required courses - specific courses identified as “r” in State Board of Education Rule 160-4-

2-.03 (State-Funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses) that each student in a program of study shall pass to graduate from high school.

Seal – a locally developed endorsement placed on the High School Diploma which indicates the successful completion of one or more specified programs of study.

1. Standard Seal- a locally developed program of study meeting the minimum state and local requirements for graduation (23 state required units and 5 locally required units). Successful completion of this program of study is signified by the Standard Seal affixed to the High School Diploma. This seal is awarded by exception and approval to pursue this program of study must be granted by the high school principal or designee.
2. Distinction Seal- a locally developed rigorous program of study that exceeds the state requirements for graduation and prepares a student for successful postsecondary options in an educational or work setting. To earn the Distinction seal, the following requirements must be met: 1) completion of the 23 state required units and 5 locally required units, 2) completion of a CTAE Career Pathway and/or a Liberal Arts Pathway. Successful completion of this program of study is signified by the Distinction Seal affixed to the High School Diploma.
3. Honors Seal-a locally developed advanced program of study based on national and international standards and high expectations for teaching and learning. To earn the Honors Seal, the following requirements must be met: 1) completion of a CTAE and/or Liberal Arts pathway; 2) Fifteen of the 28 required units must be earned in courses designated as Honors Prep (HP) and Advanced Placement (AP); 3) students must be enrolled in a minimum of one HP/AP course each year in grades 9-12; 4) Completion of the Assessment Readiness Program as specified in the “Requirements” section of this policy. Successful completion of this program of study is signified by the Honors Seal affixed to the High School Diploma.

Secondary School Credential - a document awarded to students at the completion of the high school experience.

1. High School Diploma - the document with appropriate seal(s) awarded to students certifying that they have satisfied attendance requirements, unit requirements and the state assessment requirements as referenced in Rule 160-3-1 -.07 Testing Programs - Student Assessment.
2. High School Certificate - the document awarded to pupils who do not complete all of the criteria for a diploma or who have not passed the state assessment requirements as referenced in Rule 160-3 - 1-.07 Testing Programs -Student Assessment, but who have earned 28 units.
3. Special Education Diploma- the document awarded to students with disabilities assigned to a special education program who have not met the state assessment requirements in Rule 160-3-1-.07 (Testing Programs-Student Assessment) or who have not completed all of the requirements for a High School Diploma, but who have nevertheless completed their Individualized Education Programs (IEP)

Significant Cognitive Disabilities – students with significant intellectual disabilities or intellectual disabilities concurrent with motor, sensory or emotional/behavioral disabilities who require substantial adaptations and support to access the general curriculum and require

additional instruction focused on relevant life skills and participate in the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA).

Unit - one unit of credit awarded for a minimum of 150 clock hours of instruction or 135 hours of instruction in an approved block schedule.

Unit, Summer School - one unit of credit awarded for a minimum of 120 clock hours of instruction.

REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Education shall provide secondary school curriculum, instructional and support services that reflect the high school graduation and state assessment requirements and assist all students in developing their unique potential to function in society.

The Floyd County Board of Education shall require that:

1. Students who enroll from another state meet the graduation requirements for the graduating class they enter and the state assessment requirements as referenced in State Board of Education Rule 160-3-1-.07 (Testing Programs - Student Assessment).
2. Students who enroll in the ninth grade for the first time in the 2008-2009 school year and withdraw shall meet the graduation requirements specified in this rule and the assessment requirements specified in State Board of Education Rule 160-3-1-.07 (Testing Programs -Student Assessment).
3. In order to graduate from Floyd County high schools, students must satisfactorily comply with the Floyd County Board of Education attendance policies, Georgia Board of Education attendance rules, and state attendance laws.
4. It is expected that students will be enrolled in high school for a minimum of 8 semesters, unless the superintendent and high school principal or their designees grant approval for variance.
5. To be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies, students must have completed all state and local graduation and assessment requirements, as outlined in this policy. If a student in senior status meets all graduation requirements except passing all parts of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests and/or the Georgia High School Writing Test, as specified in state and local policy, the student may be considered for participation in graduation exercise if the student satisfactorily completes Extended Learning Opportunities, as prescribed by the principal or designee as described in Floyd County Board of Education policy IHE (Promotion and Retention).

UNITS OF CREDIT

All state-supported high schools shall make available to all students the programs of study for the required high school diploma. An Honors seal program of study for all students who meet the prerequisite criteria for recommendation.

A course shall count only once for satisfying any unit of credit requirement for graduation. See the following chart:

AREAS OF STUDY	HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA			
	DISTINCTION SEAL	HONORS SEAL	STANDARD SEAL (by exception)	
(I) ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS *	4	4	4	
(II) MATHEMATICS *	4	4	4	
(III) SCIENCE *	4	4	4	
(IV) SOCIAL STUDIES *	4	4	4	
(V) HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1	1	1	
(VI) COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY	1	1	1	
	CTAE Pathway (4 units)	Liberal Arts Pathway (4 units)		
(VII) MODERN LANGUAGE/LATIN*	0	0, 2, or 3	0, 2 or 3	3 units from any of these three areas
(VIII) CAREER/TECHNICAL/AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION	4	0, 1 or 2	0, 1 or 2	
(IX) FINE ARTS	0	0,1, 2 or 4	0,1, 2, or 4	
(X) LOCALLY REQUIRED ELECTIVES	6	5.5 (or 6 if Assessment Readiness Program taken in Intersession)	5.5 (or 6 if Assessment Readiness Program taken in Intersession)	7
(XI) ASSESSMENT READINESS PROGRAM **	0	0.5	0.5	0
TOTAL STATE/LOCAL REQUIRED MINIMUM UNITS	28	28	28	

*Core Courses

** Local requirements for all diploma programs of study include: one (1) unit of computer applications and other elective units as determined by the program of study, and four (4) units of social studies, including one (1) unit of Civics, one (1) unit of United States History, one (1) unit of world history, one (1) unit of economics. Students who are pursuing all seals are encouraged to study a foreign language. **Students planning to enter or transfer into a University System of Georgia Institution or other post-secondary institution must take two units of the same foreign language.** Local requirements for the Standard, Distinction, and Honors seals are described in the “Definitions” section of this rule under “Programs of Study”.

AREAS OF STUDY

Courses that shall earn unit credit are listed in Rule 160-4-2-.03 List of State-funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses.

Any student may select any course listed in the course-listing rule. The one exception to this provision is where the letter "r" appears with course names. These courses are required. They must be successfully completed and cannot be substituted with any other course. Any course identified as "c" is a core course and may be selected to count as one of the core unit

requirements. A course identified as "e" is an elective course that may be selected beyond the core requirements to fulfill the unit requirements.

English Language Arts: Four (4) units of credit in English language arts shall be required of all students. One (1) unit of credit in American Literature/Composition and one (1) unit of credit in Ninth-Grade Literature and Composition shall be required. All courses that may satisfy the remaining units of credit are identified with a "c." The Writing, Conventions, and Listening, Speaking, and Viewing strands of the Georgia Performance Standards shall be taught in sequence in grades 9-12. Literature modules may be taught in any sequence in grades 10-12.

Mathematics: Four (4) units of credit in mathematics shall be required of all students, including Mathematics 1 or its equivalent, Mathematics 2 or its equivalent, and Mathematics 3 or its equivalent. Additional units needed to complete four credits in mathematics must be chosen from the list of GPS/AP/IB designated courses. Students with disabilities who take and pass Mathematics 1 in conjunction with a mathematics support class and Mathematics 2 in conjunction with a mathematics support class upon determination through the Individualized Education Plan process may meet diploma requirements by completing Mathematics 3 or its equivalent for a total of 3 math credits. **Completion of three (3) units of math may not meet mathematics admission requirements for entrance into a University System of Georgia institution or other post-secondary institution without additional coursework.**

Science: Four (4) units of credit in science shall be required of all students, including one (1) unit of Biology; one (1) unit of Physics (or Physical Science); one (1) unit of either Chemistry, Earth Systems, Environmental Science or an AP/IB course; and one (1) additional science unit. The fourth science unit may be used to meet both the science and elective requirements. Any AP/IB science course may be substituted for the appropriate courses listed above.

Social Sciences: At least four (4) units of credit shall be required in social studies. One (1) unit credit shall be required in United States History. One (1) unit of credit shall be required in world history. One (1) unit of credit shall be required in American Government/Civics. One (1) unit of credit shall be required in Economics.

CTAE/Modern Language/Latin/Fine Arts: The minimum number of credits required in these content areas depends on the program of study leading to one of three locally developed seals.

I. Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Pathways: Students may earn three units of credit in a coherent sequence of CTAE courses through a self-selected pathway leading to college readiness and a career readiness certificate endorsed by related industries. State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.48

II. Modern Language/Latin: All students are encouraged to earn two units of credit in

the same Modern Language/Latin. **Students planning to enter or transfer into a University System of Georgia institution or other post-secondary institution must take two units of the same modern language/Latin. Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE) institutions (Technical College System of Georgia) do not require modern language/Latin for admissions.**

- A. Students whose native language is not English may be considered to have met the foreign language expectation by exercising the credit in lieu of enrollment option if they are proficient in their native language. A formal examination is not necessary if other evidence of proficiency is available.
- B. American Sign Language may be taken to fulfill the modern language requirements.

III. **Fine Arts:** Electives may be selected from courses in fine arts.

Health and Physical Education: One unit of credit in health and physical education is required. Students shall combine one-half of credit of Health (17.011), Health and Personal Fitness (36.051), or Advanced Personal Fitness (36.061) to satisfy this requirement. Three (3) units of credit in JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) may be used to satisfy this requirement under the following conditions: 1) JROTC courses must include Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Rule requirements in State Board of Education rule 160-4-2-.12 and 2) the local Board of Education must approve the use of ROTC courses to satisfy the one required unit in health and physical education

REQUIRED PROCEDURES FOR AWARDING UNITS OF CREDIT

1. With the exception of specific waivers that have been approved by the Floyd County Board of Education, a unit of credit for graduation shall be awarded to students only for successful completion of state-approved courses of study based on a minimum of 150 clock hours of instruction provided during the regular school year, 135 clock hours of instruction in an approved block schedule during the regular school year, or a minimum of 120 clock-hours of instruction in summer school.
2. Unit credit shall be awarded only for courses that include concepts and skills based on the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for grades 9-12 or those approved by the State Board of Education. Unit credit may be awarded for courses offered in the middle grades that meet 9-12 GPS requirements. However, these units shall not count toward the required number of units in any given content area, (i.e, the units of Algebra I, Geometry, and Math I earned in seventh and eighth grade will not count toward the four (4) units of math required for graduation).
3. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) shall specify whether core courses taken as part of an IEP shall receive core unit credit.

4. No course credit may be awarded for courses in which instruction is based on the GPS for grades K-8.
5. The Floyd County Board of Education may choose to grant credit for learning that has occurred outside the 9-12 classroom consistent with Floyd County Board of Education Administrative Rule IHF.
6. Completion of diploma requirements does not necessarily qualify students for the HOPE Scholarship Program.
7. Students who wish to enroll jointly at a postsecondary institution must follow all regulations set forth by the Floyd County Board of Education (See IDCH and IDCH-R).
8. TRANSFER CREDIT -The Board of Education shall accept student course credit earned in an accredited school. These schools shall have been accredited at the time the credit was earned. An accredited school is a standard Georgia public school as defined in State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.15 (Acceptance of Transfer Credit and/or Grades) or an elementary, middle, or secondary school accredited by or holding provisional status from the Georgia Accrediting Commission, The Georgia Association of Christian Schools, the Association of Christian Schools International, the Accrediting Commission for Independent Study, the Southern Association of Independent Schools, one of the accrediting agencies that is a member of the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council and/or one of the following regional accrediting agencies:
 - 1. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)
 - 2. New England Association of Colleges and Schools (NEASC)
 - 3. North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)
 - 4. Northwest Association of Colleges and Schools (NASC)
 - 5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
 - 6. Western Association of Colleges and Schools (WASC)
 - 7. The Alabama Independent School Association (AISA)

Specific courses shall be determined to meet core curriculum requirements by evaluation of course content. This evaluation shall be done by a school administrator or counselor. Information about course content may be obtained from students, parents, and/or former schools. Credit will be granted when in the judgment of the evaluator the course substantially meets the requirement. Equivalency credit will be shown on the student's transcript. Transfer students may not be exempted from the state required secondary minimum core curriculum.

Students who transfer from educational settings that do not meet the criteria outlined in this policy must demonstrate proficiency (70% or above) on placement exams or End-of-Course test (EOCT) in the courses for which they are requesting credit. In the case of sequential courses, credit will be awarded for all courses previously taken in the sequence based on proficiency demonstrated at the highest level course that was completed. Credit

will be awarded on the grade earned on the placement test or EOCT. If a student does not demonstrate proficiency on the placement test or EOCT, the credit is not awarded and the student must enroll in the class. In the case of sequential courses, the student may take a placement or EOCT in the next lowest course in the sequence or enroll in the first course of the sequence. Grades awarded through placement tests or EOCT will be computed into the cumulative grade point average (GPA).

9. STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE DISABILITIES.

Students with significant cognitive disabilities may graduate and receive a regular high school diploma when the student's IEP team determines that the student has:

(I) completed an integrated curriculum based on the GPS that includes instruction in Mathematics, English/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies as well as career preparation, self determination, independent living and personal care to equal a minimum of 28 units of instruction. (exceptions may be granted based upon request of IEP committee and approval of the superintendent or designee.)

(II) participated in the GAA during middle school and high school and earned a proficient score on the high school GAA test, and

(III) reached the 22nd birthday OR has transitioned to an employment/education/training setting in which the supports needed are provided by an entity other than the local school system. 160-4-2-.48.

LOCAL AUTHORITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Floyd County Board of Education shall provide instructional, support, and delivery services. These services shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. A continuous academic and career guidance component beginning with the sixth grade through the Teachers as Advisors program. The purposes of the guidance component are to familiarize students with graduation requirements, to help them identify the likely impact of individual career objectives on the program of studies they plan to follow and to provide annual advisement sessions to report progress and offer alternatives in meeting graduation requirements and career objectives.
2. Record keeping and reporting services that document student progress toward graduation and include information for the school, parents and students.
3. Diagnostic and continuous evaluation services that measure individual student progress in meeting competency expectations for graduation.
4. Instructional programs, curriculum and course guides and remedial opportunities to assist each student in meeting graduation requirements.
5. Appropriate curriculum and assessment procedures for students who have been identified as having disabilities that prevent them from meeting the prescribed competency, performance requirements.