

GRADUATION OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

IMPORTANT: PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE URGED TO SELECT COURSES AND ALTERNATES CAREFULLY DURING REGISTRATION. THE SELECTION OF ALTERNATIVE COURSES IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE SOME COURSES MAY BE REMOVED AS A CURRICULUM CHOICE DUE TO ENROLLMENT AND/OR TEACHER AVAILABILITY.

DIPLOMA OPTIONS

College Preparatory and Career Preparatory Diploma options are available. To enter a 3-year option, a student must complete the following:

- The student shall have met achievement in all required FCAT/FSA and end-of-course exams;
- Selection must be made prior to the end of grade 9; and
- Transfer students from out-of-state or private schools entering after grade 9 have until the end of the first semester in grade 10 to make their selections.

NOTE: STUDENTS MUST HAVE A FULL SCHEDULE OF CLASSES EACH SEMESTER. ANY EXCEPTIONS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR LEARNING.

Students should choose their options carefully. Once the option is chosen, the student is committed for the entire school year (2 semesters). An option can only be changed during spring registration for the following year. Students should consider carefully the following questions in determining which diploma option is right:

- What would be the impact on my college and career plans?
- How would this impact my chances to get scholarships?
- What would be the impact on my participation in athletics or in extracurricular activities?
- Would this affect my ability to earn a Bright Futures Scholarship?
- How would this affect my ability to take free college courses through advanced placement or dual enrollment, or to complete free technical training while in high school?
- What would be the impact on my ability to participate in areas of interest such as drama, band, the arts, student government, and senior activities?

If the student does not pass the required "End of Course Exams" and the Grade 10 FCAT/FSA Reading test but does meet all other graduation requirements, the student will receive a Special Certificate of Completion.

ACADEMICALLY CHALLENGING CURRICULUM TO ENHANCE LEARNING OPTIONS (ACCEL)

ACCEL Options provide academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction to eligible public school students in grades K-5. Whole grade and midyear promotion, subject matter acceleration, virtual instruction in higher grade level subjects, and courses can be provided to eligible students. In addition, there is the existing credit acceleration program (CAP) to eligible students. Eligibility requirements include appropriate test scores, grades and/or grade point average, attendance record, discipline record, and teacher and guidance counselor recommendation. Exercising the ACCEL Option must be congruent with class size requirements. Transportation to another facility is the responsibility of the parent. Students accepted into the ACCEL Option must have a performance contract including compliance with attendance and conduct requirements and other areas of compliance established by the principal in conjunction with the District Office.

CREDIT ACCELERATION PROGRAM (CAP)

All students, K-12, can participate in the CAP option. This allows students who are not enrolled in certain courses to receive high school credit for a course if they take and pass the course's End of Course (EOC) assessment. Middle and high school grading systems apply to all secondary level courses that may be taken by and elementary student.

EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Early graduation is graduation in less than 8 semesters. Eligible students are those who finish their 24 credits before the 8th semester and meet all the appropriate graduation requirements.

STATE OF FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE-BASED DIPLOMA (AKA: EXIT OPTION DIPLOMA)

This program can only be accessed by students who meet the following requirements:

- Meet program eligibility criteria whose cohort group is graduating or has graduated;
- Enroll in one of the following approved programs: The Academy, Career Quest, HOPE, SEA, Afternoon Alternatives, or the Charlotte Harbor Sands program;
- Demonstrate through practice/achievement tests

a probability for success on the GED test; and

- Receive formal counseling on all aspects of the program.

To utilize the Exit Option be eligible for the High School Performance-Based Diploma, the student must do the following:

- Meet eligibility criteria;
- Pass all required sections of the Florida Standards Assessments;
- Pass the GED; and
- Not graduate before the graduation date of the class with whom he/she entered kindergarten.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Students who have successfully completed all the credit requirements for graduation but have not met the state requirement for FCAT 2.0/FSA and/or have not achieved the minimum grade point average are eligible for a Certificate of Completion. Any student who is entitled to or receives a Certificate of Completion may elect to remain

in high school for up to one additional year, or in the case of exceptional students, until the end of the school year in which the student reaches the age of 22, and receive instruction designed to remedy his or her identified deficiencies. Upon meeting all requirements, a Standard Diploma will be awarded.

A Certificate of Completion is limited to those students who are in the 24-credit high school graduation program.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 9 IN FALL OF 2013, 2014 OR 2015

-
- English: 4 Credits, Must Pass 10th grade FSA ELA Assessment
 - Math: 4 Credits which includes Algebra I¹ (Must Pass EOC) and Geometry¹ (or Florida Plan Standards Assessments, if applicable)- 2 may be substituted with allowable industry certification courses that lead to college credit
 - Science: 3 Credits, which includes Biology¹, and 2 more courses equally rigorous as Biology-- 2 of the 3 must have a lab component and 1 (excluding Biology) may be substituted with an allowable industry certification course that leads to college credit
 - Social Studies: 1 credit World History, 1 credit US History¹, 0.5 Credit US Government, 0.5 Credit Economics
 - World Language: No requirement for diploma, but 2 credits (same language) required for state university admission
 - Fine Arts: 1 credit in Fine or Performing Arts or Practical Arts
 - Physical Education: 1 credit to include integration of Health
 - Digital Learning: 1 online course
 - Electives: 8 credits
 - GPA: Cumulative unweighted 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
 - Total Credits: 24

Scholar Designation

In addition to Standard Diploma requirements...

English: Must Pass grade 11 ELA Florida Plan Standards Assessment (when administered)

Math: Earn 1 credit in Algebra II, 1 credit in Statistics (or an equally rigorous course), and Must Pass Florida Plan Standards Assessment (when administered)

Science: Must Pass Biology EOC, 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics, and 1 additional credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry & Physics

Social Studies: Must Pass US History EOC

Foreign Language: 2 credits in same foreign language

Electives/Other: Must earn one AP, IB, AICE, or Dual Enrollment course credit.

Merit Designation

In addition to Standard Diploma requirements...

students pursuing a merit designation must attain one or more industry certifications.

¹- END OF COURSE EXAM.
THIS COURSE REQUIRES THE
STUDENT TO TAKE AN END OF
COURSE EXAM THAT IS
DEVELOPED BY THE STATE AND
WILL COUNT AS 30% OF THE
STUDENTS' SECOND SEMESTER
GRADE.