

The Policy Committee recommended changes in blue at its public work sessions on 7/14/22 & 8/9/22.

File: IKF

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND THE AWARDING OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

I. Purpose

Policy IKF sets forth the minimum requirements for graduation from the Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) ~~adhere to the standards established by the State of Maryland and~~ addresses the circumstances under which a high school diploma may be issued.

II. Background

Graduation requirements, stated in terms of credits, are the minimum standards established by the State of Maryland. The Board of Education desires that these standards for graduation prepare students for further educational pursuits and/or post-graduate careers.

This policy allows for the awarding of a high school diploma under certain specific circumstances. The Board of Education recognizes that many individuals left school prior to meeting graduation requirements in order to serve their country during World War II and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Additionally, the Board believes it is important to honor the dedication of veterans who left school to serve their country by awarding them a high school diploma.

The Board of Education also believes it is important to honor those students who pass away during their senior year of high school by presenting an honorary diploma to the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s).

III. Policy Statement/Procedures

A. High School Diploma Requirements

WCPS will grant students, with the exception of those listed below in paragraph D, a high school diploma upon completion of the following requirements to be granted a high school diploma:

1. Twenty-four (24) credits as follows:
 - a. Four (4) credits English
 - b. Three (3) credits Social Studies
 - i. One (1) Local, State, and National Government
 - ii. One (1) World History
 - iii. One (1) U.S. Studies II
 - c. Four (4) credits Mathematics to include
 - i. One (1) Algebraic Concepts
 - ii. One (1) Geometric Concept
 - iii. Two (2) additional mathematics credits
 - d. Three (3) credits Science, laboratory-based – to include
 - i. One (1) Biology
 - ii. Two (2) additional science credits
 - e. One (1) credit Fine Arts
 - f. One (1) credit Technology Education
 - g. One (1) credit Physical Education
 - h. One (1) credit Health / Life Skills
2. Career and Technology Education Completer or University of Maryland System Completer

3. A minimum of seventy-five (75) documented Student Service-Learning hours
4. Meet Maryland requirements for High School Assessments

B. High School Certificate Requirements:

WCPS may grant ~~Students may be granted~~ a Certificate upon successful completion of:

1. The program delineated by the Individualized Education Plan (IEP);
2. A minimum of seventy-five (75) hours Student Service Learning (unless waived by IEP);
3. Four (4) years enrollment beyond grade eight (8) or its age equivalent; and
4. The Alternate Maryland School Assessment (AMSA) or the Maryland School Assessment (MSA).

C. Credit for High School Courses Taken in Middle School

1. Credit will be awarded for courses taken prior to enrollment in high school in each academic curricular area (e.g., English, math, science, social studies, world and classical language) under the following circumstances:
 - a. The course is identified as an approved course for high school credit;
 - b. The middle school course follows the outcomes and rigor of the approved high school course;
 - c. The student passed the approved middle school course.
2. Credit awarded in the middle school will not be calculated in a student's high school grade point average (GPA).
3. Credit will not be awarded in the middle school when it is determined that the course should be repeated before continuing with the sequence of courses in any given content area.
4. Transfer students will have transcripts reviewed on an individual basis to determine if MSDE guidelines permit awarding of credit.

D. Awarding of High School Diplomas to Veterans and Posthumous Honorary Diplomas

1. Awarding of High School Diploma to Veterans

An individual who withdrew from a regular, full-time public high school in Washington County to enlist in the armed forces of the United States during World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam conflict and was honorably discharged from the military service may apply to WCPS to obtain a high school diploma. The individual seeking a diploma must provide documentation that includes the record and date of the withdrawal and service discharge papers to the school system's Office of Secondary Education.

2. Awarding of a Posthumous Honorary High School Diploma

A. A student who is enrolled as a senior, having the credits necessary to be considered a 12th grader as of July 1 in the school year they were to graduate may be awarded an honorary diploma.

- B. A graduating junior approved by the Executive Director of Secondary Education may be awarded an honorary diploma.
- C. The diploma will be honorary because it is awarded posthumously; however, it will not be different from the standard high school diploma. Schools must note on the graduation program and the student transcript that the honorary diploma was awarded posthumously.
- E. The Superintendent ~~may establish guidelines~~ is authorized to promulgate an administrative regulation to implement the provisions of this policy.

Legal Reference: Maryland Annotated Code, Education Article Section 7-206.1

Policy Adopted: March 18, 1980. Amended: June 5, 2001. Amended: February 4, 2003. Amended: March 17, 2005. Amended: May 1, 2007. Amended: December 17, 2013. Revised:
Board of Education of Washington County