

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements for high school students shall be established according to State Statutes and the State Board of Education regulations. The administration of the graduation requirements shall be the responsibility of the superintendent and high school principals.

- I. The number of credits required for graduation is defined in sections III and IV of this policy. A credit is earned for each subject carried successfully for five periods a week for a school year or the equivalent. Unless waived or otherwise required by law, student receiving a Topeka Public Schools diploma must be enrolled in Topeka Public Schools on a full-time basis through the fall of their senior year. Except as otherwise required by law, a minimum of two (2) credits must be earned in residence at the high school granting the diploma.

All courses given Topeka Public Schools approval to meet specific curricular area requirements will be counted as fulfilling the requirement for that curricular area regardless of the Topeka Public Schools high school attended.

Students who transfer from schools that are not accredited by a state to a Topeka high school of Topeka Public Schools will be placed in the school program according to the following criteria: (1) past education experience record; (2) successful performance at the level of assignment; or (3) assessments administered by the local district.

- II. A maximum of four (4) credits per semester may be counted toward the number of credits required for graduation during grades 9-12. Exceptions may be made upon approval of the principal with consent of the parents.

- III. Specific requirements for grades 9-12 (for students entering the ninth grade at any USD 501 high school during the 2006-07 school year but before the 2011-12 school year):

A. Language Arts ..... 4.0 credits

- 1. Freshman English ..... 1.0 credit
- 2. Sophomore English ..... 1.0 credit
- 3. Junior English ..... 1.0 credit
- 4. Speech ..... 0.5 credit
- 5. Language Arts Elective..... 0.5 credit

B. Social Studies..... 3.0 credits

- 1. Social Studies (Grade 9)..... 1.0 credit
- 2. U.S. History (Grades 10-11) ..... 1.5 credit
- 3. U.S. Government (Grade 12)..... 0.5 credit

C. Mathematics (Grades 9-12) ..... 3.0/4.0\* credits

D. Science..... 3.0\*\* credits

E. Physical Education.....1.0 credit

F. Consumer Education .....0.5 credit

G. Fine Arts .....1.0 credit

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

H. Computer Literacy.....	0.5 credit
I. Elective Credits	9.0/10.0* credits
<p>HPHS – 3.0 credits required electives (Strategic Reading or Literacy Workshop (1.0), Success 101 (1.0), Career Planning (0.5) and recommended reading course (0.5), 6.0/7.0* credits general electives            TWHS – 0.0 credits required electives 9.0/10.0* credits general electives            THS – .5 credit required elective (Success 101) 8.5/9.5*credits general electives</p>	
Total for Graduation .....	.... 26.0 credits

In addition to the above requirements, all students planning to graduate from any USD 501 high school must demonstrate proficiency in the areas of reading and mathematics according to district criteria.

\*In order to fulfill district mathematics criteria, all students must successfully complete a minimum of two semesters of Algebra and two semesters of Geometry in addition to demonstrating proficiency on a district-identified examination.

\*\*In order to fulfill district science criteria, all students must successfully complete Biology or Honors Biology (1.0 credit) as well as courses selected from physical science, chemistry, and earth science (1.0 – 2.0 credits). Specific courses will be determined by student need and what is available in each building. If necessary after these requirements have been met, students may choose the science course(s) needed to fulfill the 3.0 credits requirement.

**IV. Specific requirements for grades 9-12 for students entering the ninth grade at any Topeka Public Schools high school during the 2011-12 school year or after:**

A. Language arts	4.0 credits
1. English 9	1.0 credit
2. English 10	1.0 credit
3. English 11	1.0 credit
4. Speech	0.5 credit
5. Writing 12	0.5 credit
• Writing 12 may be waived for students successfully completing an AP English course.	
B. Mathematics	3.0 credits
1. Geometry	1.0 credit
C. Science	3.0 credits
1. Biology	1.0 credit
D. Social Studies	3.0 credits
1. World History	1.0 credit
2. U.S. History	1.5 credit
3. U.S. Government	0.5 credit

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

<b>E. Physical Education</b>	<b>1.0 credit</b>
<b>F. Fine Arts</b>	<b>1.0 credit</b>
<b>G. Financial Literacy</b>	<b>0.5 credit</b>
<b>I. Electives</b>	<b>8.5 credits</b>
• Seminar (.25 credit per year), is required at each of the comprehensive high schools.	
• Decisions about additional elective coursework should be guided by the student's chosen career cluster or pathway.	
<b>Total Credits for Graduation</b>	<b>24.0 credits</b>

With extenuating circumstances, the high school principal may waive any specific requirements with the exception of United States History and United States Government, provided the student meets the minimum graduation requirements approved by the State Board of Education.

Middle school students may earn credit for high school courses while attending middle school, except no high school credit will be awarded Algebra I taken at the middle school level. Accredited postsecondary courses taken during high school may count toward graduation requirements. Any single course may fulfill requirements in only one area. Alternate methods of achieving credit will include online coursework, credit by examination, independent study, demonstration of mastery, or other standardized measures. Testing out or demonstration of mastery shall utilize procedures outlined in Regulation 6170-01.

**V. Recommendation for Issuance of Diplomas to Adults after Normal Date for Graduation:**

**A. The high schools of Topeka Public Schools may issue diplomas to adults who did not graduate with their regular class provided the following conditions are met:**

- 1. The student is over the age of 18.**
- 2. The student's class has graduated from high school (four years following the initial enrollment in high school).**
- 3. The student must enrolls in a district-supported program for credit recovery.**
- 4. The student fulfills the graduation requirements in place at the time he/she enrolled in the ninth grade.**
- 5. Acceptance of credits under the provisions of this policy is contingent upon prior approval by the principal of the high school where the diploma is issued.**
- 6. Any of the above plans for securing a diploma from the high schools of Topeka Public Schools must have the prior approval of the principal of the high school where the diploma is issued.**

