

# Tennessee School Boards Association

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in November</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Graduation Requirements</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>4.605</b>	Issued Date:
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 To meet the requirements for graduation, a student shall have attained an approved attendance, conduct  
2 and subject matter record which covers a planned program of education, and such record shall be kept  
3 on file in the high school.

4  
5 The program of studies shall include areas and content in these areas within State Board of Education  
6 Regulations and shall be flexible enough to facilitate progress from one stage of development to another,  
7 thus providing for more effective student adjustment.

8  
9 The pattern of courses which shall be required of all students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12)  
10 shall be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the State Board of Education and the Board of  
11 Education.

## 12 **Requirements for students who entered the 9th grade prior to the 2009-2010 school year:**

13  
14  
15 Before graduation, every student shall [1] achieve specified units of credit; [2] pass the required com-  
16 petency tests or make passing scores on the required gateway tests (English II, Algebra I and Biology);<sup>1</sup>  
17 and [3] an opportunity to take an exit exam to assess readiness for the work place or higher education.  
18 (ACT, SAT or Work Keys).<sup>2</sup>

19  
20 Special education students who successfully complete their Individualized Educational Program (IEP)  
21 and pass the required competency test or the required gateway tests shall be awarded a regular diploma.  
22 If the student does not attain a minimum score on the competency or gateway test, he/she shall be  
23 awarded a special education diploma upon graduation.<sup>3</sup>

24  
25 Students who have completed all graduation requirements will be awarded a regular diploma; students  
26 who complete all graduation requirements but who have not passed the proficiency test will be awarded  
27 a certificate of attendance.<sup>3</sup>

## 28 **Requirements for students entering the 9th grade during the 2009-2010 school year forward:**

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30  
31 Before graduation, every student shall [1] achieve specified units of credit; [2] take the required end-of-  
32 course exams;<sup>1</sup> [3] have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct, and [4] take a series of three (3)  
33 examinations, administered each at the 8th, 10th and 11th grades.<sup>4</sup>

34  
35 [OPTIONAL: Prior to graduation, each student should complete a capstone experience. Examples of  
36 such a capstone experience are:

- 37  
38 • Senior project  
39 • Virtual enterprise

- 1 • Internship
- 2 • Externship
- 3 • Work-based learning
- 4 • Service learning (minimum of forty (40) hours)
- 5 • Community service (minimum of forty (40) hours)

6  
7 The director of schools shall provide procedures for the authorization and oversight of each student’s  
8 capstone project.]

9  
10 **SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS<sup>5</sup>**

11  
12 The high school diploma will be awarded to students who [1] earn the specified 22 units of credit, and  
13 [2] have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct.

14  
15 A transition certificate may be awarded to students with disabilities who have: [1] taken classes toward  
16 a high school diploma (22 units of credit), [2] have satisfactorily completed an individualized education  
17 program, and [3] have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct. Students who obtain the transition  
18 certificate may continue to work towards the high school diploma through the end of the school year in  
19 which they turn twenty-two years old.

20  
21 An IEP certificate will be awarded to students with disabilities who have [1] satisfactorily completed  
22 an individualized education program, [2] successfully completed a portfolio, and [3] have satisfactory  
23 records of attendance and conduct.

24  
25 **STUDENT LOAD**

26  
27 All students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall be enrolled each semester in subjects that will  
28 allow them to graduate within those Four (4) years. Hardship or gifted cases may be appealed by the  
29 student to the director of schools with further appeal to the Board.<sup>6</sup>

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32  
33  
34 Legal References:

- 35 1. TCA 49-6-6001;TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.06
- 36 2. TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.06(d)(3)
- 37 3. TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.06(1)(d)
- 38 4. Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-6001(2)(d)
- 39 5. TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.06(2)(a)
- 40 6. TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.03(6)

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49 Cross References:

- Basic Curriculum Program 4.201
- Class Ranking 4.602