

Graduation Requirements – 1997-1998+

The high school courses authorized by the DeKalb County Board of Education shall be scheduled in each high school whenever students register in sufficient numbers and the allotment of personnel makes it possible to teach the courses efficiently.

When pupils in a school do not register in sufficient numbers to justify the scheduling of a course, a student may request to take the course at a school where it is available. The Superintendent shall be authorized to approve such a request after it has been reviewed and recommended by the counselor and principal.

Eighth-Grade Requirements

Eighth-grade students must complete satisfactorily 15 quarter hours (or the equivalent) each in English and mathematics before taking ninth-grade courses in these areas. Further, eighth-grade students are expected to take science, social science, one quarter of health, and two quarters of physical education. Electives may be taken in art, music, foreign language, industrial arts, and other exploratory subjects.

Students who successfully complete a minimum of nine quarter courses in the three quarters of eighth grade shall be promoted to ninth grade. Courses taken and grades earned in the eighth grade will be recorded on the permanent history. The 21 Carnegie units required for graduation must be earned in grades 9-12.

Students enrolled in the ninth grade prior to the 1986-87 school year will graduate under the requirements that were in effect the year they entered the ninth grade. Those students who qualify may receive the Georgia Seal of Endorsement for the completion of a recommended college preparatory program (the Academic Diploma requirements or the Advanced Academic Diploma with Excellence). Additional programs of study are the Advanced Fine Arts Diploma with Excellence, the Advanced Practical Arts Diploma with Excellence, and the Vocational Education Program of Studies. Special education students who complete the requirements of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may receive a Special Education Diploma.

Requirements for Graduation

(For students entering the ninth grade in the 1986-87 school year through the 1992-93 school year)

A minimum of 315 hours, 21 Carnegie units, in grades 9-12 must be completed satisfactorily in order to meet the requirements for graduation. Credit toward graduation is granted only for work completed in grades 9-12.

Remedial unit credits earned must be included among the elective unit credits. State-required unit credits must be awarded for courses which include skills and concepts generally considered to be secondary school education levels of performance. Developmental special education courses are not considered remedial.

Students who wish to receive the Vocational Education Seal of Endorsement must earn at least four vocational units, three of which must be concentrated in one of the occupational or related program areas listed below. One of the four units may include the Coordinated Vocational Academic Education (CVAE) or Related Vocational Instruction (RVI).

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. Vocational Agriculture | E. Health Occupations |
| B. Business Education | F. Marketing Education |
| C. Home Economics (Occupational) | G. Industrial Arts |
| D. Comprehensive Home Economics | H. Trade and Industrial Ed. |

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PREPARATORY PROGRAM OF STUDY
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SEAL OF ENDORSEMENT
(21 UNITS)

| | |
|---|----------------|
| English | 4 units |
| Mathematics | 2 units |
| Science | 2 units |
| Social Studies | 3 units |
| American History/Government | 1 unit |
| *Economics | 1/3 unit |
| *Citizenship | 1/3 unit |
| *Social Science Electives | 1/3 unit |
| World Studies | 1 unit |
| Health and Safety | 1/3 unit |
| Physical Education | 2/3 unit |
| Computer Technology, Fine Arts or Vocational Education | 1 unit |
| STATE REQUIRED | 13 units |
| Required Vocational Units | 4 units |
| State Elective Units | <u>4 units</u> |
| TOTAL | 21 units |

*This pattern can be used as long as DeKalb schools are on the quarter system.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
DIPLOMA (21 UNITS)
(GENERAL PROGRAM OF STUDY)

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| English | 4 units |
| Mathematics | 2 units |
| Science | 2 units |
| Social Studies | 3 units |
| American History/Government | 1 unit |
| *Economics | 1/3 unit |
| *Citizenship/Government | 1/3 unit |
| *Social Science Elective | 1/3 unit |
| World Studies | 1 unit |
| Health and Safety | 1/3 unit |
| Physical Education | 2/3 unit |
| Computer Technology, Fine Arts or Vocational Education | <u>1 unit</u> |
| State Required | 13 units |
| Electives | <u>8 units</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>21 units</u> |

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Students working toward a general diploma should concentrate their electives in areas that pertain to their postsecondary school plans.

Additional courses selected from the following are strongly recommended also:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Mathematics | Computer Technology |
| Science | Vocational Education |
| Foreign Language | Traffic Safety Education |
| Fine Arts (Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts) | Social Studies |

ACADEMIC DIPLOMA (21 UNITS)
(COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM OF STUDY)

College Preparatory Program of Study

Students who desire a rigorous academic experience should elect to follow this recommended Academic Curriculum. A formal seal of endorsement from the Georgia Board of Education will be awarded to those students who successfully complete the endorsed course of study.

| <u>Course</u> | <u>Units</u> | <u>Units Must be Selected From the Following:</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| English | 4 | Grammar and Usage Literature (American, English, and World) Advanced Composition Skills |
| Science | 3 | Biology I or Biology I Accelerated Chemistry I or Chemistry I Accelerated Earth Science I (Astronomy, Geology, Meteorology (except survey courses) Physics I or Physics I Accelerated (PSST) Scientific Tools and Techniques (STT) Second Year (II) Science Courses |
| Mathematics | 3 | Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Algebra and Trigonometry III |

(For students planning to enter a college program requiring Advanced Mathematics, Algebra and Trigonometry III, and/or Calculus are highly recommended.)

| <u>Course</u> | <u>Units</u> | <u>Units Must be Selected From the Following:</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| Social Studies | 3 | American History/Government 1 unit *Citizenship 1/3 unit *Economics 1/3 unit *Social Science Elective 1/3 unit World History 1 unit |
| Foreign Language | 2 | Beginning Foreign Language Intermediate Foreign Language (Must be in the same language) |

(Students choosing Functional Language I and II in place of Beginning Foreign Language must complete Intermediate Foreign Language to fulfill this requirement.)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| * Health and Safety | 1/3 |
| * Physical Education | 2/3 |
| Computer Technology | |
| Fine Arts or Vocational Education | <u>1</u> |
| Required Units | 17 |
| Electives | <u>4</u> |
| TOTAL | 21 |

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ADVANCED ACADEMIC DIPLOMA WITH EXCELLENCE (23 UNITS)
(INCLUDES COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM OF STUDY)

Students who desire an academic experience beyond the Advanced Academic Curriculum may elect to choose a course of study that will earn them an Advanced Academic Diploma with Excellence. In addition to the requirements listed below, students earning this diploma must maintain a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.50. Students who complete all of the requirements for this diploma will also receive a formal seal of endorsement from the Georgia Board of Education.

| <u>Course</u> | <u>Units</u> | <u>Units Must be Selected From the Following:</u> |
|---------------|--------------|---|
| English | 4 | Grammar and Usage Literature(American, English, and World) Advanced Composition Skills |
| Science | 3 | Biology I or Biology I Accelerated Chemistry I or Chemistry I Accelerated Earth Science I (Astronomy, Geology, Meteorology (except survey courses) Physics I or Physics I Accelerated (PSST) Scientific Tools and Techniques (STT) Second Year (II) Science Courses |
| Mathematics | 3 | Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Algebra and Trigonometry III |

(For students planning to enter a college program requiring advanced mathematics, Algebra and Trigonometry III, and/or Calculus are highly recommended.)

| <u>Course</u> | <u>Units</u> | <u>Units Must be Selected From the Following:</u> |
|------------------|--------------|---|
| Social Studies | 3 | American History/Government 1 unit *Citizenship 1/3 unit *Economics 1/3 unit *Social Science Elective 1/3 unit World History 1 unit |
| Foreign Language | 2 | Beginning Foreign Language Intermediate Foreign Language (Must be in the same language) |

(Students choosing Functional Language I and II in place of Beginning Foreign Language must complete Intermediate Foreign Language to fulfill this requirement.)

Health and Safety 1/3

Physical Education 2/3

Computer Technology,
Fine Arts or
Vocational Education 1

Specified Electives 2

Must be taken from English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and/or a third year of Foreign Language

Required Units 19

Electives 4

TOTAL 23

**ADVANCED FINE ARTS OR PRACTICAL ARTS
DIPLOMA WITH EXCELLENCE (23 UNITS)**

Students who desire an Advanced Fine Arts or a Practical Arts experience may elect to complete a course of study for an Advanced Fine Arts or a Practical Arts Diploma with Excellence. In addition to the course requirements listed below, students must maintain a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.50. Students meeting these requirements, as well as those of the Advanced Academic Curriculum, will receive a formal seal of endorsement from the Georgia Board of Education.

| <u>Course</u> | <u>Units</u> |
|---------------|--------------|
| English | 4 |
| Mathematics | 2 |

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| | |
|---|----------|
| Physical Education | 2/3 |
| Computer Technology, Fine Arts or Vocational Education ** | <u>1</u> |
| State Required | 13 |

**The course selected to satisfy this requirement must be in addition to the area of study selected below.

Fine Arts Requirement Plus General Electives

Art 5 units plus 5 general electives = 10 units

Choral Music 5 units plus 5 general electives = 10 units

(To include one unit from Advanced Performance and one unit from Music Theory)

Music 5 units plus 5 general electives = 10 units

(To include one unit from Advanced Performance and one unit from Music Theory)

Practical Arts Requirements Plus General Electives

Business Education 4 units plus 6 general electives = 10 units

Cooperative 4 units plus 6 general electives = 10 units

Vocational Education

Home Economics 4 units plus 6 general electives = 10 units

Industrial Arts 4 units plus 6 general electives = 10 units

Trade and Industrial Education
(OEC – 6 consecutive quarters in the same area) 10 units

TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED 23

Advanced Placement

For students who qualify, Advanced Placement course credit may be earned in the appropriate academic area(s).

Additional Electives

Additional electives selected from the following disciplines are also strongly recommended:

1. A third course in foreign language or study in a second foreign language
2. Physical education, health, and safety education
3. Vocational education
4. Computer technology
5. An additional laboratory science course
6. Fine arts (drama, music, visual arts)
7. Humanities
8. Traffic safety education
9. Social studies
10. Speech

Post-secondary Options/Joint Enrollment

Eligible high school students who qualify may enroll in a post-secondary institution and earn both high school Carnegie unit credit and postsecondary credit hours. Students who attend Georgia public colleges or universities will not be responsible for tuition for courses taken under Postsecondary Options. Students who attend private colleges or universities in Georgia under a Joint Enrollment agreement will be responsible for the cost of such enrollment. This provision became effective for eligible students in the 1993-94 school year. (Policy Code IDCH)

Transfer Credit

Students transferring from accredited home, private, public, and foreign schools outside the DeKalb County School District and registering for the DeKalb County high school program may

receive credit for subjects completed in standard high schools by presenting transcripts or the equivalent.

A unit shall represent satisfactory completion of instruction in a subject for two semesters or one school year. A Carnegie unit is based on 150 clock hours during the regular school year and 120 clock hours during summer school.

Requirements for High School Diploma

Ninth graders enrolled in the 1986-87 school term and all subsequent classes must meet the attendance requirements, the required number of Carnegie units, and the basic skills competency requirements in order to receive a high school diploma.

Learner Basic Skills Areas

Reading Skills
Mathematics Skills
Writing

Requirements for High School Certificate of Performance

Ninth graders enrolled in the 1986-87 school term and all subsequent classes must meet the attendance requirements and the required number of Carnegie units in order to receive a high school certificate of performance.

Local Authority and Responsibility

The DeKalb County Board of Education has established instructional support services and delivery services to uphold the multiple criteria for high school graduation:

To provide an ongoing guidance component beginning with the ninth grade for familiarizing students with graduation requirements and for examining the likely impact of individual career objectives on the program of work they plan to follow.

To provide annual advisement sessions to report progress and offer alternatives in meeting graduation requirements and career objectives.

To provide record keeping and reporting services that document student progress toward graduation and include information for the school, parents, and students.

To provide diagnostic and continuous evaluation services that measure individual student progress in meeting competency expectations for graduation.

To provide instructional programs, curriculum and planned course guides, and remedial opportunities to assist each student in meeting graduation requirements.

To provide appropriate curriculum and assessment procedures for students who have been identified as having disabilities that prevent them from meeting the prescribed competency performance requirements.

VIRTUAL COURSES (DISTANCE LEARNING)

Virtual courses corresponding to courses in the DeKalb County School System curriculum will be accepted according to the DeKalb Board of Education Policy concerning Graduation Requirements – 1997-1998+, Descriptor Code: IHF(4). The Division of Instruction's Virtual Review Committee must review every request for virtual course credit to be recorded on a DeKalb School System transcript prior to taking the course unless that credit is earned through a virtual course offered by the DeKalb County School System.