

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

Introduction

We agree with the philosophy and belief of the *High Schools That Work* (HSTW) network that, in the right school environment, students can learn complex academic and technical concepts if they are challenged to meet higher academic standards. HSTW provides a framework of goals, key practices and key conditions for accelerating learning and setting higher standards and at the same time encourages districts to develop local policies to address the following:

- Ø Raise the mathematics, science, communication, problem-solving and technical achievement of more students to the national average and above.
- Ø Blend the essential content of traditional college-preparatory studies - mathematics, science and language arts - with quality vocational and technical studies by creating conditions that support school leaders, teachers and counselors in carrying out key practices.
- Ø Advance local policies and leadership initiatives necessary to sustain a continuous school-improvement effort.

Further, the centerpiece of *High Schools That Work* is a curriculum that blends the essential content of college-preparatory mathematics, science, language arts and social studies courses with modern vocational-technical studies in grades nine through twelve. The HSTW-recommended curriculum includes:

- Ø At least four credits in English courses with the content and performance standards of college-preparatory English;
- Ø At least three credits in mathematics courses with the content and performance standards of college-preparatory Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II and trigonometry;
- Ø At least three credits in science, including two credits in courses with the content and performance standards of college-preparatory biology, chemistry, physics or applied physics;
- Ø At least three social studies credits in courses with the content and performance standards of college-preparatory courses;
- Ø At least four credits in an academic or a vocational-technical major;
- Ø At least two credits in related academic and technical fields, including at least one-half credit in a basic computer course covering word processing, database entry, presentation software and use of the Internet and e-mail.

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In response to this belief and in coordination with efforts already under way as a member district of the national *High Schools That Work* high school reform network, we believe that it

is important to increase standards and course requirements, especially at the senior year level, for high school graduation

The following requirements will be effective beginning with students who enter the ninth grade in the 2004-2005 school year and thereafter.

The administration shall provide support as needed for student success. Support will include ensuring equitable access to programs and services as needed for students to successfully complete the curriculum requirements (e.g., As world languages are required for high school graduation, those students who do not currently have access to the program or course in their assigned middle or high school will be offered those services in the future and, in the interim, through other options such as distance learning.).

Also, the administration and other staff will identify students who require special support (i.e., test scores below grade level) and provide access to acceleration through programs such as summer school, extended day, and so on for more time on task as part of a safety net (including, but not limited to, elementary school mathematics) to ensure success for all students.

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	<u>Basic Diploma</u>	<u>Diploma with Specialization***</u>	<u>Honors Diploma w/ Distinction†</u>
English	4^	4^	4^
Math	4^	4^	4^
Science	4^	4^	4^
Social Studies, including:	4^	4^	4^
Citizenship	.5		
Economics	.5		
World Studies	1		
American History	1		
Health/Physical Education	2*	2*	2*
Fine Arts	1	***	1
World Languages	1**	***	3
Career/Technical Education	1**	***	1
Electives***	3	6***	1
TOTAL	24	24	24

^ During each school year, including the senior year, a student must complete as a minimum a course in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Exceptions must be expressly approved by the superintendent of schools.

* One half credit for health and one half credit for physical education are required for all students. Students may be exempt from the second credit if they are participating in designated activities such as athletics, marching band, dance, etc.

** Students will be encouraged to take 2 credits of world languages and 2 credits of career technology education as part of the elective concentration.

*** Students will be required to select elective courses based on one of three areas of concentration: Mathematics/Science; Humanities; or Career/Technical Education. Course selections must include a minimum of one credit from the following: fine arts; world languages; or Technology/Career Preparatory electives.

† Requires a 3.5 CGPA.

ISSUED: January 5, 2004

DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION