

1 The Transylvania County Board of Education (the “board”) recognizes the importance of setting  
2 rigorous graduation requirements to help ensure that students are receiving an education that will  
3 prepare them to be career and college ready and productive members of society.

4  
5 In order to graduate from high school, students must meet the following requirements:

- 6  
7 1. successful completion of all State Board of Education course unit requirements as  
8 described in Section A; and  
9  
10 2. successful completion of cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction.

11  
12 ~~The Principals shall ensure that students and parents are aware of the number and nature of  
13 credits required for high school all graduation requirements, the potential to complete high school  
14 graduation requirements in three years, and the availability of early graduate college  
15 scholarships. School counseling program staff shall assist students in selecting their high school  
16 courses to ensure that students are taking all of the required units and selecting electives  
17 consistent with their post-graduation plans. For students who have transferred to the school  
18 system during high school or who, for other reasons, have completed course work outside of the  
19 school system, the principal shall determine what course work will be applied as credit toward  
20 graduation. The principal shall consider the requirements of the Interstate Compact on  
21 Educational Opportunity for Military Children (G.S. 115C 407.5), G.S. 115C 407.12, and the  
22 requirements of subsection C.3 of this policy in determining the graduation requirements for  
23 children of military families.~~

24  
25 **A. COURSE UNITS ~~REQUIRED~~**

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27 ~~As described in State Board of Education Policy GRAD-004, All students must fulfill~~  
28 ~~the course unit requirements of the Future-Ready Core Course of Study, unless they are~~  
29 ~~approved for the Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study. The tables below list the~~  
30 ~~course unit requirements for the Future-Ready Core Course of Study and the Future-~~  
31 ~~Ready Occupational Course of Study, as well as additional course units recommended by~~  
32 ~~the board, based on the student’s year of entry into ninth grade for the first time. School~~  
33 ~~counseling program staff shall assist students in selecting high school courses to ensure~~  
34 ~~that students are taking all required units and selecting electives consistent with their~~  
35 ~~post-graduation plans.~~

36  
37 In accordance with policy 3101, Dual Enrollment, and State Board of Education  
38 requirements, students may earn high school credit for college courses completed. In  
39 addition, students may earn credit for certain high school courses in the Future-Ready  
40 Core Course of Study completed prior to grade nine<sup>9</sup>, as authorized by the State Board of  
41 Education; however, such courses will not be included in the calculation of a student’s  
42 high school grade point average. Students also have the opportunity to meet course unit  
43 requirements without completing the regular period of classroom instruction by  
44 demonstrating mastery of the course material in accordance with policy 3420, Student

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Promotion and Accountability, and State Board of Education requirements. For students who have transferred to the school system during high school or who, for other reasons, have completed course work outside of the school system, the principal shall determine what course work will be applied as credit toward graduation. See policy 3420 for information regarding receiving credit toward graduation for courses taken abroad.

All awards of high school course credit must be consistent with State Board of Education requirements. Any inconsistency between board policy and State Board graduation requirements will be resolved by following the State Board requirements. While the board endeavors to keep its policy up to date with current State Board of Education graduation requirements, students should verify current requirements with their school counselors when planning course schedules or making other decisions based on graduation requirements.

1. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time before 2020-2021

<b><u>Types of Courses Required*</u></b>	<b><u>State Requirements*</u></b>	<b><u>Additional Local Requirements Recommendations</u></b>
English	4 sequential (English I, II, III, and IV)	
Mathematics	4 (NC Math 1, 2, and 3 and a fourth math course aligned with the student's post-high school plans.)** (A principal may exempt a student from this math sequence. Exempt students will be required to pass NC Math 1 and 2 and two other application-based math courses or selected CTE courses, as identified on the NC DPI math options chart.)***	
Science	3 (a physical science course, Biology, and earth/environmental science)	
Social Studies	4 (including: (1) a founding principles course which shall be either American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics or Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy; † (2) two American history courses which shall be either (a) American History I and II, (b) American History I or II and another Social Studies course, or (c) American History and another Social Studies course; and (3) World History)	
Health/P.E.	1	
Electives	6 (2 electives must be any combination of Career and Technical Education, Arts Education, or World Language; 4 must be from one of the following: Career and Technical Education, J.R.O.T.C., Arts Education, or any other subject area or cross-disciplinary course. A four-course concentration is recommended.) <sup>‡</sup>	6 (An approved three-course concentration area is <b><u>required/recommended.</u></b> )

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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>
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62 \* Certain International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and Cambridge  
 63 International Examination (CIE) courses will satisfy specific graduation requirements. See SBE  
 64 Policy GRAD-008.  
 65 \*\* Students who are learning disabled in math may have other options for meeting the four  
 66 mathematics credits requirement. See DPI memo of August 24, 2016 available at  
 67 <http://bit.ly/DPIMemo>, [and the math options chart linked below](#).  
 68 \*\*\* Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must  
 69 complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math 3 as a prerequisite.  
 70 The math options chart is available at [https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/standard-course-study/mathematics/standard-course-study-supporting-resources)  
 71 [resources/academic-standards/standard-course-study/mathematics/standard-course-study-](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/standard-course-study/mathematics/standard-course-study-supporting-resources)  
 72 [supporting-resources](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/standard-course-study/mathematics/standard-course-study-supporting-resources).  
 73 † The founding principles courses, American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics  
 74 and Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy, must  
 75 follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be  
 76 satisfied by any other courses, except as provided in SBE Policy GRAD-008. See also SBE  
 77 Policies CCRE-001 and GRAD-004.  
 78 ‡ Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete  
 79 two credits of a single world language.  
 80

81 2. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth  
 82 Grade for the First Time in 2020-2021  
 83

<b><u>Types of Courses Required</u></b> *	<b><u>State Requirements</u></b> *	<b><u>Additional Local Requirements Recommendations</u></b>
English	4 sequential (English I, II, III, and IV)	
Mathematics	4 (NC Math 1, 2, and 3 and a fourth math course aligned with the student’s post-high school plans.)** (A principal may exempt a student from this math sequence. Exempt students will be required to pass NC Math 1 and 2 and two other application-based math courses or selected CTE courses, as identified on the NC DPI math options chart.)***	
Science	3 (a physical science course, Biology, and earth/environmental science)	
Social Studies	4 (including (1) a founding principles course which shall be either American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics or Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy; † (2) an American History course which shall be either (a) American History I, (b) American History II, or (c) American History; (3) World History‡, and (4) Economics and Personal Finance^)	
Health/P.E.	1	

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Electives	6 (2 electives must be any combination of Career and Technical Education, Arts Education, or World Language; 4 must be from one of the following: Career and Technical Education, J.R.O.T.C., Arts Education, or any other subject area or cross-disciplinary course. A four-course concentration is recommended.) <sup>‡</sup>	6 (An approved three-course concentration area is <del>recommended</del> <b>required</b> .)
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>

\* Certain International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and Cambridge International Examination (CIE) courses will satisfy specific graduation requirements. See SBE Policy GRAD-008.

\*\* Students who are learning disabled in math may have other options for meeting the four mathematics credits requirement. See DPI memo of August 24, 2016 available at <http://bit.ly/DPIMemo>, and the [math options chart linked below](#).

\*\*\* Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math 3 as a prerequisite. The math options chart is available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/standard-course-study/mathematics/standard-course-study-supporting-resources>.

† The founding principles courses, American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics and Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy must follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be satisfied by any other courses, except as provided in SBE Policy GRAD-008. See also SBE Policies CCRE-001 and GRAD-004.

± It is strongly recommended that students take World History in the first year of their high school Social Studies course sequence due to the nature of the adoption of the new Social Studies Standard Course of Study effective in 2021-2022.

^ This course must, at a minimum, include the standards established by the second edition of the Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics and the 2013 National Standards for Financial Literacy, as developed by the Council for Economic Education.

‡ Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete two credits of a single world language.

### 3. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2021-2022 and Thereafter

<b><u>Types of Courses Required</u></b> <sup>*</sup>	<b><u>State Requirements</u></b> <sup>*</sup>	<b><u>Additional Local Requirements Recommendations</u></b>
English	4 sequential (English I, II, III, and IV)	
Mathematics	4 (NC Math 1, 2, and 3 and a fourth math course aligned with the student's post-high school plans.) <sup>**</sup> (A principal may exempt a student from this math sequence. Exempt students will be required to pass NC Math 1 and 2 and two other application-based math courses or selected CTE courses, as identified on the NC DPI math options chart.) <sup>***</sup>	
Science	3 (a physical science course, Biology, and earth/environmental science)	

Social Studies	4 (including: Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy; <sup>†</sup> Economics and Personal Finance; <sup>±</sup> American History; and World History)	
Health/P.E.	1	
Electives	6 (2 electives must be any combination of Career and Technical Education, Arts Education, or World Language; 4 must be from one of the following: Career and Technical Education, J.R.O.T.C., Arts Education, or any other subject area or cross-disciplinary course. A four-course concentration is recommended.) <sup>‡</sup>	6 (An approved three-course concentration area is <u>required</u> <u>recommended</u> .)
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>

\* Certain International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and Cambridge International Examination (CIE) courses will satisfy specific graduation requirements. See SBE Policy GRAD-008.

\*\* Students who are learning disabled in math may have other options for meeting the four mathematics credits requirement. See DPI memo of August 24, 2016 available at <http://bit.ly/DPIMemo>, and the math options chart linked below.

\*\*\* Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math 3 as a prerequisite. The math options chart is available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/standard-course-study/mathematics/standard-course-study-supporting-resources>.

<sup>†</sup> This course must follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be satisfied by any other courses, except as provided in SBE Policy GRAD-008. See also SBE Policies CCRE-001 and GRAD-004.

<sup>±</sup> This course must, at a minimum, include the standards established by the second edition of the Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics and the 2013 National Standards for Financial Literacy, as developed by the Council for Economic Education.

<sup>‡</sup> Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete two credits of a single world language.

4. Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth Grade prior to 2020-2021 (only available to certain students with disabilities who have an IEP)

<u>Types of Courses Required</u>	<u>State Requirements</u>	<u>Additional Local Recommendations</u>
English	4 (including English I, II, III, and IV)	
Mathematics	3 (including Introduction to Math, NC Math I, and Financial Management)	
Science	2 (including Applied Science and Biology)	

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Social Studies	2 (including American History I and American History II* OR (1) American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics or Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy; and (2) American History I or American History II or American History)**	
Health/P.E.	1	
Career/Technical	4 (Career/Technical Education electives)	
Occupational Preparation	6 (including: (1) Occupational Preparation I or Employment Preparation I: Science; (2) Occupational Preparation II or Employment Preparation II: Citizenship IA and Employment Preparation II: Citizenship IB; (3) Occupational Preparation III or Employment Preparation III: Citizenship IIA and Employment Preparation III: Citizenship IIB; and (4) Occupational Preparation IV or Employment Preparation IV: Math***)	
Work Hours***	600	
Electives	0	
Other Requirements	Completion of IEP objectives	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	

\* Applicable only to students entering the ninth grade for the first time prior to 2017-18.

\*\* Applicable only to students entering the ninth grade for the first time between 2017-2018 and 2019-2020.

\*\*\* The work hours must include: (1) 150 hours of school-based training with work activities and experiences that align with the student's post-school goals; (2) 225 hours of community-based training; and (3) 225 hours of paid employment or 225 hours of unpaid vocational training, unpaid internship, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community services hours, for a total of 600 required work hours.

5. Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2020-2021 (only available to certain students with disabilities who have an IEP)

<b>Types of Courses Required</b>	<b>State Requirements</b>	<b>Additional Local Recommendations</b>
English	4 (including English I, II, III, and IV)	
Mathematics	3 (including Introduction to Math, NC Math I, and Financial Management)	
Science	2 (including Applied Science and Biology)	
Social Studies	2 (including (1) a founding principles course which shall be either American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics or Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy and (2) Economics and Personal Finance)	
Health/P.E.	1	
Career/Technical	4 (Career/Technical Education electives)	

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Occupational Preparation	6 (including: (1) Occupational Preparation I or Employment Preparation I: Science; (2) Occupational Preparation II or Employment Preparation II: Citizenship IA and Employment Preparation II: Citizenship IB; (3) Occupational Preparation III or Employment Preparation III: Citizenship IIA and Employment Preparation III: Citizenship IIB; and (4) Occupational Preparation IV or Employment Preparation IV: Math*)	
Work Hours*	600	
Electives	0	
Other Requirements	Completion of IEP objectives	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	

\* The work hours must include: (1) 150 hours of school-based training with work activities and experiences that align with the student’s post-school goals; (2) 225 hours of community-based training; and (3) 225 hours of paid employment or 225 hours of unpaid vocational training, unpaid internship, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community services hours, for a total of 600 required work hours.

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6. Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2021-2022 and Thereafter (only available to certain students with disabilities who have an IEP)

<b>Types of Courses Required</b>	<b>State Requirements</b>	<b>Additional Local Recommendations Requirements</b>
English	4 (including English I, II, III, and IV)	
Mathematics	4 (including Introduction to Math, NC Math I, Financial Management, and Employment Preparation IV: Math (to include 150 work hours))	
Science	3 (including Applied Science, Biology, and Employment Preparation I: Science (to include 150 work hours))	
Social Studies	4 (including Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy, Economics and Personal Finance, Employment Preparation II: Citizenship IA (to include 75 work hours), and Employment Preparation II: Citizenship IB (to include 75 work hours))	
Health/P.E.	1	
Career/Technical	4 (Career/Technical Education electives)	
Additional Employment Preparation*	2 (including Employment Preparation III: Citizenship IIA (to include 75 work hours) and Employment Preparation III: Citizenship IIB (to include 75 work hours))	
Electives	0	
Other Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of IEP objectives</li> <li>• Career Portfolio</li> </ul>	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	

\* The work hours included in Employment Preparation I, II, III, and IV are as follows: (1) 150 hours of school-based training with work activities and experiences that align with the student's post-school goals; (2) 225 hours of community-based training; and (3) 225 hours of paid employment or 225 hours of unpaid vocational training, unpaid internship, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community services hours, for a total of 600 required work hours.

**B. HIGH SCHOOL END-OF-COURSE AND OTHER TESTING**

High school students must take all end-of-course (EOC) tests and Career and Technical Education (CTE) State Assessments required by the State Board of Education and pursuant to policy 3410, Testing and Assessment Program.

**C. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

~~The board adopts the following policies with regard to graduation.~~

1. Honor Graduates

Honor graduates may be designated by principals on the basis of criteria established by the superintendent. Recognition of honor graduates may be included in graduation programs.

2. Students with Disabilities

Graduation requirements must be applied to students with disabilities to the extent required by state and federal law and State Board policy.

3. Children of Military Families

In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, as defined in policy 4050, Children of Military Families, school officials shall comply with the requirements of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (G.S. 115C-407.5), G.S. 115C-407.12, and the following requirements~~the board adopts the following policy provisions for children of military families.~~

a. Waiver Requirements

Specific course work required for graduation will be waived for children of military families if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school system. If a waiver is not granted, school administrators shall provide the student with reasonable justification for the denial. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the superintendent or designee shall



204 provide the student with an alternative means of acquiring the required  
205 course work so that the student may graduate on time.

206  
207 b. Testing Requirements for Graduation

208  
209 The superintendent shall accept from children of military families the  
210 following in lieu of any local testing requirements for graduation: (1) the  
211 end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state; (2)  
212 national norm-referenced achievement tests; or (3) alternative testing. If  
213 these alternatives are not feasible for a student who has transferred in his  
214 or her senior year, subsection c below will apply.

215  
216 c. Transfers During Senior Year

217  
218 If a child of a military family who has transferred at the beginning of or  
219 during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school  
220 system after all of the alternatives listed above have been considered and  
221 the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school,  
222 then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the  
223 sending school system to ensure that the student will receive a diploma  
224 from the sending board of education.

225  
226 4. Early Graduation

227  
228 Students have the option of graduating early by completing the State Board of  
229 Education minimum graduation requirements on an accelerated three-year  
230 pathway. Students choosing to use an accelerated pathway must follow the  
231 process required for early graduation as described in State Board Policies GRAD-  
232 001 and GRAD-006~~Graduation prior to that of one's class may be permitted on~~  
233 ~~the basis of criteria approved by the board upon recommendation by the~~  
234 ~~superintendent.~~

235  
236 5. Graduation Certificates

237  
238 Graduation certificates will be awarded to eligible students in accordance with the  
239 standards set forth in State Board Policy GRAD-010.

240  
241 6. Diploma Endorsements

242  
243 Students have the opportunity to earn ~~one or more of the following~~ diploma  
244 endorsements as described in State Board Policy GRAD-007-identifying a  
245 particular area of focused study: (1) Career Endorsement, (2) College  
246 Endorsement (two options), (3) North Carolina Academic Scholars Endorsement,  
247 and/or (4) a Global Languages Endorsement. No endorsement is required to

248 receive a diploma.

249 ~~7. Differentiated High School Diploma~~

250 ~~Transylvania County Schools offers a differentiated diploma program at each high~~  
251 ~~school for students who are at risk of dropping out of school or who have faced~~  
252 ~~significant barriers to completion of the traditional high school diploma program.~~  
253 ~~The differentiated diploma is a standard North Carolina high school diploma~~  
254 ~~requiring students to complete minimum state requirements for graduation.~~

255 ~~The differentiated diploma is not a “fast track” program, but is designed for~~  
256 ~~students who are having difficulty meeting the 28 credit graduation requirement~~  
257 ~~established by the Board. Upon recommendation by the principal, review of a~~  
258 ~~district level committee, and approval by the superintendent or designee, a student~~  
259 ~~may be eligible to graduate and receive a differentiated diploma upon satisfying~~  
260 ~~the minimum state requirements for graduation (22 total credits with no additional~~  
261 ~~local requirements) as outlined in Section A, above, and any additional~~  
262 ~~requirements established by the superintendent or designee.~~

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267 Legal References: G.S. 115C-~~12(40)~~, -47, -81.25(c)(10)(c), -81.45(d), -81.65, ~~-81.90(c)~~, ~~-83.31~~, -  
268 ~~83.32~~, -174.11, -276, -288, -407.5, -407.12; 16 N.C.A.C. 6D .0309, .0510; State Board of  
269 Education Policies CCRE-001, GRAD-001, GRAD-004, GRAD-006, GRAD-007, GRAD-008,  
270 GRAD-010, TEST-003

271  
272 Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Dual  
273 Enrollment (policy 3101), Testing and Assessment Program (policy 3410), Student Promotion  
274 and Accountability (policy 3420), Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530), Children  
275 of Military Families (policy 4050)

276  
277 Adopted: March 7, 2016

278  
279 Revised: April 4, 2016; November 21, 2016; March 5, 2018; October 21, 2019; March 2, 2020;  
280 September 21, 2020; February 15, 2021; August 2, 2021; December 20, 2021; July 18, 2022;  
281 April 3, 2023; DATE