

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.

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

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7 1. successful completion of all course unit requirements mandated by the State Board of
8 Education (see Section A);
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10 2. successful completion of cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction; and
- 11
12 3. successful completion of all other requirements mandated by the board, as provided in
13 this policy.

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

24 25 **A. COURSE UNITS REQUIRED**

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27 Beginning with students entering the ninth grade for the first time in the 2009-2010
28 school year, all students must fulfill the course unit requirements of the Future-Ready
29 Core Course of Study, unless they are approved for the Future-Ready Occupational
30 Course of Study. Course unit requirements for the Future-Ready Core Course of Study
31 differ depending on the year a student enters ninth grade for the first time, as set out in
32 the tables below. In accordance with policy 3101, Dual Enrollment, and State Board of
33 Education requirements, students may earn high school credit for college courses
34 completed. In addition, students may earn credit for certain high school courses in the
35 Future-Ready Core Course of Study completed while in middle school, as authorized by
36 the State Board of Education. Students also have the opportunity to meet course unit
37 requirements without completing the regular period of classroom instruction by
38 demonstrating mastery of the course material in accordance with policy 3420, Student
39 Promotion and Accountability, and State Board of Education requirements.

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41 All awards of high school course credit must be consistent with State Board of Education
42 requirements. Any inconsistency between board policy and State Board graduation
43 requirements will be resolved by following the State Board requirements. While the
44 board endeavors to keep its policy up to date with current State Board of Education

45 graduation requirements, students should verify current requirements with their guidance
 46 counselors when planning course schedules or making other decisions based on
 47 graduation requirements.
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49 1. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth
 50 Grade for the First Time in 2012-2013 and Thereafter
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Courses Required*	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4 sequential (English I, II, III, and IV)	
Mathematics	4 (Math I, II, and III, 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 Math I and II and two other application-based math courses.)***	
Science	3 (a physical science course, Biology, and earth/environmental science)	
Social Studies	4 (including American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics; American History Parts I and II; 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.)*****	4 (An approved four-course concentration area is required.)
Total Credits	22	26

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 53 * Certain International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses will satisfy
 54 specific graduation requirements. See SBE policy GCS-L-008.
 55 ** Students entering ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2014-15 school year have alternate
 56 math course options. See SBE policy GCS-N-004.
 57 *** Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must
 58 complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math III as a
 59 prerequisite.
 60 **** American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics must follow the North
 61 Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be satisfied by an
 62 AP/IB course, dual enrollment, or any other course that does not fully address the NCSCOS.
 63 ***** Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must
 64 complete two years of a second language.
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2. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2009-2010, 2010-2011, or 2011-2012

Courses Required	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4 sequential (English I, II, III, and IV)	
Mathematics	4 (either Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and a fourth math course aligned with the student’s post-high school plans, OR Integrated Math I, II, and III, 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 either (1) Algebra I and either Algebra II or Geometry or (2) Integrated Math I and II. Exempt students also must pass either Alternative Math I and II or two other application-based math courses.)*	
Science	3 (a physical science course, Biology, and earth/environmental science)	
Social Studies	3 (Civics & Economics, U.S. 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.)**	4 (An approved four-course concentration area is required.)
Total Credits	21	25

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* Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Algebra II or Integrated Math III as a prerequisite.
 ** Students seeking to complete minimum application requirements for UNC universities must complete two years of a second language.

- 94 3. Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required (only available to
 95 certain students with disabilities who have an IEP)
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Courses Required	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4 (including English I, II, III, and IV)	
Mathematics	3 (including Introduction to Math, Math I, and Financial Management)	
Science	2 (including Applied Science and Biology)	
Social Studies	2 (including American History I and II)	
Health/P.E.	1	
Career/Technical	4 (Vocational Education electives)	
Occupational Preparation	6 (including Occupational Preparation I, II, III, and IV, which require 150 hours of school-based training, 225 hours of community-based training, and 225 hours of paid employment*)	
Electives	0	
Other Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of IEP objectives • Career Portfolio 	
Total Credits	22	

* Paid employment is the expectation; however, when paid employment is not available, 225 hours of unpaid vocational training, unpaid internship experience, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community service hours may substitute for 225 hours of paid employment.

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 103 **B. HIGH SCHOOL FINAL EXAMS AND END-OF-COURSE TESTING**

104 High school students must take all end-of-course (EOC) tests, NC Final Exams, and
 105 Career and Technical Education State Assessments (CTE Post-Assessments) required by
 106 the State Board of Education and pursuant to policy 3410, Testing and Assessment
 107 Program.
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 110 **C. NORTH CAROLINA GRADUATION PROJECT**

111 Students must successfully complete a North Carolina Graduation Project (“NCGP”) as a
 112 condition of high school graduation from Transylvania County Schools. Each high
 113 school within the school system shall follow the *Standards of Quality of Graduation*
 114 *Projects* established by the State Board of Education. The principal of each high school
 115 shall monitor the implementation of the NCGP and ensure compliance with the *Standards*
 116 *of Quality of Graduation Projects*. The superintendent shall certify compliance with
 117 those standards as prescribed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.
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 120 **D. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

121 The board adopts the following policies with regard to graduation.
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124 **1. Honor Graduates**

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126 Honor graduates may be designated by principals on the basis of criteria
127 established by the superintendent. Recognition of honor graduates may be
128 included in graduation programs.
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130 **2. Students with Disabilities**

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132 Graduation requirements must be applied to students with disabilities to the extent
133 required by state and federal law and State Board policy.
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135 **3. Children of Military Families**

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137 In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the
138 board adopts the following policy provisions for students to whom the Interstate
139 Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children applies.
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141 **a. Waiver Requirements**

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143 Specific course work required for graduation will be waived if similar
144 course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school system.
145 If a waiver is not granted, school administrators shall provide the student
146 with reasonable justification for the denial. If a waiver is not granted to a
147 student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the
148 superintendent or designee shall provide the student with an alternative
149 means of acquiring the required course work so that the student may
150 graduate on time.
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152 **b. Testing Requirements for Graduation**

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154 The superintendent shall accept the following in lieu of any local testing
155 requirements for graduation: (1) the end-of-course exams required for
156 graduation from the sending state; (2) national norm-referenced
157 achievement tests; or (3) alternative testing. If these alternatives are not
158 feasible for a student who has transferred in his or her senior year,
159 subsection c below will apply.
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161 **c. Transfers During Senior Year**

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163 If a child of a military family who has transferred at the beginning of or
164 during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school
165 system after all of the alternatives listed above have been considered and
166 the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school,
167 then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the

168 sending school system to ensure that the student will receive a diploma
169 from the sending board of education.

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171 **4. Early Graduation**

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173 Graduation prior to that of one's class may be permitted on the basis of criteria
174 approved by the board upon recommendation by the superintendent.

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176 **5. Graduation Certificates**

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178 Graduation certificates will be awarded to eligible students in accordance with the
179 standards set forth in State Board policy.

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181 **6. Diploma Endorsements**

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183 Students have the opportunity to earn one or more of the following diploma
184 endorsements identifying a particular area of focused study: (1) Career
185 Endorsement, (2) College Endorsement (two options), (3) North Carolina
186 Academic Scholars Endorsement, and/or (4) a Global Languages Endorsement.
187 No endorsement is required to receive a diploma.

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189 **7. Graduation Exercises**

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191 The date of graduation exercises shall be established annually on April 1 of each
192 school year; however, if April 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the date shall be
193 established on the Friday prior to April 1. Graduation exercises may be set for
194 two days after the last school day of student attendance, or at any time thereafter
195 as determined by the senior class of each high school. The date of graduation
196 exercises will be announced by the superintendent or designee.

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198 Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -174.11, -276, -288, -407.5; State Board of Education
199 Policies GCS-C-003, GCS-L-007, GCS-M-001, GCS-N-004, -010

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201 Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Testing and
202 Assessment Program (policy 3410), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420),
203 Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530), Children of Military Families (policy 4050)

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205 Adopted:

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