

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 course unit requirements mandated by the State Board of
8 Education (see Section A);
- 9
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.

14
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**

26
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; however, such courses will not be included in the
37 calculation of a student’s high school grade point average. Students also have the
38 opportunity to meet course unit requirements without completing the regular period of
39 classroom instruction by demonstrating mastery of the course material in accordance with
40 policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability, and State Board of Education
41 requirements.

42
43 All awards of high school course credit must be consistent with State Board of Education
44 requirements. Any inconsistency between board policy and State Board graduation

45 requirements will be resolved by following the State Board requirements. While the
 46 board endeavors to keep its policy up to date with current State Board of Education
 47 graduation requirements, students should verify current requirements with their guidance
 48 counselors when planning course schedules or making other decisions based on
 49 graduation requirements.
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51 1. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth
 52 Grade for the First Time in 2012-2013 and Thereafter
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Courses Required*	State Requirements	Additional 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.)*****	6 (An approved four-course concentration area is required.)
Total Credits	22	28

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 55 * Certain International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses will satisfy
 56 specific graduation requirements. See SBE policy GCS-L-008.
 57 ** Students entering ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2014-15 school year have alternate
 58 math course options. See SBE policy GCS-N-004.
 59 *** Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must
 60 complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math III as a
 61 prerequisite.
 62 **** American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics must follow the North
 63 Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be satisfied by an
 64 AP/IB course, dual enrollment, or any other course that does not fully address the NCSCOS.
 65 ***** Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must
 66 complete two years of a second language.
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71 2. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth
 72 Grade for the First Time in 2009-2010, 2010-2011, or 2011-2012
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Courses Required	State Requirements	Additional 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.)**	7 (An approved four-course concentration area is required.)
Total Credits	21	28

74 * Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must
 75 complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Algebra II or
 76 Integrated Math III as a prerequisite.
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78 ** Students seeking to complete minimum application requirements for UNC universities must
 79 complete two years of a second language.
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- 92 3. Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required (only available to
93 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	

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

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

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

107
108 **C. NORTH CAROLINA GRADUATION PROJECT**

109
110 Students must successfully complete a North Carolina Graduation Project (“NCGP”) as a
111 condition of high school graduation from Transylvania County Schools. Each high
112 school within the school system shall follow the *Standards of Quality of Graduation*
113 *Projects* established by the State Board of Education. The principal of each high school
114 shall monitor the implementation of the NCGP and ensure compliance with the *Standards*
115 *of Quality of Graduation Projects*. The superintendent shall certify compliance with
116 those standards as prescribed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

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118 **D. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

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120 The board adopts the following policies with regard to graduation.
121

- 122 **1. Honor Graduates**
123
124 Honor graduates may be designated by principals on the basis of criteria
125 established by the superintendent. Recognition of honor graduates may be
126 included in graduation programs.
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- 128 **2. Students with Disabilities**
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130 Graduation requirements must be applied to students with disabilities to the extent
131 required by state and federal law and State Board policy.
132
- 133 **3. Children of Military Families**
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135 In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the
136 board adopts the following policy provisions for students to whom the Interstate
137 Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children applies.
138
- 139 **a. Waiver Requirements**
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141 Specific course work required for graduation will be waived if similar
142 course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school system.
143 If a waiver is not granted, school administrators shall provide the student
144 with reasonable justification for the denial. If a waiver is not granted to a
145 student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the
146 superintendent or designee shall provide the student with an alternative
147 means of acquiring the required course work so that the student may
148 graduate on time.
149
- 150 **b. Testing Requirements for Graduation**
151
152 The superintendent shall accept the following in lieu of any local testing
153 requirements for graduation: (1) the end-of-course exams required for
154 graduation from the sending state; (2) national norm-referenced
155 achievement tests; or (3) alternative testing. If these alternatives are not
156 feasible for a student who has transferred in his or her senior year,
157 subsection c below will apply.
158
- 159 **c. Transfers During Senior Year**
160
161 If a child of a military family who has transferred at the beginning of or
162 during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school
163 system after all of the alternatives listed above have been considered and
164 the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school,
165 then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the

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

168
169 **4. Early Graduation**

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

173
174 **5. Graduation Certificates**

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

178
179 **6. Diploma Endorsements**

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

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187 **7. Differentiated High School Diploma**

188
189 Transylvania County Schools offers a differentiated diploma program at each high
190 school for students who are at risk of dropping out of school or who have faced
191 significant barriers to completion of the traditional high school diploma program.
192 The differentiated diploma is a standard North Carolina high school diploma
193 requiring students to complete minimum state requirements for graduation.

194
195 The differentiated diploma is not a "fast-track" program, but is designed for
196 students who are having difficulty meeting the 28-credit graduation requirement
197 established by the Board. Upon recommendation by the principal, review of a
198 district-level committee, and approval by the superintendent or designee, a student
199 may be eligible to graduate and receive a differentiated diploma upon satisfying
200 the minimum state requirements for graduation (22 total credits with no additional
201 local requirements) as outlined in Section A, above, and any additional
202 requirements established by the superintendent or designee.

203
204 Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -174.11, -276, -288, -407.5; State Board of Education
205 Policies GCS-C-003, GCS-L-007, GCS-M-001, GCS-N-004, -010

206
207 Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Testing and
208 Assessment Program (policy 3410), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420),
209 Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530), Children of Military Families (policy 4050)

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211 Adopted: March 7, 2016
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213 Revised: [DATE]
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REVISED