

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
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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. The table in subsection A.1, below, lists the course unit requirements~~
33 ~~for the Future-Ready Core Course of Study applicable to students who entered ninth~~
34 ~~grade for the first time during the 2013-2014 school year or thereafter. Students who~~
35 ~~entered the ninth grade for the first time before the 2013-2014 school year should consult~~
36 ~~their guidance counselors to determine applicable course unit requirements for~~
37 ~~graduation.~~

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39 In accordance with policy 3101, Dual Enrollment, and State Board of Education
40 requirements, students may earn high school credit for college courses completed. In
41 addition, students may earn credit for certain high school courses in the Future-Ready
42 Core Course of Study completed while in middle school, as authorized by the State Board
43 of Education; however, such courses will not be included in the calculation of a student’s
44 high school grade point average. Students also have the opportunity to meet course unit

requirements without completing the regular period of classroom instruction by demonstrating mastery of the course material in accordance with policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability, and State Board of Education requirements.

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 guidance 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 in 20123-20134 and Thereafter

Courses Required*	State Requirements	Additional Local Requirements
English	4 sequential (English I, II, III, and IV)	
Mathematics	4 (NC Math I , H2 , and III3 , 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 I and H2 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 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

* Certain International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses will satisfy specific graduation requirements. See SBE policy GCS-L-008.

** Students entering ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2014-15 school year have alternate math course options. See SBE policy GCS-N-004.

*** Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math III as a prerequisite. [The math options chart is available online at:](#)

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<http://macss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/file/view/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf/522504358/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf>

- **** American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics must follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be satisfied by an AP/IB course, dual enrollment, or any other course that does not fully address the NCSCOS.
- ***** Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete two years of a second language.

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	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

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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.

- 90 2. Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required (only available to
 91 certain students with disabilities who have an IEP)
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Courses Required	State Requirements	Additional 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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 94 * Paid employment is the expectation; however, when paid employment is not available, 225
 95 hours of unpaid vocational training, unpaid internship experience, paid employment at
 96 community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community service hours may
 97 substitute for 225 hours of paid employment.
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99 **B. HIGH SCHOOL FINAL EXAMS AND END-OF-COURSE TESTING**

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

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

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

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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, the board adopts the following policy provisions for students to whom the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children applies.

a. Waiver Requirements

Specific course work required for graduation will be waived 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 provide the student with an alternative means of acquiring the required course work so that the student may graduate on time.

b. Testing Requirements for Graduation

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

c. Transfers During Senior Year

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

163 then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the
164 sending school system to ensure that the student will receive a diploma
165 from the sending board of education.
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167 **4. Early Graduation**

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

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174 Graduation certificates will be awarded to eligible students in accordance with the
175 standards set forth in State Board policy.
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177 **6. Diploma Endorsements**

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

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187 Transylvania County Schools offers a differentiated diploma program at each high
188 school for students who are at risk of dropping out of school or who have faced
189 significant barriers to completion of the traditional high school diploma program.
190 The differentiated diploma is a standard North Carolina high school diploma
191 requiring students to complete minimum state requirements for graduation.
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193 The differentiated diploma is not a "fast-track" program, but is designed for
194 students who are having difficulty meeting the 28-credit graduation requirement
195 established by the Board. Upon recommendation by the principal, review of a
196 district-level committee, and approval by the superintendent or designee, a student
197 may be eligible to graduate and receive a differentiated diploma upon satisfying
198 the minimum state requirements for graduation (22 total credits with no additional
199 local requirements) as outlined in Section A, above, and any additional
200 requirements established by the superintendent or designee.
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202 Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -174.11, -276, -288, -407.5; State Board of Education
203 Policies GCS-C-003, GCS-L-007, GCS-M-001, GCS-N-004, -010
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205 Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Testing and
206 Assessment Program (policy 3410), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420),
207 Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530), Children of Military Families (policy 4050)
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209 Adopted: March 7, 2016
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211 Revised: April 4, 2016; [DATE]
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