

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 as described in Section A; and
- 8
9 2. successful completion of cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction.

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

20 21 **A. COURSE UNITS REQUIRED**

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23 All students must fulfill the course unit requirements of the Future-Ready Core Course of
24 Study, unless they are approved for the Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study.
25 The tables below list the course unit requirements for the Future-Ready Core Course of
26 Study and the Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study based on the student’s year of
27 entry into ninth grade for the first time.

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29 In accordance with policy 3101, Dual Enrollment, and State Board of Education
30 requirements, students may earn high school credit for college courses completed. In
31 addition, students may earn credit for certain high school courses in the Future-Ready
32 Core Course of Study completed **prior to grade 9, while in middle school**, as authorized
33 by the State Board of Education; however, such courses will not be included in the
34 calculation of a student’s high school grade point average. Students also have the
35 opportunity to meet course unit requirements without completing the regular period of
36 classroom instruction by demonstrating mastery of the course material in accordance with
37 policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability, and State Board of Education
38 requirements.

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

45 counselors when planning course schedules or making other decisions based on
 46 graduation requirements.

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 48 1. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth
 49 Grade for the First Time before 2020-2021
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Courses Required*	State Requirements	Additional Local Requirements
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.) [‡]	6 (An approved three-course concentration area is required.)
Total Credits	22	28

* 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.

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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 Math 3 as a prerequisite. The math options chart is available at <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/k-12-mathematics/resources/hs-mathematics/math-options-charts?authuser=0>.

† 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

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satisfied by any other courses, **except as provided in SBE Policy GRAD-008**. See also SBE Policies **CCRE-001** and GRAD-004.

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

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

Courses Required*	State Requirements	Additional Local Requirements
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	
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 three-course concentration area is required.)
Total Credits	22	28

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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

Courses Required*	State Requirements	Additional Local Requirements
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: Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy;† Economics and Personal Finance;± 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.)‡	6 (An approved three-course concentration area is required.)
Total Credits	22	28

* 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://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/k-12-mathematics/resources/hs-mathematics/math-options-charts?authuser=0>.

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- 109 † This course must follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety
- 110 and may not be satisfied by any other courses, **except as provided in SBE Policy GRAD-008.**
- 111 See **also SBE Policies CCRE-001 and GRAD-004.**
- 112 ‡ This course must, at a minimum, include the standards established by the second edition of the
- 113 Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics and the 2013 National Standards for
- 114 Financial Literacy, as developed by the Council for Economic Education.
- 115 † Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete
- 116 two credits of a single world language.

118 4. Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required for Students
 119 Entering Ninth Grade prior to 2020-2021 (only available to certain students with
 120 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, NC Math I, and Financial Management)	
Science	2 (including Applied Science and Biology)	
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	
Total Credits	22	

* 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.

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

Courses Required	State Requirements	Additional Local Requirements
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)	
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	
Total Credits	22	

* 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 (only available to certain students with disabilities who have an IEP)

Courses Required	State Requirements	Additional Local Requirements
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"> • Completion of IEP objectives • Career Portfolio 	
Total Credits	22	

* 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.

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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

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175 In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the
176 board adopts the following policy provisions for students to whom the Interstate
177 Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children applies.
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179 a. Waiver Requirements

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181 Specific course work required for graduation will be waived if similar
182 course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school system.
183 If a waiver is not granted, school administrators shall provide the student
184 with reasonable justification for the denial. If a waiver is not granted to a
185 student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the
186 superintendent or designee shall provide the student with an alternative
187 means of acquiring the required course work so that the student may
188 graduate on time.
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190 b. Testing Requirements for Graduation

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

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201 If a child of a military family who has transferred at the beginning of or
202 during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school
203 system after all of the alternatives listed above have been considered and
204 the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school,
205 then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the
206 sending school system to ensure that the student will receive a diploma
207 from the sending board of education.
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209 4. Early Graduation

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211 Graduation prior to that of one's class may be permitted on the basis of criteria
212 approved by the board upon recommendation by the superintendent.
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214 5. Graduation Certificates

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216 Graduation certificates will be awarded to eligible students in accordance with the
217 standards set forth in State Board policy **GRAD-010**.

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6. Diploma Endorsements

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

7. Differentiated High School Diploma

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

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

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

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

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Revised: April 4, 2016; November 21, 2016; March 5, 2018; October 21, 2019; March 2, 2020; September 21, 2020; February 15, 2021; August 2, 2021; [DATE]