

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:

- 6  
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), **G.S. 115C-407.12**, and the requirements of subsection  
19 C.3 of this policy in 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, as authorized by the State Board of  
33 Education; however, such courses will not be included in the calculation of a student’s  
34 high school grade point average. Students also have the opportunity to meet course unit  
35 requirements without completing the regular period of classroom instruction by  
36 demonstrating mastery of the course material in accordance with policy 3420, Student  
37 Promotion and Accountability, and State Board of Education requirements.

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

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.) <sup>‡</sup>	6 (An approved three-course concentration area is required.)
<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

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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.)
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>

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\* 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

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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**

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.)
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>

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\* 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>.

- 111 † This course must follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety
- 112 and may not be satisfied by any other courses, except as provided in SBE Policy GRAD-008.
- 113 See also SBE Policies CCRE-001 and GRAD-004.
- 114 ‡ This course must, at a minimum, include the standards established by the second edition of the
- 115 Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics and the 2013 National Standards for
- 116 Financial Literacy, as developed by the Council for Economic Education.
- 117 † Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete
- 118 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)

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	
<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

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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	
<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)

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"> <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.

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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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177 In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, **as**  
178 **defined in policy 4050, Children of Military Families**, the board adopts the  
179 following policy provisions for **children of military families** ~~students to whom the~~  
180 ~~Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children~~ applies.

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182 a. Waiver Requirements

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

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193 b. Testing Requirements for Graduation

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

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202 c. Transfers During Senior Year

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

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212 4. Early Graduation

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

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217 5. Graduation Certificates

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

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222 6. Diploma Endorsements

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

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230 7. Differentiated High School Diploma

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

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

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247 Legal References: G.S. 115C-12(40), -47, -81.25(c)(10)(c), -81.45(d), -81.65, -174.11, -276, -  
248 288, -407.5, -407.12; 16 N.C.A.C. 6D .0309; State Board of Education Policies CCRE-001,  
249 GRAD-004, GRAD-007, GRAD-008, GRAD-010, TEST-003

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

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256 Adopted: March 7, 2016

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258 Revised: April 4, 2016; November 21, 2016; March 5, 2018; October 21, 2019; March 2, 2020;  
259 September 21, 2020; February 15, 2021; August 2, 2021; December 20, 2021; July 18, 2022;  
260 [DATE]