

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 ~~mandated by the State Board of~~  
8 ~~Education (see Section A)~~ as described in Section A; and
- 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 All students must fulfill the course unit requirements of the Future-Ready Core Course of  
28 Study, unless they are approved for the Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study.  
29 The table in subsection A.1, below, lists the course unit requirements for the Future-  
30 Ready Core Course of Study applicable to students who entered ninth grade for the first  
31 time during the 2013-2014 school year or thereafter. Students who entered the ninth  
32 grade for the first time before the 2013-2014 school year should consult their guidance  
33 counselors to determine applicable course unit requirements for graduation.

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

45 All awards of high school course credit must be consistent with State Board of Education  
 46 requirements. Any inconsistency between board policy and State Board graduation  
 47 requirements will be resolved by following the State Board requirements. While the  
 48 board endeavors to keep its policy up to date with current State Board of Education  
 49 graduation requirements, students should verify current requirements with their guidance  
 50 counselors when planning course schedules or making other decisions based on  
 51 graduation requirements.

52  
 53 1. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth  
 54 Grade for the First Time in 2013-2014 and Thereafter  
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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 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.)
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>

56 \* Certain International Baccalaureate (IB), ~~and~~ Advanced Placement (AP), and Cambridge  
 57 International Examination (CIE) courses will satisfy specific graduation requirements. See SBE  
 58 Policy ~~GCS-LGRAD-008~~.

59 \*\* Students entering ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2014-15 school year have alternate  
 60 math course options. See SBE Policy ~~GCS-NGRAD-004~~.

61 \*\*\* Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must  
 62 complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math III as a  
 63 prerequisite. The math options chart is available online at:  
 64 [http://maccss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/file/view/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf/52](http://maccss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/file/view/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf/522504358/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf)  
 65 [2504358/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf](http://maccss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/file/view/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf).

66 \*\*\*\* American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics must follow the North  
 67 Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be satisfied by an  
 68 AP/IB/CIE course, dual enrollment, or any other course that does not fully address the  
 69 NCSCOS.

\*\*\*\*\* Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete two **credits of a single world language** ~~years of a second language~~.

2. Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required (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: <b>Founding Principles, Civics and Economics; and American History I and or American History II</b> )	
Health/P.E.	1	
Career/Technical	4 ( <del>Vocational</del> <b>Career and Technical</b> 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"> <li>• Completion of IEP objectives</li> <li>• Career Portfolio</li> </ul>	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	

\* 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.

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

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

## C. NORTH CAROLINA GRADUATION PROJECT

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

**D. 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**

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**

141 If a child of a military family who has transferred at the beginning of or  
142 during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school  
143 system after all of the alternatives listed above have been considered and  
144 the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school,  
145 then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the  
146 sending school system to ensure that the student will receive a diploma  
147 from the sending board of education.  
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149 **4. Early Graduation**

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

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156 Graduation certificates will be awarded to eligible students in accordance with the  
157 standards set forth in State Board policy.  
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159 **6. Diploma Endorsements**

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

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169 Transylvania County Schools offers a differentiated diploma program at each high  
170 school for students who are at risk of dropping out of school or who have faced  
171 significant barriers to completion of the traditional high school diploma program.  
172 The differentiated diploma is a standard North Carolina high school diploma  
173 requiring students to complete minimum state requirements for graduation.  
174

175 The differentiated diploma is not a "fast-track" program, but is designed for  
176 students who are having difficulty meeting the 28-credit graduation requirement  
177 established by the Board. Upon recommendation by the principal, review of a  
178 district-level committee, and approval by the superintendent or designee, a student  
179 may be eligible to graduate and receive a differentiated diploma upon satisfying  
180 the minimum state requirements for graduation (22 total credits with no additional  
181 local requirements) as outlined in Section A, above, and any additional  
182 requirements established by the superintendent or designee.  
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184 Legal References: G.S. 115C-12(40), -47, -81.25(c)(10)(c), -81.45(d)(1), -174.11, -276, -288, -  
185 407.5; State Board of Education Policies ~~GCS-C-003, GCS-L-007, GCS-M-001, GCS-N-004,~~  
186 ~~010~~CCRE-001, GRAD-004, GRAD-007, GRAD-008, GRAD-010, TEST-003

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

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192 Adopted: March 7, 2016

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194 Revised: April 4, 2016; November 21, 2016; [DATE]

REVISED