

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 Guidance program staff shall assist students in selecting their high school courses to ensure that  
13 students are taking all of the required units and selecting electives consistent with their post-  
14 graduation plans. For students who have transferred to the school system during high school or  
15 who, for other reasons, have completed course work outside of the school system, the principal  
16 shall determine what course work will be applied as credit toward graduation. The principal  
17 shall consider the requirements of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for  
18 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**

22  
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 table in subsection A.1, below, lists the course unit requirements for the Future-  
26 Ready Core Course of Study applicable to students who entered ninth grade for the first  
27 time during the 2013-2014 school year or thereafter. Students who entered the ninth  
28 grade for the first time before the 2013-2014 school year should consult their guidance  
29 counselors to determine applicable course unit requirements for graduation.

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

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

45 graduation requirements, students should verify current requirements with their guidance  
 46 counselors when planning course schedules or making other decisions based on  
 47 graduation requirements.  
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49 1. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth  
 50 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 <del>four</del> three-course concentration area is required.)
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>

52 \* Certain International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and Cambridge  
 53 International Examination (CIE) courses will satisfy specific graduation requirements. See SBE  
 54 Policy GRAD-008.

55 \*\* Students entering ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2014-15 school year have alternate  
 56 math course options. See SBE Policy GRAD-004.

57 \*\*\* Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must  
 58 complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math III as a  
 59 prerequisite. The math options chart is available online at:  
 60 [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)  
 61 [2504358/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf](http://maccss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/file/view/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf).

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/CIE course, dual enrollment, or any other course that does not fully address the  
 65 NCSCOS.

66 \*\*\*\*\* Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must  
 67 complete two credits of a single world language.  
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- 70 2. Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required (only available to  
71 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, NC Math I, and Financial Management)	
Science	2 (including Applied Science and Biology)	
Social Studies	2 (including American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics; and American History I or American History II)	
Health/P.E.	1	
Career/Technical	4 (Career and Technical 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.

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

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

#### 84 85 **C. TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS PORTFOLIO**

86  
87 Students must complete and meet the expectations of the Transylvania County Schools  
88 Career and College Readiness Portfolio as defined by the *Transylvania County Schools*  
89 *Career and College Readiness Portfolio Handbook* as a condition of high school  
90 graduation from Transylvania County Schools. Each high school within the system shall  
91 follow the guidelines established in the *Transylvania County Schools Career and College*  
92 *Readiness Portfolio Handbook*.

#### 93 94 **D. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

95  
96 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, then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the

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

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145 **4. Early Graduation**

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

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150 **5. Graduation Certificates**

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

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155 **6. Diploma Endorsements**

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

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163 **7. Differentiated High School Diploma**

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

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

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180 Legal References: G.S. 115C-12(40), -47, -81.25(c)(10)(c), -81.45(d)(1), -174.11, -276, -288, -  
181 407.5; State Board of Education Policies CCRE-001, GRAD-004, GRAD-007, GRAD-008,  
182 GRAD-010, TEST-003

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184 Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Testing and  
185 Assessment Program (policy 3410), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420),  
186 Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530), Children of Military Families (policy 4050)  
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188 Adopted: March 7, 2016  
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190 Revised: April 4, 2016; November 21, 2016; March 5, 2018; October 21, 2019; [DATE]

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