

BOARD AGENDA ITEM
October 25, 2016

SUBJECT:

Changes to Policy IKF and Administrative Rule IKF-R Graduation Requirements – Final Reading

BACKGROUND:

The current policy and administrative rule are not aligned to updated state regulations concerning graduation requirements. Specifically, the exit examination is no longer required and significant changes have been made to the academic honors award criteria.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The proposed policy addresses the changes to state regulations and clarifies course enrollment requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the proposed policy on final reading

ATTACHMENT:

Policy IKF Graduation Requirements
Administrative Rule IKF-R Graduation Requirements

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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Code **IKF** Issued **10/16**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for high school graduation.

The South Carolina State Board of Education regulates the South Carolina State High School Diploma. A state high school diploma from this district is based upon the satisfactory completion of the number of units required by state law. A unit of work is the amount of credit earned when the student satisfactorily completes at least 120 hours of instruction in a given subject area.

Students in the district may graduate from high school by meeting the requirements outlined in administrative rule IKF-R.

South Carolina Academic Honors Award (see attached)

Special education certificate

A special education certificate will be awarded upon completion of objectives stated in a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This type of certificate will also be awarded to students enrolled in self-contained models after 12 years of school provided they have met the state board of education regulation requiring attendance in each class of 170 days per year.

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Graduation participation

Students must meet all requirements for the South Carolina High School Diploma, South Carolina Certificate or a Special Education Certificate in order to participate in graduation exercises. A South Carolina Certificate is awarded to students who pass the required units for credit but do not pass the exit examination. A student may participate in graduation exercises only once.

Students who lack one or two units for graduation may attend summer school to complete these requirements. A district summer school graduation will be held to accommodate these students.

Adopted 6/10/75; Revised 2/28/78, 5/24/83, 10/9/84, 2/26/85, 9/10/85, 2/28/89, 5/14/91, 6/25/96, 1/8/02

Legal references:

A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-26-70 - No commission or agency to require foreign language as a prerequisite to receive a regular high school diploma.
2. Section 59-39-100 - Diplomas to be uniform in every respect; units required to earn a diploma.
3. Section 59-149-50 – LIFE Scholarship.

B. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R-43-259 - Graduation requirements.

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South Carolina Academic Honors Award

Requirements for a student to receive a South Carolina Academic Honors Award:

- complete twenty-four units of credit as prescribed;
- receive a minimum grade of "B" for each semester course in grades 9–12 through the seventh semester; and
- achieve either a score of 710 or higher on the SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, a score of 690 or higher on the SAT mathematics, a score of 30 or higher on the ACT English, or a score of 33 or higher on the ACT mathematics:
 - OR -
- each student shall have completed twenty-four units of high school credit;
- be eligible for graduation with a state high school diploma; and
- have a combined score of 1400 on the SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and math sections, or an ACT composite score of 31.

Of the twenty-four units earned, eighteen units must be college preparatory coursework, four units in additional electives, and two units in one or more of the following: English, science, social studies, or mathematics.

College preparatory coursework includes the following:

- English (English I or above), four units;
- mathematics (Algebra I or above), four units;
- laboratory science, three units;
- social studies (United States/South Carolina studies, economics/ government and one unit of global studies/world history, global studies/ world geography or western civilization), three units;
- computer science, one unit;
- physical education, one unit; and
- foreign language, two units.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Code **IKF-R** Issued **10/16**

All students in grades nine through 11 must be enrolled in at least five courses each semester unless extenuating circumstances are approved by the principal and the executive director for high schools. Seniors, with the exception of fifth year seniors, must be enrolled in at least four courses. These four courses must include any and all core courses required for graduation. Students are required to take an English and/or math course unless waived by the administration.

A student must earn 24 units of credit in state-approved courses for graduation.

The unit requirements are distributed as follows.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Credit units</u>
English/language arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
U.S. History and Constitution	1
Economics	1/2
US Government	1/2
Other social studies	1
PE or junior ROTC	1
Computer science	1
Foreign language or	1
Career and technology education	1
Electives	7
Total	24

Students must pass the following courses, which include the participation in an End-of-Course exam: English I, Biology I, U.S. History, and Algebra I. The student must complete a study of the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist papers and American institutions and ideals. This instruction must be given for a period of at least one year or its equivalent, either within the required course U.S. History and Constitution or within another course. Additionally, students must participate in the U.S. Citizenship exam.

The student must be enrolled for a minimum of one semester immediately preceding his/her graduation except in case of a bona fide change of residence. Units earned in a summer school program do not satisfy this requirement.

Awarding of high school credit

A school also may award and accept credit towards a high school diploma for the following.

- a course that has been approved by the state department of education in a proficiency-based system
- courses in summer programs that meet all the regulatory requirements for courses offered for students in grades nine through 12

- a course that is approved by the district - whether the school offers the particular course or not - if the student receives prior approval
- a course that the student takes in an approved adult education program if the course is approved by the superintendent or his/her designee
- locally designed subject-area courses, elective courses and CATE courses under conditions as outlined in state board of education regulation
- the PE credit if the PE course meets all statutory requirements including the personal fitness and wellness component and the lifetime fitness component
- the American Sign Language course as the required unit in a foreign language
- a college course that a student in grades nine through 12 takes under the district's dual credit arrangement

Adult education

For adult education students receiving a diploma, the unit requirements are distributed as follows.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Credit units</u>
English/language arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
U.S. History and Constitution	1
Economics	1/2
US Government	1/2
Other social studies	1
Computer science (including keyboarding)	1
Electives	9
Total	24

High school credit for college work

Students in grades nine through 12 and/or adult education programs can earn credits for college course work that can be applied to the required number of units for a state high school diploma.

The following conditions apply.

- Courses may be offered through distance learning and cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education. One quality point will be added to the CP weighting for dual credit courses that are applicable.
- Only courses applicable to baccalaureate degrees or to associate degrees offered by institutions accredited by the board of education of that state or the appropriate regional accrediting agency [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)] qualify.

- Tuition and any other fees will be the responsibility of the student or his/her parent/legal guardian.

A three-hour college course will transfer one Carnegie unit.

Units earned for college courses may not be substituted for courses of similar content offered in the high school curriculum.

Issued 2/28/89; Revised 1/8/02, 3/10/09, 3/8/11, 2/7/12