

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**  
**October 11, 2016**

**SUBJECT:**

Changes to Policy IKF and Administrative Rule IKF-R Graduation Requirements

**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:**

Approve the proposed changes on first reading

**ATTACHMENT:**

Policy IKF Graduation Requirements  
Administrative Rule IKF-R Graduation Requirements

**PREPARED BY:**

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## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Code **IKF** Issued **1/02**

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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.

~~Academic achievement honors awards~~ **South Carolina Academic Honors Award (see attached)**

~~In order to receive the South Carolina Academic Achievement Honors Award, a student must meet the following criteria:~~

- ~~• The students will have completed 22 units including the 15 units as approved by the state board of education for college preparatory programs, five additional elective units and two additional units or more of the following areas: English, science, social studies, mathematics.~~
- ~~— The student will have received a minimum final grade of “B” in all courses in grades nine through eleven and through the first semester of the senior year.~~

~~The student will have achieved either a score of 650 on the SAT verbal or a score of 700 on the SAT mathematics, or an ACT score of 30 on English or 33 on mathematics.~~

OR

~~The student will have a combined score of 1350 on the SAT mathematics and verbal sections or an ACT composite score of 31 and have completed 20 units of high school credit and be eligible for graduation with a state high school diploma.~~

- ~~• All courses for the academic achievement honors award in English, mathematics, science and social studies must be taken on the advanced level. No basic level courses may count toward these requirements.~~

### **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.

## **PAGE 2 - IKF - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **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

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### **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.

## **PAGE 3 - IKF - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **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 **2/12**

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 ~~appropriate academic officer-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. ~~With the approval of the principal and appropriate academic officer, fifth year seniors may take only the courses required for graduation.~~

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

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 ~~and pass a classroom test on 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.

~~Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, the student must pass a high school credit course in science in which an end-of-course examination is administered.~~

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.

~~The student must pass both parts of the South Carolina high school exit examination in addition to earning the required number of prescribed units.~~

## 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
- ~~those gateway courses that are a part of the end of course examination program only if the student takes the course approved by the school in which he/she is enrolled and meets all the stipulated requirements of the program~~
- 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

## Exit examination

~~For purposes of state testing requirements, students in their second year of high school enrollment beginning with grade nine are required to take an exit examination consisting of tests in English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies based on state curriculum standards. Passage of the exit examination is a condition for the receipt of a state high school diploma. This requirement also applies to students in an adult education program who are seeking a diploma.~~

~~Students who do not pass the exit examination must receive academic assistance in the area(s) Any student who fails to pass the exit examination and who is actively enrolled in school will~~

~~have two opportunities per year (spring and fall) to pass an equivalent form of the failed part or parts of the examination by meeting the minimum performance standard in effect at the time of the test administration.~~

~~An administration of the exit examination may be available during the summer after the twelfth grade for students who have met all other requirements for graduation and who were actively enrolled in school.~~

~~The district will award an appropriate state certificate to those students who must pass the exit examination to receive a diploma, but fail to do so. The certificate will indicate the number of credits earned and grades completed. A student who has earned the required number of units but who fails to pass the exit exam may enroll in adult education to continue with academic assistance and to re-take the exit exam. If the student is under the age of 21, he/she may continue in school until he/she passes the exit exam and receives a diploma or until he/she reaches 21, whichever occurs first.~~

~~The district will do the following:~~

- ~~• Implement administration and security measures established by the state board of education for the purpose of the exit examination.~~
- ~~• Establish a procedure for written notification of students and parents/legal guardians by the seventh grade or upon entry into the district schools, whichever comes first.~~
- ~~• Publicize the exit examination schedules.~~
- ~~• Recommend for a South Carolina State High School Diploma only those students who pass all parts of the exit examination.~~
- ~~• Provide academic assistance related to the parts not passed.~~
- ~~• Advise students who have met all other requirements for graduation but have not passed the exit examination of other alternatives.~~

~~Districts will identify students who meet the participation criteria for alternative assessment. Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) may take the exit exam with accommodations and/or modifications determined to be appropriate by the IEP team and allowable by state and federal statutes and regulations.~~

### **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 (SCACS 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