

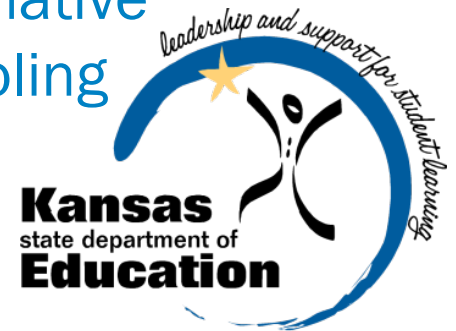
Alternative Requirements and Graduation Flexibility for HS Students and Adults

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Objectives

- Identify flexibility that exists in state graduation regulations
- Review KSA 38-2285 and KSA 38-2388 and their implication on graduation
- Discuss Diploma Completion Advisory Council
- Provide clarity on requirements for alternative programs, including diploma completion programs, alternative high schools, credit recovery and virtual schooling



Graduation Requirements: KAR 91-31-35

Four units of English language arts

Three units of history and government

Three units of science

Three units of mathematics

One unit of physical education, which shall include health

One unit of fine arts

Six units of elective courses

= 21 credits minimum



Graduation Requirements: KAR 91-31-35

- The building administrator may waive up to one unit of English Language Arts if the administrator determines that a pupil can profit more by taking another subject.
- This flexibility should be administered on a case by case basis and should not be local policy to waive the fourth year of English Language Arts for all struggling students.



Graduation Requirements: KAR 91-31-35

- Unless more stringent requirements are specified by existing local policy, the graduation requirements established by this regulation shall apply to those students who enter the ninth grade...
- Local school districts have the discretion to waive district graduation requirements that exceed the minimum state graduation requirements.



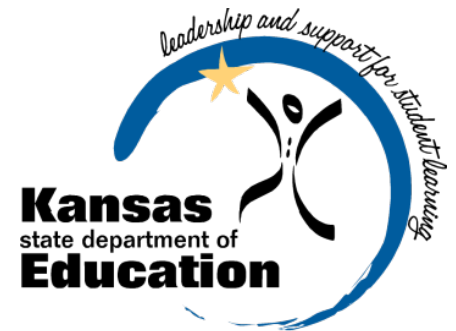
Graduation Requirements: KAR 91-31-35

- KSDE Best Practice graduation requirements for adult learners is either:
 - Require all adult learners to meet the state's minimum graduation requirements; or
 - Require all adult learners to meet the district's current graduation requirements
- KSDE does not recommend using the graduation requirement from when the adult learner was in school



Proficiency Based Credit: KAR 91-31-31

- A full unit of credit is credit that is awarded for satisfactory completion of a course or subject that is offered for and generally requires 120 clock-hours to complete.
- Individual students may be awarded credit based upon demonstrated knowledge of the content of a course or subject, regardless of the amount of time spent by the student in the course or subject.



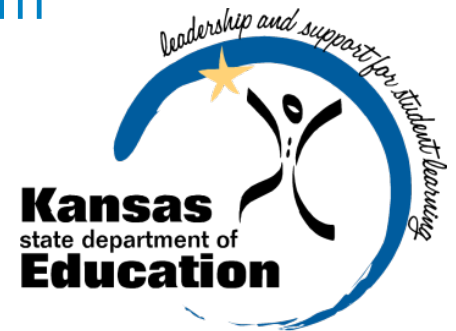
DCF and JJA Diploma: KSA 38-2285 & KSA 38-2388

- The board of education of a school district shall award a high school diploma to any person requesting a diploma if such person:
 - Is at least 17 years of age;
 - Is enrolled or resides in such school district;
 - Is or has been a child in the custody of DCF or JJA at any time on or after such person's 14th birthday; and
 - Has achieved at least the minimum high school graduation requirements adopted by the state board of education



DCF and JJA Diploma: KSA 38-2285 & KSA 38-2388

- Once a student meeting the requirements of the law requests such a diploma, it must be issued
- The student should be awarded a regular high school diploma from the district
- Districts are highly encouraged to allow students to participate in all graduation activities
- Students should be informed that the minimum graduation requirements do not meet Qualified Admission Requirements



Diploma Completion Advisory Council

- The purpose of the Diploma Completion Advisory Council is to advise KSDE on the following:
- Unique differences between individual Diploma Completion Programs
- Barriers to meeting KSDE requirements
- Best practices for educating adult learners
- Audit structure that doesn't unnecessarily burden staff



Diploma Completion Advisory Council

- The outcomes of the Diploma Completion Advisory Council are:
 - A list of requirements and guidelines for existing and future learning centers across the state
 - An annual or risk-based multi-year audit process for existing and future learning centers



Alternative Programs

- The district that will issue the diploma to the student is responsible for the student even though they may be contracting with another entity to provide the educational services.
- This school should be sending all appropriate student records (i.e. ENRL, EOYA, EXIT) into the KIDS system with their building number in the D2 field : AYP/QPA school



Alternative Programs

- Alternative programs may use a virtual course monitor to oversee the student's coursework in an online setting, but the student **MUST** have access to teachers licensed in every content area.
- Course completion should be reported to the district at the end of each semester so that courses can be entered onto the transcript.



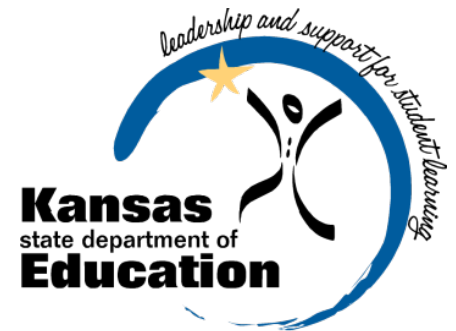
Adult Students

- The “Not Graded” code in the KIDS system applies to:
 - students in alternative schools who have been counted previously as a yearly dropout and who are being submitted again; and
 - students who are adults (fifth-year cohort has graduated)
- It does not apply to students who transfer from a regular high school to an alternative program or fifth-year seniors



Adult Students

- Compulsory Attendance (KSA 72-1111) does not apply to students once they turn 18, although alternative programs can and SHOULD have attendance expectations for adults.
- Alternative programs must track attendance for adult students and report that attendance to the district for use in the EOYA record.



Compulsory Attendance for 16 and 17 Year Old Students

- “If the child is 16 or 17 years of age, the child shall be exempt from the compulsory attendance requirements of this section if (1) the child is regularly enrolled in and attending a program recognized by the local board of education as an approved alternative educational program”
- "Regularly enrolled" means enrolled in five or more hours of instruction each school day”



Compulsory Attendance for 16 and 17 Year Old Students

- So the 16 and 17 year old students aren't exempt from compulsory attendance all together. They are just exempt from it in a traditional school. They are still expected to go for five or more hours in the alternative school.



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