



House Substitute for Senate Bill 23 2013-2014 Fact Sheet

What does the law say?

- The board of education of a school district shall award a high school diploma to any person requesting a diploma if such person: (1) Is at least 17 years of age; (2) is enrolled or resides in such school district; (3) is or has been a child in the custody of the **secretary** at any time on or after such person's 14th birthday; and (4) has achieved at least the minimum high school graduation requirements adopted by the state board of education.
- The board of education of a school district shall award a high school diploma to any person requesting a diploma if such person: (1) Is at least 17 years of age; (2) is enrolled or resides in such school district; (3) is or has been a child in the custody of the **commissioner** at any time on or after such person's 14th birthday; and (4) has achieved at least the minimum high school graduation requirements adopted by the state board of education.

Who are the Secretary and the Commissioner?

- The Kansas Secretary of the Department for Children and Families (DCF) and the Kansas Commissioner of the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA)

What does it mean to be "in the custody" of the Secretary or Commissioner?

- Custody is a legal status created by a court order or statute. The court order or statute gives the Secretary or Commissioner the right to physical possession of the child and the right to determine placement of the child subject to any restrictions placed by the court.

How will the district know that the student has been "in the custody" of the Secretary or Commissioner?

- The student is responsible for showing documentation that he/she has been "in the custody" of the Secretary or Commissioner. The student can access his/her court documents at the district court where his/her hearing was held.

When is a district required to issue a diploma based on the minimum high school graduation requirements?

- When a student meeting the requirements of the law requests such a diploma.

Should a district allow students to participate in graduation activities?

- Districts are highly encouraged to allow students to participate in all graduation activities.

What type of diploma should the district award the student?

- The student should be awarded a regular high school diploma from the district.

What are the minimum high school graduation requirements in Kansas?

- Four units of English language arts, which shall include reading, writing, literature, communication, and grammar. The building administrator may waive up to one unit of this requirement if the administrator determines that a pupil can profit more by taking another subject
- Three units of history and government, which shall include world history; United States history; United States government, including the Constitution of the United States; concepts of economics and geography
- Three units of science, which shall include physical, biological, and earth and space science concepts and which shall include at least one unit as a laboratory course
- Three units of mathematics, including algebraic and geometric concepts
- One unit of physical education, which shall include health and which may include safety, first aid, or physiology
- One unit of fine arts, which may include art, music, dance, theatre, forensics, and other similar studies selected by a local board of education
- Six units of elective courses

Who is the contact if there are questions?

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