

FACT SHEET



Kansas Graduation Requirements

2019-2020

What are the minimum high school graduation requirements in Kansas?

Each local board of education must have a written policy specifying that students are eligible for graduation only upon completion of at least the following requirements:

- 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

Can the local board of education increase the number of graduation requirements?

Any local board of education may increase the number of units of credit required for graduation.

Any additional requirements of the local board of education that increase the number of units of credit required for graduation apply to those students who enter the ninth grade in the school year following the effective date of the additional requirement.

Can the local board of education adopt different graduation requirements for certain students?

Districts are required to award diplomas to requesting students who have met the state minimum graduation requirements and were in custody of Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) or Kansas Department for Children and Families (KDCF) is on or after their 14th birthday. For more information about these requirements, please see the Diploma for Students in Custody of KDOC and KDCF (SB 23) [Fact Sheet on the Graduation Webpage](#). Local boards of education may adopt a different number of graduation requirements (not lower than the state minimum) for adult learners whose four- and five-year cohorts have graduated or for students attending an alternative school or program. Most typically, diplomas are awarded to these students for successful



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completion of the state minimum graduation requirements.

Local boards of education can also adopt policy giving the superintendent and/or principal the discretion to waive local graduation requirements that are in excess of the state minimum for students on a case by case basis. Situations that would be appropriate to receive this discretion include, but are not limited to, students who experienced high mobility, teen pregnancy and long-term illness. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) does not support policies that automatically waive local graduation requirements for students with disabilities that are in excess of the state minimum.

Is a district allowed to waive the Physical Education (PE)/Health requirement?

- The PE/Health requirement shall be waived if the school district is provided with either of the following:
- A statement by a licensed physician that a pupil is mentally or physically incapable of participating in a regular or modified physical education program; or

- A statement, signed by a lawful custodian of the pupil, indicating that the requirement is contrary to the religious teachings of the pupil.

Can a student earn high school credit for a course taken in eighth grade?

It is up to each local district whether an eighth grade course will count as a high school credit. If high school credit is given, the eighth grade course must be equivalent to, or the same as, a high school course.

Courses must be taken at the high school level to count toward Regents' Qualified Admissions requirements. No eighth grade courses will count toward Qualified Admissions.

Where can I find more information about Regents' Qualified Admissions requirements?

The Kansas Board of Regents has information available on their website:

http://www.kansasregents.org/qualified_admissions

For more information, contact:

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