

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board desires that its standards for graduation meet the Minimum Standards of the Ohio Department of Education as well as those of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and that our high schools will compare favorably with high schools recognized for excellence in the state.

The minimum requirements for graduation from high school are as follows:

	For <b>2011</b> graduates	For <b>2012</b> and <b>2013</b> graduates	For <b>2014</b> graduates and beyond
English	4 units of credit	4 units of credit	4 units of credit
Social Studies	3 units of credit	3 units of credit	3 units of credit
Science	3 units of credit	3 units of credit	3 units of credit
Mathematics	3 units of credit	3 units of credit	4 units of credit
Health	½ unit of credit	½ unit of credit	½ unit of credit
Physical Education	½ unit of credit	½ unit of credit	½ unit of credit
Pathways to Your Future	½ unit of credit	½ unit of credit	½ unit of credit
Electives*	7 ½ units of credit	6 ½ units of credit	5 units of credit
<b>Total:</b>	22 units	21 units	20 ½ units

For the graduating classes of 2011, 2012, and 2013, as determined by the Fairfield City School District, Electives must include one unit or two half-units of Business/Technology, Fine Arts, or Foreign Language. Social Studies must include one unit in American Studies, one unit in World Studies, and one unit in American Government. Science must include one unit in Physical Science and one unit in Biological Science.

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July, 1, 2010, the following is required for graduation:

- One unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II;
- Science units which reflect inquiry-based laboratory experience that engage students and including one unit of Physical science, one unit of biology, and advanced study in one or more of the following sciences:
  - Chemistry, physics, or other physical science;
  - Advanced biology or other life science;
  - Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science.
- One-half unit of American history and one-half unit of American government; (Fairfield City School District will continue to require one unit in American Studies, one unit in World Studies, and one unit in American Government.)
- The integration of economic and financial literacy academic content standards in social studies or other courses; and
- One sequence of any combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies courses not otherwise required, for a total of five units.

Further, students must pass all tests required by the state of Ohio for graduation unless they have been exempted from the test based on their I.E.P.

Summer school credits will be accepted toward graduation, provided that administrative approval has been given prior to registration for the course.

Credits obtained through the successful completion of a credit flexibility plan approved by the Fairfield City School District will be accepted toward graduation.

The District will accept credits earned toward graduation from those schools chartered by the State Department of Education. Nonchartered and home schooling credit will be granted in accordance with regulations established by the Superintendent.

Students must attend through seven terms (semesters). Seniors may graduate early at the end of the seventh term if they have met all graduation requirements and submit the appropriate paperwork. The Superintendent may grant requests for early graduation by students who have attended less than seven terms (semesters) and who have compelling and extenuating circumstances such that in the opinion of the Superintendent the best interests of the respective students would not be served by requiring completion of seven terms (semesters).

Credit is awarded for a course successfully completed during or outside of regular school hours at an accredited postsecondary institution by a student under the Post- Secondary Enrollment Options Program, or outside of the regular school hours at an accredited postsecondary institution by a student not under the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program. In the latter instance, any course fees are the responsibility of the student's parents. High school credit awarded for a course successfully completed under this section of the Ohio Revised Code counts toward the graduation requirements and subject areas requirements of the District. If a course comparable to the course successfully completed is offered by the District, then comparable credit for the completed equivalent course shall be awarded. If no comparable course is offered, the District shall grant to the student an appropriate number of credits in a similar subject area.

High school courses offered through correspondence courses will be accepted for credit toward graduation only when they meet these criteria:

1. Credits earned in correspondence schools directly affiliated with state universities will be evaluated by the school administration for students who wish to qualify for graduation from high school.
2. Credits earned from schools which have been established primarily for correspondence study, rather than an institution primarily for residence study, will be evaluated by the school administration for students who wish to qualify for graduation from high school.

A student who is admitted to Fairfield Schools from a nonchartered school or from home schooling must be enrolled in Fairfield Senior High School for no less than three full consecutive semesters, excluding summer school, immediately prior to that student's date of graduation in order to be considered for selection as salutatorian or valedictorian for graduation purposes.

The Board assumes at the time of graduation each student has fulfilled all academic and financial obligations. A good school record, scholastic and otherwise, is the best recommendation an applicant can offer, either for college admission or for a job. A record of good personal behaviors and cooperation is expected.

### **Coursework Prior to Ninth Grade**

Student work completed prior to the ninth grade is applied towards graduation credit if the course is taught by a licensed teacher and is designated by the Board as meeting the curriculum requirements. Grades earned in such courses prior to the ninth grade will not be included in the determination of the students' GPA.

**Physical Education Exemption**

A student who, during grades 9, 10, and/or 11 of high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading for at least two full seasons is not required to complete any physical education courses as a condition to graduate. However, the student is required to complete one-half unit, consisting of at least 60 hours of instruction, in another course of study. The Board directs the Superintendent to develop regulations for the implementation of this option.

(Adopted: April 17, 2003; Revised: May 21, 2009; revised: May 20, 2010)

LEGAL REFS:       ORC 3313.60; 3313.603; 3313.61  
                      OAC 3301-35-02

CROSS REF:       IGCD, Educational Options (Also LEB)  
                      IGCH, Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (Also LEC)  
                      IKFB, Graduation Exercises  
                      JECBC, Admission of Students From Nonchartered Or Home Schooling