

Williamson County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in December	Descriptor Term: Graduation Requirements	Descriptor Code: 4.605	Issued Date: Click here to enter a date.
		Rescinds: 4.605	Issued: 04/20/15

1 *General*

2 The program of studies shall include areas required by the State Board of Education.

3 Before high school graduation, every student shall:¹

- 4 1. Achieve the specified twenty-two (22) units of credit;
- 5 2. Take the required end of course exams;
- 6 3. Take the ACT or SAT prior to graduation;² and
- 7 4. Complete a United States civics test.³

8 **GRADUATION CEREMONY**

9 Qualification for and participation in graduation or commencement ceremonies shall be limited to
10 seniors who have satisfactorily completed the requirements for a diploma. Students completing
11 requirements in the summer may participate in a district-wide summer graduation ceremony

12 Upon completion of the Fifth (5th) and Eighth (8th) grades, recognition programs for students may be
13 celebrated. Report cards for those students may be presented at that time, along with special
14 recognition of student's achievement. Formal graduation activities are reserved for graduation from
15 high school.

16 **DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS**

17 Graduation requirements for Williamson County students will be in compliance with (meet or exceed)
18 currently approved regulations of the Tennessee State Board of Education regarding types of diplomas
19 and course requirements as outlined in policy 4.6051.

20 **SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS⁴**

21 Special education students who earn the prescribed twenty-two (22) credit minimum, without
22 modification, shall be awarded a regular high school diploma.

23 Students who have received the below diplomas shall continue to make progress towards a regular high
24 school diploma until the end of the school year in which they turn twenty-two (22) years old.

25 *Special Education Diploma*

1 A special education diploma shall be awarded to students who have not met the requirements for a regular
2 high school diploma,⁵ but have:

- 3 1. Completed four (4) years of high school;
- 4 2. Made satisfactory progress on their IEP; and

5 *Occupational Diploma*

6 Special education students who do not meet the requirements for a regular high school diploma may be
7 awarded an occupational diploma if the student has:^{1,4}

- 8 1. Completed at least four (4) years of high school;
- 9 2. Made satisfactory progress on their IEP;
- 10 3. Completed the occupational diploma Skills, Knowledge, and Experience Mastery Assessment
11 (SKEMA); and
- 12 4. Has two (2) years of paid or non-paid work experience.

13 The decision to attain an occupational diploma shall be made at the conclusion of the student's 10th grade
14 year or two (2) academic years prior to the expected graduation date.

15 *Alternate Academic Diploma*

16 Special education students who do not meet the requirements for a regular high school diploma may be
17 awarded an alternate academic diploma if the student has:⁴

- 18 1. Completed at least four (4) years of high school;
- 19 2. Participated in the high school alternate assessments;
- 20 3. Earned the prescribed twenty-two (22) credit minimum;
- 21 4. Made satisfactory progress on their IEP; and
- 22 5. Completed a transition assessment that measures postsecondary education and training,
23 employment, independent living, and community involvement.

24 **STUDENT LOAD**

25 All full time students in grades 9-12 shall be enrolled each semester in subjects that produce a minimum
26 of six (6) units of credit for graduation per year.

27 **EARLY GRADUATION**

28 *Fast Track Option to Early Graduation*

29 Limits on the amount of high school course credit for students following a Fast Track option to early
30 graduation are as follows:

- 31 1. A maximum of eleven (11) credits may be earned during a full calendar (12 months) year.
- 32 2. A maximum of nine (9) credits may be earned during a regular academic (180 day school
33 calendar) year.
- 34 3. A maximum of three (3) credits may be earned during a full summer.

- 1 4. A maximum of nine (9) credits, cumulative throughout high school career, may be earned in
 2 summer school to be counted for meeting graduation requirements.
 3 5. Any exception to this policy must be requested in writing. The request must be approved in

3 A variety of honors and distinctions may be awarded to graduating students meeting state or locally
 4 specified criteria. Students are eligible to earn all honors and distinctions listed below. See the WCS
 5 Program of Study guide for criteria. Students are responsible for self reporting and submitting
 6 evidence for each of the honors and distinctions.

- 7 1. Williamson County Schools Honors Diploma
 8 2. Tennessee Honors
 9 3. Williamson County Distinction
 10 4. Tennessee Tri Star Scholar
 11 5. Tennessee Distinction
 12 6. Seal of Biliteracy
 13 7. Community Service
 14 8. National Career Readiness
 15 9. Work Ethic Distinction
 16 10. Individual School Honors Diploma

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-6001; State Board of Education Policy 2.103
2. TCA 49-6-6001(b); State Board of Education Policy 2.103
3. TCA 49-6-408; State Board of Education Policy 2.103
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.06(1)(a); State Board of Education Policy 2.103
5. TCA 49-6-6005; State Board of Education Policy 2.103
6. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.06(1)(a)(7)
7. TCA 49-6-8303; State Board of Education Policy 2.103

Cross References

Basic Curriculum Program 4.201
 Honor Roll, Awards, & Class Ranking 4.602