

Williamson County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: <h2 style="text-align: center;">Credit Requirements for Graduation</h2>	Descriptor Code: <h3 style="text-align: center;">4.6051</h3>	Issued Date: <h3 style="text-align: center;">10/21/19</h3>
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 The following units of credit shall be required for graduation. Students shall complete the required
 2 core curriculum and the additional path requirement. All students shall enroll in six credit classes each
 3 year in high school unless exempted. Exemptions to the six credit class requirement not covered by an
 4 I.E.P. or §504 plan shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent for approval.

5 CORE CURRICULUM

	Units of Credit
6 English Language Arts	4
7 Mathematics	4
8 Science	3
9 Social Studies	3
10 Wellness	1
11 Physical Education	.5
12 Personal Finance	.5
13 Sub-Total	16.0

14 The High School Transition Policy (2010) requires students to take a mathematics course each year
 15 while in high school to complete a 4-credit core that must include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II,
 16 (or equivalent of these courses), and one advanced math course. These courses must appear on the
 17 student's transcript.

18 Students shall be required to complete 3 units of Science credit including the following: Biology I,
 19 Chemistry or Physics, and a third lab science.

20 Students shall be required to complete 3 units of Social Studies credit including the following: United
 21 States History; World History and Geography, European History AP, or Human Geography AP;
 22 Economics; and U.S. Government.

23 Certain CTE substitutions may be used to fulfill graduation requirements in accordance with TDOE
 24 approved course substitutions.

25 JROTC substitutions: Two credits of JROTC may substitute for one credit of Lifetime Wellness and
 26 .5 credit of Physical Education. Three credits of JROTC may substitute for .5 credit of Personal
 27 Finance, and .5 credit of U.S. Government provided the teacher meets the requirements set out in
 28 federal and state requirements.

29 The .5 Physical Education requirement may be met by substituting a documented and equivalent time
 30 of physical activity in marching band, JROTC, cheerleading, dance team, TSSAA interscholastic
 31 athletics, or athletics for high school students which are under the management of a Tennessee not-

1 for-profit entity and which are approved by the Superintendent and other areas approved by the
 2 Board. A TDOE approved dance course may substitute for the .5 Physical Education credit if not
 3 utilized as a Fine Art credit.

4 **ADDITIONAL PATH REQUIREMENTS**

	Units of Credit
5	
6 World Language*	2
7 Fine Arts*	1
8 Elective Focus**	3
9 Sub-Total	6
10 TOTAL	22.0

11 *Students not planning to attend a university may request a waiver of the world language and/or fine
 12 arts requirements to expand and enhance their elective focus. Approval of such should come from the
 13 Office of the Assistant Superintendent for Middle and High Schools.

14 **The elective focus may be Science and Math, Humanities/Fine Arts, AP/IB, Military Science or
 15 CTE. WCS students completing a CTE elective focus shall be required to earn a minimum of 3.0
 16 credits from a single career cluster as designated by TDOE. Academic Intervention may also be
 17 available as an elective focus for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or those who
 18 qualify to receive English Language Learner (ELL) services.

19 Individual high schools may set additional credit requirements with only approval from the Board.
 20 These requirements shall be listed on each school's website.

21 **WILLIAMSON COUNTY SCHOOLS RESIDENTS PARTICIPATING IN A FOREIGN** 22 **EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

23
 24 Williamson County students who participate as a foreign exchange student will not receive high
 25 school credits for a foreign exchange experience absent a special exception which may be granted
 26 by the Superintendent upon request by an individual student. Determination shall be made on an
 27 individual basis.

28 **HIGH SCHOOL COURSE CREDIT**

29 Limits on the amount of high school course credit that may be earned for students following a
 30 traditional four-year graduation plan are as follows:

- 31
- 32 1. A maximum of ten (10) credits may be earned during a full calendar (12 months) year.
- 33 2. A maximum of eight (8) credits may be earned during a regular academic (180 day
- 34 school calendar) year.
- 35 3. A maximum of two (2) credits may be earned during a full summer.
- 36 4. A maximum of six (6) credits, cumulative throughout high school career, may be earned
- 37 in summer school to be counted for meeting graduation requirements.

- 1 5. A maximum of six (6) credits during the high school career may be earned through a
2 credit recovery program. Students who have attempted and failed a semester in certain
3 course(s) may be approved to earn credit through the credit recovery program.
4 Administrative guidelines will establish parameters for earning credit through this program.
5 On the student's transcript, "CR" will be listed by the course name to indicate the course was
6 completed through credit recovery.
- 7 6. Any exception to this policy must be requested in writing. The request must be approved
8 in writing by the principal and the Superintendent and reported to the Board.

9 Limits on the amount of high school course credit for students on an approved Fast Track option to
10 early graduation are as follows:

- 11
- 12 1. A maximum of eleven (11) credits may be earned during a full calendar (12 months)
13 year.
 - 14 2. A maximum of nine (9) credits may be earned during a regular academic (180 day school
15 calendar) year.
 - 16 3. A maximum of three (3) credits may be earned during a full summer.
 - 17 4. A maximum of nine (9) credits, cumulative throughout high school career, may be earned
18 in summer school to be counted for meeting graduation requirements.
 - 19 5. Any exception to this policy must be requested in writing. The request must be approved
20 in writing by the principal and the Superintendent and reported to the Board.

21 **FOCUSED PLAN OF STUDY:**

22 Each 8th grade student, parent/guardian and faculty advisor or school counselor will jointly prepare
23 an initial four year plan of study. By the end of the 10th grade, the student, parent/guardian and school
24 will focus this plan to ensure completion of the program of study and transition to post-secondary study
25 and work. This plan will be reviewed annually by the student and faculty advisor or school counselor
26 and revised as appropriate.

27 **HIGH SCHOOL COURSES TAKEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

28 WCS high school courses taken before high school will receive high school credit by passing (grade 70
29 or above) both semesters of the course and will be recorded as Pass/Fail with no grade point (GPA)
30 value. The following WCS courses have been approved to be taught before high school and receive
31 high school credit: Algebra I, Geometry, Principles of Manufacturing and Level I World Languages.
32 If taught at the honors level, these courses will count towards the Williamson County Honors Diploma.
33 Additional high school courses will not be taught at the middle school level absent a special exception
34 which may be granted by the Superintendent of Schools or designee upon request. Determinations
35 shall be made on an individual basis.

36

37 **ASSESSMENTS:** Students, other than exempted seniors, will be required to take either state,
38 district, or teacher-developed final examinations in core high school courses or exams provided by
39 College Board or the International Baccalaureate Program. State End of Course (EOC)
40 examinations or teacher-developed tests will be administered in all other core

1 courses. Grades will incorporate state-provided exam results at the minimum weight allowed by
2 the Tennessee State Board of Education. Locally-provided exam results will be incorporated into
3 student grades at the same weight as state-provided exam results.

4 **COLLEGE COURSES:** Courses taken for college credit will be recorded as Pass/Fail with no grade
5 point (GPA) value. Students enrolled in state-wide dual credit courses will receive traditional grades
6 on both their report cards and transcripts. Results from the dual credit challenge exam will appear
7 as a separate entry on student transcripts.

8
9 **ONLINE COURSES:** Enrollment in online courses should occur in consultation with the
10 student's high school counselor and should be approved by the school principal or designee. The
11 student must pass the class under the standards established by an accredited institution offering the
12 course. The course will be entered on the high school transcript as pass/fail with no grade point
13 (GPA) value unless taken through the WCS Online Learning Program.

Legal References

1. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.06(4)(a)

Cross References

Promoting Student Welfare 6.400