

# Williamson County Board of Education

**Adopted Date:**

2/16/04  
Rev. 6/20/05; 4/16/07;  
5/21/07;10/20/08;  
3/16/09;11/30/09;7/19/10;  
6/18/12;6/17/13;3/24/14;  
5/18/15; 6/20/16; 11/21/16;  
Editorial 6/19/17

4.6051

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION  
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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  
3 each year in high school unless exempted. Exemptions to the six credit class requirement not  
4 covered by an I.E.P. or §504 plan shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent for approval.  
5

## 6 CORE CURRICULUM

7		Units of Credit
8	English Language Arts	4
9	Mathematics <sup>a</sup>	4
10	Science <sup>b</sup>	3
11	Social Studies <sup>c,d,e</sup>	3
12	Wellness <sup>e</sup>	1
13	Physical Education <sup>e,f</sup>	.5
14	Personal Finance <sup>d,e</sup>	.5
15		
16		
17	Sub-Total	16.0
18		

19 Each graduate must have completed 180 hours of computer education at some time during the  
20 student's educational career that can be documented or verified and must establish technology  
21 literacy prior to graduation. Students who transfer from another state during their senior year are  
22 exempt from this requirement.  
23

24  
25 <sup>a</sup> The High School Transition Policy (2010) requires students to take a mathematics course each  
26 year while in high school to complete a 4-credit core that must include Algebra I, Geometry,  
27 Algebra II, (or equivalent of these courses), and one advanced math course.  
28

29 <sup>b</sup> Students shall be required to complete 3 units of Science credit including the following: Biology I,  
30 Chemistry or Physics, and a third lab science. Completion of both Principles of Technology I and  
31 Principles of Technology II may substitute for Physics.  
32

33 <sup>c</sup> Students shall be required to complete 3 units of Social Studies credit including the following:  
34 United States History; World History and Geography, European History AP, or Human Geography  
35 AP; Economics; and U.S. Government.  
36  
37

38 <sup>d</sup> Career and Technical Education (CTE) substitutions: Certain CTE courses may be used to fulfill  
39 the .5 credit Economics requirement provided the teacher meets the requirement as set out in  
40 federal or state requirements. These CTE courses may only substitute if the student has selected  
41 an elective focus that includes a CTE program of study.  
42

43 <sup>e</sup> JROTC substitutions: Two credits of JROTC may substitute for one credit of Lifetime Wellness.  
44 Three credits of JROTC may substitute for .5 credit of Physical Education, .5 credit of Personal  
45 Finance, and .5 credit of U.S. Government provided the teacher meets the requirements set out in  
46 federal and state requirements.  
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1 f The .5 Physical Education requirement may be met by substituting a documented and equivalent  
2 time of physical activity in marching band, JROTC, cheerleading, dance team, TSSAA  
3 interscholastic athletics, or athletics for high school students which are under the management of a  
4 Tennessee not-for-profit entity and which are approved by the Superintendent and other areas  
5 approved by the Board.  
6

## 7 ADDITIONAL PATH REQUIREMENTS

8		Units of Credit
9		
10	World Language*	2
11	Fine Arts*	1
12	Elective Focus**	3
13		
14	Sub-Total	6
15		
16	TOTAL	22.0
17		

18  
19 \*Students not planning to attend a university may request a waiver of the world language and fine  
20 arts requirements to expand and enhance their elective focus. Approval of such should come from  
21 the Office of the Assistant Superintendent for Middle and High Schools.  
22

23 \*\*The elective focus may be Science and Math, Humanities/Fine Arts, AP/IB, Military Science or  
24 CTE. WCS students completing a CTE elective focus shall be required to earn a minimum of 3.0  
25 credits from a single career cluster as designated by TDOE. Academic Intervention may also be  
26 available as an elective focus for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)- or those  
27 who qualify to receive English Language Learner (ELL) services.  
28

29  
30 Individual high schools may set additional credit requirements with only approval from the Board.  
31 These requirements shall be listed on each school's website.  
32

## 33 WILLIAMSON COUNTY SCHOOLS RESIDENTS PARTICIPATING IN A FOREIGN EXCHANGE 34 PROGRAM

35  
36 Williamson County students who participate as a foreign exchange student will not receive high  
37 school credits for a foreign exchange experience absent a special exception which may be granted  
38 by the Superintendent upon request by an individual student. Determination shall be made on an  
39 individual basis.  
40

## 41 HIGH SCHOOL COURSE CREDIT

42  
43  
44 Limits on the amount of high school course credit that may be earned for students following a  
45 traditional four-year graduation plan are as follows:

- 46 1. A maximum of ten (10) credits may be earned during a full calendar (12 months) year.
- 47 2. A maximum of eight (8) credits may be earned during a regular academic (180 day school  
48 calendar) year.  
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- 1 3. A maximum of two (2) credits may be earned during a full summer.
- 2 4. A maximum of six (6) credits, cumulative throughout high school career, may be earned in
- 3 summer school to be counted for meeting graduation requirements.
- 4 5. A maximum of six (6) credits during the high school career may be earned through a credit
- 5 recovery program. Students who have attempted and failed a semester in certain course(s)
- 6 may be approved to earn credit through the credit recovery program. Administrative
- 7 guidelines will establish parameters for earning credit through this program. On the
- 8 student's transcript, "CR" will be listed by the course name to indicate the course was
- 9 completed through credit recovery.
- 10
- 11 6. Any exception to this policy must be requested in writing. The request must be approved in
- 12 writing by the principal and the Superintendent and reported to the Board.
- 13

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

- 16
- 17 1. A maximum of eleven (11) credits may be earned during a full calendar (12 months) year.
- 18 2. A maximum of nine (9) credits may be earned during a regular academic (180 day school
- 19 calendar) year.
- 20 3. A maximum of three (3) credits may be earned during a full summer.
- 21 4. A maximum of nine (9) credits, cumulative throughout high school career, may be earned in
- 22 summer school to be counted for meeting graduation requirements.
- 23 5. Any exception to this policy must be requested in writing. The request must be approved in
- 24 writing by the principal and the Superintendent and reported to the Board.
- 25
- 26

27 **FOCUSED PLAN OF STUDY:** Each 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, parent/guardian and faculty advisor or  
28 school counselor will jointly prepare an initial four year plan of study. By the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade,  
29 the student, parent/guardian and school will focus this plan to ensure completion of the program of  
30 study and transition to post-secondary study and work. This plan will be reviewed annually by the  
31 student and faculty advisor or school counselor and revised as appropriate.  
32

33  
34 **HIGH SCHOOL COURSES TAKEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL:** The following high school courses  
35 taken before high school will receive high school credit by passing (grade 70 or above) both  
36 semesters of the course and will be recorded as Pass/Fail with no grade point (GPA) value:  
37 Algebra I, Geometry, and Level I World Languages. If taught at honors level, these courses will  
38 count towards the Williamson County Honors Diploma. Additional high school courses will not  
39 receive high school credits absent a special exception which may be granted by the Superintendent  
40 of Schools or designee upon request by an individual student or guardian. Determinations shall be  
41 made on an individual basis.  
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1 **ASSESSMENTS:** Students, other than exempted seniors, will be required to take either state,  
2 district, or teacher-developed final examinations in core high school courses or exams provided by  
3 College Board or the International Baccalaureate Programme. State End of Course (EOC)  
4 examinations will include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, English I, English II, English III, Biology I,  
5 Chemistry, and U.S. History District or teacher-developed tests will be administered in all other core  
6 courses. Grades will incorporate state-provided exam results at the minimum weight allowed by  
7 the Tennessee State Board of Education. Locally-provided exam results will be incorporated into  
8 student grades at the same weight as state-provided exam results.  
9

10  
11 **COLLEGE COURSES:** Courses taken for college credit will be recorded as Pass/Fail with no grade  
12 point (GPA) value. Students enrolled in state-wide dual credit courses will receive traditional grades  
13 on both their report cards and transcripts. Results from the dual credit challenge exam will appear  
14 as a separate entry on student transcripts.  
15

16 **E-COURSES:** E-courses are offered only to students enrolled in high school. Enrollment in e-  
17 courses should occur in consultation with the student's high school counselor and should be  
18 approved by the school principal or designee. The student must pass the class under the  
19 standards established by an accredited institution offering the course. This course will be entered  
20 on the high school transcript as Pass/Fail with no grade point (GPA) value.  
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27 Legal References:

28 TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.06  
29 TCA 49-1-212  
30 TN State Board of Education High School Transition Policy  
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Cross References:

4.600 Grading Systems and Report Cards  
4.604 Advanced Placement and International  
Baccalaureate Programs  
4.605 Graduation Requirements  
4.210 Driver Education  
4.6041 Testing for Credit