Graduation from the Williamson County School System indicates that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study in accordance with their respective abilities to achieve and that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and other requirements set by the State and supplemented by the faculty with the approval of the Board. (In addition, students shall have maintained a satisfactory record of citizenship during their progression through the instructional program of the schools.)

EXIT EXAMS
With the exception of students on an alternative assessment path detailed in an IEP, every student in Williamson County Schools is required to take the ACT as a requirement for graduation. Up to 2% of the students in the 11th grade group may be excused by an IEP team as allowed by federal or state law. The test will be administered to 11th grade students at the regular spring testing date established by ACT. Each high school will inform and register students for the spring test using a voucher purchased by the school system from ACT. Students who fail to take the exam on the scheduled day and their parents will be reminded of the requirement and encouraged to register for the next test date. Students who do not take the test on the date established by the school system may be required to pay from personal funds for the make-up exam. The school is responsible for notifying students and parents of this graduation requirement in handbooks and other student publications and school forms.

GRADUATION CEREMONY
Qualification for and participation in graduation or commencement ceremonies shall be limited to seniors who have satisfactorily completed the requirements for a diploma. Beginning with school year 2014-2015, students completing requirements in the summer may participate in a district-wide summer graduation ceremony.

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

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS
The Board authorizes the awarding of high school diplomas or attendance certificates to those students recommended by the school staff, the principal and approved by the Superintendent as having met the requirements for graduation established by the Board and the Tennessee State Board of Education. Individual schools, with Board approval, may set requirements that exceed those established by the state and the Board as minimum requirements. These requirements shall be placed on the school’s website.

The types of diplomas or certificates that may be awarded to graduating seniors include the regular diploma, the diploma with honors, the Williamson County honors diploma, an individual school honors diploma (where available), the special education diploma (completed I.E.P. for graduation), and an attendance certificate, all according to State regulations (0520-1-3-.06) and other local requirements specified in the following section of this policy.

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS
Graduation requirements for Williamson County students will be in compliance with (meet or exceed) currently approved regulations of the Tennessee State Board of Education regarding types of diplomas and course requirements as outlined in policy 4.605.

Cross References:
4.605 Credit Requirements for Graduation
4.60511 Graduation with Honors or Distinction