



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF PASCO COUNTY

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools

7227 Land O' Lakes Boulevard • Land O' Lakes, Florida 34638

Dear Parents,

The District School Board of Pasco County is dedicated to fulfilling the promise of college, career, and life readiness for all students. Our goal is for each student to graduate with the skills to be ready for life and that their educational experiences will empower them to explore viable post-secondary options.

It is important for students, parents, and school staff to understand the graduation requirements and options facing students. The purpose of this letter is to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the current requirements for every student. This is essential to keep students on track and successful in high school. For a detailed breakdown of the changes and additional information please refer to http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/cis/graduation_requirements.

As Florida statutes change, graduation requirements are subject to revision. In the event that changes occur, we will provide updates to you through this website.

Senate Bill 1076

Senate Bill 1076, Relating to K-20 Education, was written into law with an effective date of July 1, 2013. Its provisions address numerous areas, including Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options, middle grades progression, high school graduation requirements, student assessment, and student progression plans. Senate Bill 1076 may be viewed online at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/1076/BillText/er/PDF>.

New Designations for the Standard High School Diploma

While there is only one Standard Diploma, students may now earn a Standard Diploma with a Merit and/or a Scholar Designation. There are additional requirements on top of the Standard Diploma requirements that need to be met by the student to earn these designations.

Changes to Course and Assessment Criteria

According to Florida law, students must meet all academic requirements in order to earn a Standard Diploma from a public school. This means that students must pass required courses, earn a minimum number of credits, earn a minimum grade point average, and pass the required statewide assessments. Students who meet these requirements but do not pass the required assessments will receive a Certificate of Completion, which is not equivalent to a Standard Diploma. Students with disabilities may qualify for an assessment waiver by meeting specific guidelines defined by the Department of Education.

The recent changes impact certain groups of students differently. The requirements for a Standard Diploma and new designations are unique to a student's cohort year (the year the student entered 9th grade). These requirements are outlined in the following four "*Standard Diploma Option*" tables found on the next two pages. **These tables are organized by 9th grade cohort.** To determine the Standard Diploma requirements for a student, please consult the table that corresponds to the year the student entered high school.

2013-2014 9th Grade Cohort Standard Diploma Option

Revised 11/12/2013

(24 Credits)

Year student enters Grade 9	Subject	Credits	Description	Testing Requirements
2013/2014 Graduating Class of 2017	English	4	English/Language Arts I,II,III,IV or equivalent, applied, integrated, or higher level courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must Pass Grade 10 ELA Common Core Assessment. Take Grade 11 ELA Common Core Assessment
	Math	4	Algebra 1 or equivalent - Required, Geometry or equivalent - Required, 2 Additional Mathematics courses¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment, Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC Assessment count for 30% of student's final course grade If enrolled in Algebra 2, must take Algebra 2 EOC and will count for 30% of student's final course grade once EOC is implemented.
	Science	3	Biology 1 - Required, 2-Equally rigorous courses², 2 of 3 credits must have a lab component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology EOC Assessment counts for 30% of student's final course grade
	Social Studies	3	World History - Required, US History - Required, US Government - Required (.5 credit), Economics - Financial Literacy - Required (.5 credit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History EOC Assessment counts for 30% of student's final course grade³
	Fine/Perf Arts	1		
	PE	1	Course must include integration of Health	
	Elective	8		
	On-line		1 Completed Course (excluding Driver's Ed)	

- All students enrolled in a State EOC Course (Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, and US History) must sit for the assessment.

¹Additional Math Notes for 2013/2014:

- If enrolled in Algebra 2, must take Algebra 2 EOC and will count for 30% of student's final course grade once EOC is implemented.
- Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute up to 2 math credits but NOT for Algebra 1 or Geometry.

²Science Substitutions for 2013/2014:

- Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute up to 1 Science Credit but NOT for Biology 1.
- Not all science courses are considered equally rigorous.

³US History Notes:

- Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment/AP US History are not required to sit for the State US History End-of-Course Assessment.

2012-2013 9th Grade Cohort Standard Diploma Option

Revised 11/12/2013

(24 Credits)

Year student enters Grade 9	Subject	Credits	Description	Testing Requirements
2012/2013 Graduating Class of 2016	English	4	English I,II,III, IV or equivalent courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must Pass Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading or Concordant Score on ACT/SAT.
	Math	4	Algebra 1 or equivalent - Required, Geometry or equivalent - Required, 2 Additional Mathematics courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment, Must take the Geometry EOC Assessment
	Science	3	Biology 1 - Required, 2 of 3 credits must have a lab component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must take the Biology EOC
	Social Studies	3	World History - Required, US History - Required, US Government - Required (.5 credit), Economics - Financial Literacy - Required (.5 credit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History EOC Assessment counts for 30% of student's final course grade³
	Fine/Perf Arts	1		
	PE	1	Course must include integration of Health	
	Elective	8		
	On-line		1 Completed Course	

- All students enrolled in a State EOC Course (Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, and US History) must sit for the assessment.

³US History Notes:

- Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment/AP US History are not required to sit for the State US History End-of-Course Assessment.

2011-2012 9th Grade Cohort Standard Diploma Option

Revised 11/12/2013

(24 Credits)

Year student enters Grade 9	Subject	Credits	Description	Testing Requirements
2011/2012 Graduating Class of 2015	English	4	English I,II,III, IV or equivalent courses	• Must Pass Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading or Concordant Score on ACT/SAT.
	Math	4	Algebra 1 or equivalent - Required , Geometry or equivalent - Required , 2 Additional Mathematics courses	• Pass the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment, • Must take the Geometry EOC Assessment
	Science	3	Biology 1 - Required , 2 of 3 credits must have a lab component	• Must take the Biology EOC
	Social Studies	3	World History - Required , US History - Required , US Government - Required (.5 credit), Economics - Financial Literacy - Required (.5 credit)	
	Fine/Perf Arts	1		
	PE	1	Course must include integration of Health	
	Elective	8		
	On-line		1 Completed Course	

- All students enrolled in a State EOC Course (Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, and US History) must sit for the assessment.
- US History Notes:
 - Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment/AP US History are not required to sit for the State US History End-of-Course Assessment.

2010-2011 9th Grade Cohort Standard Diploma Option

Revised 11/12/2013

(24 Credits)

Year student enters Grade 9	Subject	Credits	Description	Testing Requirements
2010/2011 Graduating Class of 2014	English	4	English I,II,III, IV or equivalent courses	• Must Pass Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading or Concordant Score on ACT/SAT.
	Math	4	Algebra 1 or equivalent - Required , Geometry or equivalent - Required , 2 Additional Mathematics courses	• Algebra 1 EOC Assessment counts for 30% of student's final course grade
	Science	3	2 of 3 credits must have a lab component	
	Social Studies	3	World History - Required , US History - Required , US Government - Required (.5 credit), Economics - Financial Literacy - Required (.5 credit)	
	Fine/Perf Arts	1		
	PE	1	Course must include integration of Health	
	Elective	8		
	On-line			

- All students enrolled in a State EOC Course (Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, and US History) must sit for the assessment.
- US History Notes:
 - Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment/AP US History are not required to sit for the State US History End-of-Course Assessment.

Scholar/Merit Designations:

In addition to the Standard Diploma requirements listed in each table above, the student must meet additional requirements (shown below) to obtain a Standard Diploma with Scholar or Merit Designation. Students can satisfy requirements for both designations and therefore be awarded both designations.

Scholar Designation

In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements:

- Pass the ELA Grade 11 Common Core Assessment once implemented (12-13 Cohort and beyond)
- Pass the Algebra 1 End of Course (EOC) Assessment
- 1 credit in Algebra 2
- Pass the Algebra 2 EOC Assessment, when implemented (13-14 9th Gr Cohort and beyond)
- 1 credit in statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course
- Pass the Biology 1 EOC Assessment
- 1 credit in chemistry or physics
- 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics
- Pass the U.S. History EOC Assessment
- 2 credits in the same world language
- Earn at least 1 credit in an AP, IB, or a dual enrollment course.

Merit Designation

In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements students must attain one or more industry certifications from the list established in s. 1003.492, F.S.

The list can be found at:

http://workforceflorida.com/PrioritiesInitiatives/EducationalInitiatives/cape/2012-13ComprehensiveIndustryCertListDetailed_Final.pdf

ACCEL Program (18 credit) students are not eligible for the Scholar or Merit Designation

Please be aware that these designations are available to students currently enrolled in high school (regardless of cohort). For current seniors, please consider whether your child would meet the requirements of a diploma designation and contact the student's school counselor for more details.

Additional Student/Parent Resources

The school district has created detailed podcasts that outline the specific criteria for each cohort as well as the specific requirements associated with each End of Course Assessment. These podcasts as well as other information can be found at:

http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/cis/graduation_requirements.

The District School Board remains committed to the success of all Pasco County students. If you have additional questions, please contact your school counselor or school administrator, or call district staff at 727-774-2000.

Sincerely,



Kurt S. Browning
Superintendent of Schools