

Students enrolled in the ninth grade prior to the 1993-94 school year will graduate under the requirements that were in effect the year they entered the ninth grade. A minimum of 315 hours, 21 units, in grades 9-12 must be completed satisfactorily in order to meet the requirements for graduation. Credit toward graduation is granted only for work completed in grades 9-12. Students may meet requirements for a High School Diploma, Academic Diploma, or Advanced Academic Diploma with Seals of Endorsement may be earned for College Preparatory, Fine Arts, or Vocational Education. Students who complete their programs of study in a magnet program environment will receive an appropriate Magnet Seal of Endorsement. Special education students who complete the requirements of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may receive a Special Education Diploma.

Credits shall be allocated for each diploma and seal of endorsement according to State Board Policy 160-4-2.06. Carnegie unit credit shall be awarded only for courses that include concepts and skills based on the state-mandated Quality Core Curriculum for grades 9-12.

ESOL

Two years of English credit may be earned through ESOL II and III. All other ESOL designations will earn elective credit only.

Foreign Languages

Students whose native language is not English may be considered to have met the foreign language requirement for the College Preparatory Seal of Endorsement (not to be counted toward graduation requirements) by providing proof of oral and written proficiency in their native language.

The College Preparatory Seal of Endorsement requires that the two years of the same foreign language be sequential.

Students choosing Functional Language I and II must complete Intermediate Foreign Language in order to fulfill the College Preparatory Seal of Endorsement requirement. A third or fourth year of the same language is recommended.

Science

All students are required to take three units of science to include physical science, biology, and another unit in science.

For the College Preparatory Seal of Endorsement, the State Department of Education provides four options:

1. Biology, chemistry, physics
2. Physical science, biology, chemistry
3. Physical science, biology, physics
4. Physical science, biology, another laboratory science

Since colleges and universities continue to seek students who pursue a rigorous course of study, options one and two are preferred by the DeKalb County School System. However, students should determine the specific science requirements of the colleges to which they intend to apply for admission.

Advanced Placement

For students who qualify, Advanced Placement course credit may be earned in the appropriate academic area(s).

Additional Electives

Additional electives selected from the following disciplines are also strongly recommended:

1. A third course in foreign language or study in a second foreign language
2. Physical education, health, and safety education
3. Vocational education
4. Computer technology
5. Laboratory science course (an additional)
6. Fine arts (drama, music, visual arts)
7. Humanities
8. Traffic safety education
9. Social studies
10. Speech

Post-secondary Options/Joint Enrollment

Eligible high school students who qualify may enroll in a post-secondary institution and earn both high school Carnegie unit credit and postsecondary credit hours. Students who attend Georgia public colleges or universities will not be responsible for tuition for courses taken under Post-secondary Options. Students who attend private colleges or universities in Georgia under a Joint Enrollment agreement will be responsible for the cost of such enrollment. This provision became effective for eligible students in the 1993-94 school year. (Policy Code 6410)

Transfer Credit

The DeKalb County Board of Education shall accept student course credit earned in a school accredited by one of the following accrediting agencies. The school shall have been accredited at the time the credit was earned.

1. Georgia Accrediting Commission
2. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSACS)
3. New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
4. Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NASC)
5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
6. Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
7. North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCACS)

The Board shall not substitute courses and exempt students from the required secondary minimum core curriculum course requirements unless the student transferred from an accredited secondary school.

A student who wishes to have credit granted for courses taken at a non-accredited elementary or secondary school or home study program shall be enrolled on probationary status based on the following criteria: (1) records of prior school(s) and/or home-study program, (2) satisfactory performance of the student for one or more grading periods, or (3) by evaluation in specific subject areas.

Carnegie Unit

A Carnegie unit shall represent satisfactory completion of instruction in a subject for two semesters or one school year. A unit is based on a minimum of 150 clock hours during the regular school year and 130 clock hours during summer school.

Requirements for High School Diploma

Ninth graders enrolled in the 1993-94 school term and all subsequent classes must meet the attendance requirements, earn required number of Carnegie units, and pass the state-mandated graduation assessment.

Requirements for High School Certificate of Performance

Ninth graders enrolled in the 1993-94 school term and all subsequent classes must meet the attendance requirements and earn the required number of Carnegie units in order to receive a high school certificate of performance.

Local Authority and Responsibility

The DeKalb County Board of Education has established instructional support services and delivery services to uphold the multiple criteria for high school graduation:

To provide an ongoing guidance component beginning with the ninth grade for familiarizing the students with graduation requirements and for examining the likely impact of individual career objectives on the program of work they plan to follow.

To provide annual advisement sessions to report progress and offer alternatives in meeting graduation requirements and career objectives.

To provide record keeping and reporting services that document student progress toward graduation and include information for the school, parents, and students.

To provide diagnostic and continuous evaluation services that measure individual student progress in meeting competency expectations for graduation.

To provide instructional programs, curriculum and planned course guides, and remedial opportunities to assist each student in meeting graduation requirements.

To provide appropriate curriculum and assessment procedures for students who have been identified as having disabilities that prevent them from meeting the prescribed competency performance requirements.