

**ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**Table 9.16  
STATE COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

State or other jurisdiction	Years of instruction in . . .								Other courses	Last known revision or effective date
	All courses	English/ language arts	Social studies	Mathematics	Science	Physical education/ health	Electives			
Alabama (a) .....	24	4	4	4	4	1.5	5.5	.5 fine arts, .5 computer applications	1995	
Alaska (b) .....	21	4	3	2	2	1	9	...	1997	
Arizona (c) .....	20	4	2.5	2	2	...	8	.5 free enterprise, 1 fine arts or vocational education	1996	
Arkansas (d) .....										
College prep diploma .....	21	4	3	3	3	1	4	2 foreign language	2002	
Technical diploma .....	21	4	2	3	3	1	...	6 vocational courses	2002	
California (e) .....	13	3	3	2	2	2	As prescribed locally	1 (includes foreign language, or visual performing arts)	1990	
Colorado (f) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1998	
Connecticut (g) .....	20	4	3	3	2	1	6	1 arts or vocational education	1996	
Delaware (h) .....										
Standard diploma .....	20	4	3	2	2	1.5	6.5	1 computer literacy	1999	
Standard diploma .....	22	4	3	3	3	1.5	...	1 computer literacy, 3 Career Pathway, 3.5 additional academic coursework	2000	
Standard diploma .....	22	4	3	3	3	1.5	...	1 computer literacy, 1 visual and performing arts, 3 Career Pathway, 2.5 additional academic coursework	2001	
Florida (i) .....	24	4	2.5	3	3	1	9	.5 economics, 1 practical arts career education or exploratory career education (f)	1997	
Georgia (j) .....										
Vocational diploma .....	21	4	3	3	3	1	2	1 computer technology, 4 vocational education units	1997	
College prep. diploma .....	21	4	3	3	3	1	4	2 foreign language, 1 fine arts, vocational education, computer technology or junior ROTC		
Hawaii (k) .....										
Standard diploma .....	22	4	4	3	3	2	6	...	1997	
Recognition Diploma .....	24	4	4	3	3	2	6	2 foreign language, performing/fine arts or vocational education	1997	
Idaho (l) .....	21	4	2.5	2	2	1.5	6	.5 reading, .5 speech or debate, 2 humanities	2001	
Illinois (m) .....	16	3	2	2	1	4.5	2.25	1 music, art, foreign language or vocational education, .25 consumer education	1995	
Indiana (n) .....	19.5	4	2	2	2	1.5	8	...	1995	
Iowa (o) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1998	
Kansas (p) .....	21	4	3	2	2	1	9	...		
Kentucky (q) .....	22	4	3	3	3	1	7	1 visual and performing arts	1997	
Louisiana (r) .....										
Standard diploma .....	23	4	3	3	3	2	8	...	1998	
Regents diploma .....	24	4	4	4	3	2	4	3 foreign language, 1 fine arts	1998	
Maine (s) .....	16	4	2	2	2	1.5	3.5	1 fine arts	1992	
Maryland (t) .....	21	4	3	3	3	1	3	1 fine arts, 2 foreign language or	1997	
Massachusetts (u) .....	...	...	1	...	...	4	...	local boards determine remaining requirements	1994	
Michigan (v) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 civics	1997	
Minnesota (w) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2000	
Mississippi (x) .....	20	4	3	3	2	0.5	6	1 arts, .5 computer education	1998	
Missouri (y) .....	20	4	3	3	3	0.5	4.5	1 arts, .5 computer education,	1988	
Montana (z) .....	20	4	2	2	2	1	7	1 fine arts, 1 practical/vocational arts	1993	
Nebraska (aa) .....	200 high school credit hours	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1996	
Nevada (bb) .....	22.5	4	2	2	2	2.5	8.5	1 arts/humanities, .5 computer literacy	1997	
New Hampshire (cc) .....	19.75	4	2	2	2	1.25	7	.5 arts, .5 computer education, .5 business/economics	1993	
New Jersey (dd) .....	22	4	3	3	2	4	4.5	1 fine, practical or performing arts; .5 consumer education	1996	
New Mexico (ee) .....	23	4	3	3	2	1	9	1 communication skills	1997	
New York (ff) .....										
Local diploma .....	18.5	4	4	2	2	2.5	5	1	1996	
Regents diploma .....	18.5	4	4	2	2	2.5	5	1 art and/or music, 3 second language	2000	

See footnotes at end of table.

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION

STATE COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION — Continued

State or other jurisdiction	All courses	Years of instruction in . . .						Other courses	Last known revision or effective date
		English/language arts	Social studies	Mathematics	Science	Physical education/health	Electives		
North Carolina (gg) . . . . .	20	4	3	3	3	1	6	...	1993
North Dakota (hh) . . . . .	17	4	3	2	2	1	5	...	1994
Ohio (ii) . . . . .	18	3	2	2	1	1	9	...	1998
	21	4	3	3	2	1	8	...	2001
	21	4	3	3	3	1	7	...	2003
Oklahoma (jj) . . . . .	20	4	2	2	2	...	8	1 visual arts, 1 general music	1996
	21	4	2	3	2	...	8	1 visual arts, 1 general music	2000
Oregon (kk) . . . . .	22	3	3.5	2	2	2	9	1 applied arts, fine arts or foreign language	1997
Pennsylvania (ll) . . . . .	21	4	3	3	3	1	5	2 arts/humanities or computer science	1993
Rhode Island (mm) . . . . .									
Standard diploma . . . . .	16	4	2	2	2	...	6	...	1989
College preparatory . . . . .	18	4	2	3	2	...	4	2 foreign language, .5 computer, .5 arts	...
South Carolina (nn) . . . . .									
Tech prep . . . . .	20	4	3	3	2	1	7	...	2000
Tech prep . . . . .	24	4	3	4	3	1	7	1 computer science, 1 vocational unit	2001
College prep . . . . .	24	4	3	4	3	1	7	1 computer science, 1 foreign language	2001
South Dakota (oo) . . . . .	20	4	3	2	2	...	8	.5 computer science, .5 fine arts	1996
Tennessee (pp) . . . . .									
Technical preparatory . . . . .	20	4	3	3	3	1	2	4 units in particular technical area	1994
University preparatory . . . . .	20	4	3	3	3	1	3	2 foreign language, 1 fine arts	1994
Texas (qq) . . . . .	22	4	2.5	3	2	2	5.5	1 world history/geography or approved science, .5 economics, 1.5 arts, 1 applied technical education	1997
Utah (rr) . . . . .	24	3	3	2	2	2	9.5	1 arts, 1 additional unit in science or math	1997
Vermont (ss) . . . . .	14.5	4	3	2	2	...	1.5	1 arts, 1 additional unit in science or math	1997
Virginia (tt) . . . . .									
Standard diploma . . . . .	22	4	3	3	3	2	6	1 fine or practical arts	1998
Advanced studies . . . . .	24	4	4	4	4	2	2	3 foreign language, 1 fine or practical arts	1998
Washington (uu) . . . . .	19	3	2.5	2	2	2	5.5	1 occupational education, 1 fine/visual or performing arts	1998
West Virginia (vv) . . . . .	21	4	3	2	2	2	7	1 foreign language, performing arts or fine arts	...
	24	4	4	4	4	2	2	3 foreign language, 1 fine or practical arts	1999
Wisconsin (ww) . . . . .	21.5	4	3	2	2	2	8	...	1995
Wyoming (xx) . . . . .	13 (xx)	4	3	3	3	...	(xx)	...	1997
Dist. of Columbia (yy) . . . . .	23.5	4	3.5	3	3	1.5	3.5	2 foreign language, 1 social values/life skills, 1 career/vocational, .5 art, .5 music	1996

Source: Education Commission of the States, *Clearinghouse Notes*, November 1998, www.ecs.org.

Key:

... — No requirement.

(a) In Alabama, passing graduation exams in reading, language, math, science, and social studies is required. Math requirement includes algebra I and geometry. Science includes 1 biology and 1 physical science. Physical education requirement consists of 1 in PE and .5 in health. Demonstration of computer literacy through related coursework is required.

(b) In Alaska, students must pass a competency exam in reading, writing and math. Electives are established by the local board of education.

(c) In Arizona, The state board of education adopts competency tests in reading, writing and math. Language arts requirement must include .5 of speech/debate. Social studies requirement consists of 1 world history/geography and 1.5 in U.S./Arizona history and constitutions.

(d) In Arkansas, basic competencies are tested in grades 4, 8, and 11 or 12 in science, math, English, history and social studies. Science includes 1 life science and one physical science. Physical education consists of .5 in PE and .5 in health and safety. Arkansas also issues a college preparatory and technical diploma beyond the basic diploma. The college prep diploma maintains the total units required but defines courses which must be taken in social studies, math and science. The technical diploma also defines courses which must be completed in social studies, math and science; eliminates electives; and adds 6 units in sequential and related vocational credits to the other category. Legislation in 1997 eliminates the three diploma types and creates a common core curriculum for all students beginning with the graduating class of 2002. Requirements remain the same as the current basic diploma. Math requirement then includes 1 in algebra or equivalent and 1 in geometry or equivalent.

Science requirement then includes 1 in biology or equivalent and 1 in physical science.

(e) In California, electives are left to the discretion of the local board of education. Social studies consists of 1 U.S. history and geography; 1 world history, culture and geography; .5 American government and .5 in economics. Science includes biological and physical sciences.

(f) In Colorado, legislation in 1998 implemented a statewide assessment program as part of the indicators for state accreditation. Beginning with the spring semester of 2001, the program requires all 10th graders to take an assessment in reading, writing and math. Beginning with the spring semester of 2003, 12th graders scoring below proficient on the 10th grade assessment will retake the assessment. Results of the retake exam will be included as accreditation indicators. Colorado is a local control state where the curriculum and other graduation requirements are left to the discretion of the individual local districts.

(g) In Connecticut, 50 hours of community service may be used for .5 credits towards graduation requirements.

(h) In Delaware, the student testing program assesses performance of 10th graders in reading, writing and math. In June of 2000, only those students passing exams will be eligible for a diploma. Requirements for the graduating class of 2000 increases the total to 22, increases both math and science to 3 units, eliminates electives and changes the other requirement to 7.5 to consist of 3 in career pathways (academic, visual and performing arts, foreign language or vocational education program), 1 in computer literacy and 3.5 in additional academic, visual and performing arts, foreign languages and/or vocational technical education program units. The graduating classes of 2001 and beyond retain these same requirements except that 1 unit of visual and performing arts will be required as part of the 7.5 other course requirement.

(i) In Florida, all 11th grade students must pass competency tests. Social stud-

## ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION

### STATE COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION — Continued

ies requirement consists of 1 American history, 1 world history and .5 in American government. Two of the science units must be in laboratory sciences. Physical education consists of .5 in PE and .5 in life management skills. Beginning in the 1997-98 school year, 1 math credit must be in algebra I or higher. School boards may award .5 credits for 75 hours of community service. Students must achieve a 2.0 GPA to graduate.

(j) In Georgia, all 11th grade students must pass a curriculum based assessment exam prior to graduation. Georgia issues a college preparatory or vocational diploma. The math requirement includes 1 algebra unit. The vocational diploma other requirement consists of 4 vocational diploma units and 1 in computer technology. For the college preparatory diploma the other requirement consists of 2 in foreign language and 1 in computer technology and/or fine arts and/or vocational education and/or junior ROTC and/or foreign language.

(k) In Hawaii, the state test of essential competencies (HSTEC) is administered to 10th grade students. Passing is required to graduate. Physical education requirement consists of 1 in PE, .5 in health and .5 in guidance. For a diploma with a board of education recognition endorsement, students must add 2 units in foreign language, performing/fine arts or vocational education (total 24 units) and maintain a 3.0 GPA.

(l) In Idaho, to qualify for graduation the state board of education requires either a C average in core subjects, demonstrated competency on statewide achievement test and direct writing assessment in the 11th grade or validation of student achievement through an approved, locally developed, core competency plan. Science requirement includes 1 in laboratory science. Physical education requirement consists of 1 in PE and .5 in health. The social studies requirement includes 1 U.S. history and 1 in American government. Effective July 1, 2000, the requirement is increased to 2.5 adding .5 in economics.

(m) In Illinois, passing end of course exam in American history and government is required to graduate. Social studies requirement includes 1 in U.S. history and .5 in American government. Science requirement may include 1 unit in computer technology. Physical education requirement consists of 4 in PE and .5 in health. Students may test out of consumer education requirement.

(n) In Indiana, obtaining the educational proficiency standard through the Indiana statewide testing for educational progress program is required for graduation. Statute requires state board to determine grade level for the test, but it must be given higher than 9th grade. Students must successfully complete a course concerning the constitutions of the U.S. and Indiana to graduate. Social studies requirement includes 1 in U.S. history and .5 in U.S. government. Physical education requirement is 1 in PE and .5 in health and safety.

(o) In Iowa, legislation in 1998 requires the establishment of a set of core academic indicators in reading, math, and science for grade 11. Graduation requirements are determined on a local level guided by an established minimum education program which must be offered in public schools. Requirements include 1 unit of U.S. history and .5 in American government. All students must participate in physical education each semester unless they are specifically excused.

(p) In Kansas, passing a course in Kansas history and government between the 7th and 12th grade is required for graduation. The language arts requirement includes 3 English units. The social studies requirement includes 1 American history and .5 in American government. The physical education requirement may include .5 units in health.

(q) In Kentucky, an assessment exam is given in reading, math, science, social studies, and writing during 11th grade. A writing portfolio is required in 12th grade. Passing is not tied to graduation. Social studies units incorporate U.S. history, economics, government, world geography and world civilization. Math requirements include algebra I and geometry. Physical education requirement consists of .5 in PE and .5 in health.

(r) In Louisiana, passing state graduation test is required. Social studies requirement consists of 1 in American history, 1 in world history/geography/civilization, .5 in civics and .5 in free enterprise. Math requirement includes algebra. Science requirement includes biology. Physical education requirement is 1.5 in PE and .5 in health. Louisiana honors curriculum (to receive a Regent's diploma) increases the total unit requirement to 24. Social studies and math are increased to 4, electives are reduced to 4 and the other requirement is increased to 3 which consists of 2 in foreign language and 1 in fine arts.

(s) In Maine, students must pass computer proficiency standards. Social studies requirement includes 1 in American history and government. Science requirement includes 1 year of laboratory study. Physical education requirement consists of 1 in PE and .5 in health.

(t) In Maryland, passage of English, math and government exams is required for graduation. Biology may be included at the discretion of the local district. Completion of a state approved career and technology program may substitute for the advanced technology units. Additionally, 75 clock hours of student com-

munity service is required for graduation.

(u) In Massachusetts, competency determination in math, science and technology, history and social studies, foreign languages, and English, at the 10th grade level based on comprehensive diagnostic assessment is required for graduation. Social studies unit requirement is in American history. Local boards determine all remaining requirements.

(v) In Michigan, state assessment tests are administered in communications skills, math, science and social studies. Students passing tests receive a state endorsement on their diplomas. Local boards may issue diploma for completion of their established requirements regardless of whether the student receives the state endorsement. All remaining requirements are established by the local board. The state board establishes academic curriculum content standards model setting forth desired learning objectives in math, science, reading, history, geography, economics, American governance and writing.

(w) In Minnesota, students must pass a state test, or approved alternative test, in writing composition, reading and math. Testing usually begins in the 10th grade depending on the district. A "profile of learning" requirement has been enacted which requires students to complete 24 of 48 standards in broad academic areas prior to graduation.

(x) In Mississippi, students must demonstrate minimum performance standards in reading, writing and math on state examination. Social studies requirement consists of 1 in U.S. history, 1 in world history, .5 in U.S. government and .5 in Mississippi studies. PE requirement is in health. For the graduating class of 2002, electives are reduced to 4.5 units, science is increased to 3 units and other is increased to 2 units with the addition of a .5 unit of keyboarding.

(y) In Missouri, students must pass an end of course exam in the principles of the constitutions of the U.S. and Missouri prior to graduation. Social studies requirement includes .5 in U.S. and state government.

(z) In Montana, PE requirement is in health.

(aa) In Nebraska, all students are required to complete a minimum of 200 high school credit hours prior to graduation. A minimum of 80 percent of these hours must be completed in core curriculum subjects. Local boards determine requirements.

(bb) In Nevada, students must pass the Nevada high school proficiency examinations in reading, math and writing for graduation. Social studies requirements consist of 1 in American history and 1 in American government. Physical education requirement is 2 in PE and .5 in health. Computer literacy may be waived by demonstration of competency.

(cc) In New Hampshire, social studies requirement includes 1 U.S. and New Hampshire history and government. Science requirement is 1 physical science and 1 biological science. Physical education requirement is 1 PE and .25 health. Computer education requirement may be met through examination or course prior to high school.

(dd) In New Jersey, passing statewide proficiency examination in the 11th grade in reading, writing, and math is required for graduation. Social studies requirement consists of 2 U.S. history and 1 world history/cultures. Science requirement must be fulfilled with natural or physical sciences.

(ee) In New Mexico, students must pass a state competency exam in order to receive a diploma. If exam is not passed, student receives a certificate of completion upon exit at the completion of 12th grade. Social studies requirement consists of government and economics, world and U.S. history and geography. Science requirement includes 1 lab component.

(ff) In New York, passage of comprehensive exams in English, math, U.S. history and government, science and global studies is required for graduation. Within an established range, local districts may determine passing scores. New York issues either a local or Regent's diploma. Requirements for a Regent's diploma include more stringent course difficulty sequencing and additional exams. A minimum sequence of three units in a second language is required for the Regent's diploma. Physical education requirement includes .5 of health. Only the health unit may be counted towards total graduation credit.

(gg) In North Carolina, state competency examination is required for graduation. Social studies requirement consists of 1 in government and economics, 1 in U.S. history and 1 in world studies. Math requirement includes 1 in algebra I. Science requirement includes 1 in biology and 1 in physical science.

(hh) In North Dakota, Social Studies requirement includes 1 in world history and 1 in U.S. history, both with strong geography components. The math requirement may include business math. The state department of public instruction sets the state minimum of 17 total units. State recommends that school districts establish their requirements at a minimum of 20 units.

(ii) In Ohio, passage of exams for proficiency in reading, writing, math, science and citizenship are required for graduation. Social studies requirement includes .5 in U.S. history and .5 in U.S. government. Physical education requirement consists of .5 in PE and .5 in health. A graduation requirement

**STATE COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION — Continued**

exists to complete 3 units in a subject other than English and are considered a minor.

(jj) In Oklahoma, competency tests are administered in math, science, English, history, geography and culture, and the arts during the 11th grade. However, they are not tied to graduation requirements. Social studies requirement includes U.S. and Oklahoma history. For the graduating class of 2000 total units increase to 21 by increasing math to 3.

(kk) In Oregon, certificates of initial mastery are issued to sophomores for demonstrated proficiency in core subject areas. Certificates of initial mastery are not required to graduate. A statewide assessment is given to 10th graders in math, English, science and history. Physical education requirement consists of 1 in PE and 1 in health.

(ll) In Pennsylvania, students must achieve 52 state academic performance standards and locally developed student learning outcomes. Students must also complete a project in one or more areas of concentrated studies. Pennsylvania is phasing out the required units in individual subject system. Graduation requirements are now based on the local districts' submission of a strategic plan, fulfillment of the state performance standards and local student learning outcomes.

(mm) In Rhode Island, students are required to take educational assessment examinations in reading, writing, and math during 10th grade. The social studies requirement includes 1 in U.S. history and government.

(nn) In South Carolina, passage of an exit examination in reading, writing, and math is required for graduation. Students are allowed four opportunities to pass the examination. South Carolina uses a technical preparation track and a college preparation track to fulfill course requirements. Technical track students who will graduate in the year 2000 must use electives to complete a career major which consists of four sequential units in an occupational program. Social studies requirement includes 1 in U.S. history, .5 in U.S. government and .5 in Economics. Physical education requirement may be met with junior ROTC.

(oo) In South Dakota, Language Arts requirement includes 1.5 in writing, 1 in literature (of which .5 is American literature) and .5 in speech. The social studies requirement includes .5 in U.S. history, .5 in U.S. government, and .5 in geography. Science requirement is in laboratory sciences. Students may complete the computer studies requirement through demonstrated mastery of basic course content.

(pp) In Tennessee, passage of the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program tests are required to obtain a full diploma. Certificates of attendance or unsatisfactory performance are issued to students not passing the examination. Math requirement includes algebra. Science includes biology. Tennessee issues

a university preparation or a technical preparation diploma.

(qq) In Texas, students must pass the secondary exit level assessment instruments in English and math or pass the end of course instruments in algebra I and English II and either biology I or U.S. history. Social studies requirement consists of 1 in world history or world geography, 1 in U.S. history and .5 in U.S. government. Math requirement must include algebra I. Science requirement must include 1 from biology I, chemistry I or physics I. Physical education requirement consists of 1.5 in PE and .5 in health.

(rr) In Utah, assessment of student mastery of required core subjects occurs at the completion of 8th, 10th and 12 grade. Implementation is the responsibility of local districts. The state does not require passage to graduate. Required elective areas are divided into college entry or applied technology clusters.

(ss) In Vermont, statewide academic examinations are administered in math, science, English and social studies in order to qualify for a "governor's diploma." Social studies requirement includes 1 U.S. history and 1 world history. Science requirement consists of 1 physical and 1 natural science.

(tt) In Virginia, students must pass all components of the literacy passport test in order to graduate. End of course standards of learning tests for certain courses are also required. The science requirement for both the standard and advanced studies diploma is in laboratory courses.

(uu) In Washington, assessment tests are given to 11th graders to assess strengths and weaknesses. Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, passing assessment examinations result in issuance of a certificate of mastery which is required for graduation. Social studies requirement consists of 1 U.S. history and government, .5 Washington state history and government and 1 world history. Science requires 1 laboratory course.

(vv) In West Virginia, students in grades 9-11 take the Stanford Achievement Test to assess basic skills. Physical education requirement consists of 1 in PE and 1 in health. For the freshman class entering in fall of 1999, total units increase to 24. Math (to include algebra and 1 higher math) is increased to 3. Science (to include coordinated and thematic science and 1 higher science) is increased to 3. Electives are reduced to 4. Students must also graduate with "work base learning" requirements which are determined by local boards.

(ww) In Wyoming, legislation in 1997 requires the state board of education to establish, through testing or other means, a requirement for each student to demonstrate mastery of the common core of knowledge and skills in order to earn a high school diploma. The means and process to establish this requirement have not been implemented. Social studies requirement includes history and American government. Electives are determined by the local school board. Thirteen units are required plus the elective units as determined by the school board in order to obtain the total units.