



Graduation Requirements

Aligning District Systems to Prepare All Students for the Pittsburgh Promise





Agenda

- **Review of Current Graduation Requirements and Anticipated Course Sequences for PPS Students**
- **Proposed Policy Revision of Graduation Credits to Reflect Time Spent in Class – Seeking Approval August 2010**
 - Proposed change of Course Credit in Health and Physical Education
 - Proposed Addition of a Social Studies Credit to Graduation Requirements
- **Proposed Administration Adoption of On-Track to Graduation Indicators and Progress Monitoring Tools for Promise Readiness Corps**
 - Proposed Guidelines for Grade Placement



Discussion of Policy: Graduation Requirements



CURRENT
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
WITH
ANTICIPATED COURSE SEQUENCES

See Attachment A



Current Graduation Requirements Adopted 2007

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Units</u>
English	4
Mathematics	4
Science & Technology	4
Social Studies	3
Arts and/or Phys. Ed.	2
Elective	
Career Dev., Academic	6
Elective, and/or World Lang.	
Health	0.5
Phys. Ed.	1
Grad Project	0.5
Total	25



Potential Credits exceed the required credits for graduation.

- **The Comprehensive High School Day typically has 8 periods.**
- **The maximum credits a student could earn in 4 years of high school is 32 credits.**



PROPOSED
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS *WITH*
CHANGE IN
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
CREDIT

See Attachment B



Proposed Change: Give all courses required for graduation equal credit.

- **All courses, except physical education or health, are awarded .5 credits for a semester.**
- **Currently, both physical education and health are awarded .25 credits for a semester, yet students spend the same number of hours in the courses.**
- **While adopting this recommendation will increase the number of credits required for graduation to 26.5 credits from the current 25 credits, there is no additional time or course-work required for graduation with this recommendation.**



PROPOSED
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
WITH
ADDITIONAL
SOCIAL STUDIES
CREDIT

See Attachment C



Proposed Change: Add an additional Social Studies Credit for Graduation

- **To graduate from Pittsburgh Public Schools, each of the other core areas requires four course credits towards graduation.**
- **Teachers in the Social Studies department have written several additional core courses that are rich experiences that we want to incentivize students to take.**
 - African American History
 - Women's Studies
 - Comparative Religions
- **Advanced Placement Courses have a rich range of course offerings for which our students could receive college credit**
 - AP Government and Politics
 - AP Economics
 - AP Psychology
 - AP European History



Proposed Change: An additional Social Studies (cont.)

- **PPS Students may satisfy this fourth year requirement in one of two ways:**
 - Taking a fourth Social Studies Course
 - Taking an upper level World Language course would satisfy this fourth year Social Studies requirement.
 - Students who are in 3rd and 4th year World Language courses deepen their study the culture and history of the courses that they take.
- **To earn this additional Social Studies credit, one credit would be reallocated from the elective category.**
- **Therefore, there is no additional time or course-work required for graduation with this recommendation.**



PROPOSED
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR
CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION

See attachment D



Students who choose the Career and Technical Education pathway will still have flexibility within their schedules.

- **Career and Technical Education generally requires 360 hours per year in a course of study.**
- **Our current daily schedule contains enough flexibility to accommodate the additional Social Studies credit.**
- **Note that students who pursue CTE Certification have Graduation Project credit embedded in their CTE coursework.**



Proposed Graduation Requirements - CTE

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Units</u>
English	4
Mathematics	4
Science & Technology	3*
Social Studies	3*
Career & Technical Ed	9
Health	1
Phys. Ed	2
Grad Project	0.5
<hr/>	
Total	26.5

In order to accommodate 9 CTE credits, Students enrolled in CTE programs are required to earn 3 science and 3 social studies credits.



The District will utilize on-track indicators to communicate to students and their families progress towards the Pittsburgh Promise.

- **This is the core work of the Promise Readiness Corps which will begin with our 9th graders this fall.**
- **The teachers in the PRC will loop with these students into the 10th grade with the goal of delivering more students into the 11th Grade *Promise Ready*.**
- **We will monitor on-track to graduate and to Promise Readiness**



IMPLEMENTATION OF ON-TRACK TO GRADUATION INDICATORS



On Track to Graduation Means...

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Units</u>	
English	4	•Progress toward completing subjects English, Math, Science, and Social Studies
Mathematics	4	
Science & Technology	4	•Progress toward completing units of credit 6.5 per year
Social Studies	4**	
Arts and/or Phys. Ed.	2	
Elective		
Career Dev., Academic Elective, and/or World Lang.	5**	
Health	1**	**Pending Board approval
Phys. Ed.	2**	
Grad Project	0.5	
<hr/> Total	26.5**	



On Track to Promise Readiness means....

Promise Requirements

Criteria

Requirement

Cumulative H.S. GPA

2.5 GPA or higher

Attendance

90%



We examined our current guidelines for grade placement and discovered they are not aligned with graduation requirements. The Administration will revise the guidelines for grade placement to align them to graduation requirements.

Current guidelines for grade placement

Grade 9 to 10

- 4 total units
- 3 academic units

Grade 10 to 11

- 11 units
- 6 academic units
 - 1 must be in English

Grade 11 to 12

- 18 units
- 9 academic units
 - 2 must be in English

Recommended guidelines for grade placement that are aligned to graduation requirements

Grade 9 to 10

- 6.5 units
- 4 academic units
 - 1 must be in English
 - 1 must be in Mathematics
 - 1 must be in Science
 - 1 must be in Social Studies

Grade 10 to 11

- 13 units
- 8 academic units
 - 2 must be in English
 - 2 must be in Mathematics
 - 2 must be in Science
 - 2 must be in Social Studies

Grade 11 to 12

- 19.5 units
- 12 academic units
 - 3 must be in English
 - 3 must be in Mathematics
 - 3 must be in Science
 - 3 must be in Social Studies

Progress monitoring: An important component of the Promise Readiness Corps

The design of any progress monitoring system - decisions on 5 components:

- 1 **Subject / area of monitoring**
 - **What is being monitored?**
 - Is it a progress in a subject area such as math or English?
 - Is it a behavioral metric such as attendance?
- 2 **Measure**
 - **What is the specific measurement?**
 - Homework completion, assessment scores, # of absences, etc.?
- 3 **System of record**
 - **What is the system of record for the data that informs the measurement?**
 - Is the system of record electronic? If so, what system is it?
- 4 **Frequency**
 - **How often is the measurement required?**
- 5 **Measurement usage**
 - **How is the measurement used?**
 - Once you have the measurement at the desired frequency, what action is informed by it?
 - How are communications informed by the measurement?

Board Action Required in August 2010

- **Revise the Graduation requirements**
 - Change the number of credits awarded for a semester of Physical Education and Health
 - Increase the number of Social Studies Credits required for Graduation
- **Should the Board of Directors adopt these changes in credit requirements for graduation, the Administration will:**
 - Adopt Guidelines for grade placement
 - Begin a System of Progress monitoring with the Promise Readiness Corps in for the 2010-11 school year.



The Pathway to the Promise.