

OLDHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS; PROMOTION/RETENTION

4065

References: KRS 158.140; 704 KAR 3:305; 704 KAR 3:307; 704 KAR 7:140

Relates to: 4065.02F

PROMOTION OR RETENTION - ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Promotion or retention from one grade or class level to another at the elementary and middle school level for students not in a special education program is based upon satisfactory academic achievement as indicated by demonstration of content/grade level academic standards, grades, progress reports, portfolios, and other pertinent data including, the probable effect of promotion or retention upon the student.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS - ELEMENTARY

Guidelines

- a. Any student not achieving up to his or her grade level may be considered for additional time. Teachers and administrators must follow state regulations when considering an extra year for Primary students.
- b. A student should not spend more than one extra year in the elementary school; however, teachers, counselors, and principals are responsible to render a judgment that will best meet the individual needs of the student under consideration. Parents are to be included in this discussion.
- c. Students spending an additional year at the elementary school are to have a significantly different plan of instruction than experienced in the previous year.
- d. In situations where the principal feels retention is warranted, he or she must notify the level director, who will assemble a committee to review the request and provide district level approval for retention. The Superintendent will establish the committee structure and process for review by administrative regulation.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS - MIDDLE SCHOOL - GRADES 6-8

Guidelines

- a. Students must pass all four (4) Core subjects Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a student becoming a candidate for retention.
- b. A student should not spend more than one extra year in grades 6-8; however, teachers, counselors, and principals are responsible to render a judgment that will best meet the individual needs of the student under consideration. Parents are to be included in this discussion.
- c. Any student who will reach the age of 16 while in the middle school should be considered for promotion to high school.
- d. In situations where the principal feels retention is warranted, he or she must notify the level director, who will assemble a committee to review the request and provide district level approval for retention. The Superintendent will establish the committee structure and process for review by administrative regulation.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS - HIGH SCHOOL - GRADES 9-12

All Students are promoted on the basis of units of credits earned by passing classes or their equivalent as determined by SBDM policy and the number of semesters completed. To be promoted, a student must have completed the following number of semesters and earned credits or their equivalents:

Schools Using Block Scheduling		
Grade	Credits	Completed Semesters
10	6	2
11	13	4
12	20	6

Schools Using 6 Period Scheduling		
Grade	Credits	Completed Semesters
10	5	2
11	10	4
12	16	6

Adopted

Oldham County Board of Education

March 7, 1977

Revised: August 7, 1978, December 10, 1979, July 15, 1985, July 7, 1986, June 6, 1988, March 19, 1990, January 14, 1991, December 14, 1992, June 26, 1995, March 18, 1996, July 28, 1997, May 11, 1998, April 16, 2001, March 25, 2002, September 29, 2003, February 21, 2006, April 24, 2006, March 24, 2008, July 27, 2009, February 22, 2010, June 21, 2010, December 13, 2010, June 25, 2012, July 28, 2014, March 28, 2016, February 26, 2018, May 18, 2020, September 27, 2021

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Schools Using 7 Period Scheduling		
Grade	Credits	Completed Semesters
10	5	2
11	11	4
12	17	6

Whenever a school elects to change its method of scheduling the resulting new credit requirements will be phased in for currently enrolled students.

Students may be awarded high school credit toward graduation for:

- Standards-based coursework that constitutes satisfactory demonstration of learning in any high school course, consistent with 704 KAR 3:305(1) and (2);
- Standards-based online or other technology mediated courses;
- Standards-based dual credit or other equivalency courses; and
- Standards-based internship, cooperative learning experience, or other supervised experience in the school and the community.

Credit shall be granted in accordance with Board Policy 4066.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive a diploma from the Oldham County Schools, a student must meet all of the following requirements:

- Complete eight (8) semesters of high school unless the student qualifies for Early Graduation under Section G.
- Earn 22 credits or their equivalent if on a six-period schedule, earn 24 credits or their equivalent if on a seven-period schedule, or earn 28 credits or their equivalent if on a block schedule as identified in the required courses listing. An exception to the mandatory credit rule will be considered on a case-by-case basis by a committee chaired by the Secondary Supervisor of Instruction for students enrolled in a credit-recovery program.
- Fulfill the state graduation requirements.
- Make a good faith effort to complete the appropriate state mandated assessment to the best of the student's ability, unless the student is exempt from participation.
- Pass the civics test required pursuant to OCBE Policy 4064.

Students pursuing an alternative diploma will participate in the commencement ceremony of the graduating class of students who entered kindergarten the same year.

A **deceased** student may be awarded a posthumous honorary diploma if the student completed 16 Carnegie units and attended three full years of high school.

GRADUATION HONORS

Any student with a grade point average of 3.7 or higher will be considered as graduating with honors and will be recognized by the board of education at the graduation ceremony. A "graduating senior" according to this policy shall be a student who has previously completed seven (7) high school semesters from a school accredited by the regional accrediting association and is currently completing the eighth (8th) high school semester at one of these Oldham County Schools. School-level honors shall be awarded pursuant to each school's school-based decision-making policy. The Superintendent or designee shall form a committee of administrative staff to determine calculation of grade point average and develop an administrative policy, which shall be provided to students at the beginning of each school year. (See 4065.02-AR)

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The Board will recognize seniors who have completed all state and Board requirements for graduation, have achieved a high-level GPA and taken AP or IB courses as outlined below by identifying individual students as graduating Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude or Summa Cum Laude. An approved Gatton Academy, Craft Academy, or dual-credit course recorded on a college transcript, in which a grade of “C” or higher is earned will be considered equivalent to an AP or IB course for purposes of awarding graduation honors. Review of Gatton Academy, Craft Academy, and dual-credit courses for approval under this policy will be conducted by the Secondary Supervisor of Instruction and the Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning.

Requirements for each of the Board’s recognition levels:

Recognition	Weighted GPA Requirements	Required Courses (if any)
Cum Laude	3.8	None
Magna Cum Laude	4.0	Two AP or IB Courses
Summa Cum Laude	4.2 for Block Schedule 4.15 for 6-Period Day 4.14 for a 7-Period Day*	Four AP or IB Courses

**Phased in (see student handbook for additional information)*

All students achieving Summa Cum Laude recognition will be considered to have valedictorian status.

EARLY GRADUATION

Eight semesters of attendance are required for graduation from high school in Oldham County. However, the Board recognizes the individual differences, which exist among students and the need for a few to complete their high school program in a period of less than four years. Students who meet all applicable legal requirements shall be eligible for receipt of an Early Graduation Certificate. A student who wishes to participate in this program must complete an "Early Graduation Application Form," prior to the beginning of grade nine (9) or as soon thereafter as the intent is known, but no later than within the first thirty (30) school days of the academic year in which he or she intends to graduate. A letter of intent to apply shall be entered into the student information system by October 1 of the year the student declares intent to graduate early. Students working toward receipt of an Early Graduation Certificate shall be supported by development and monitoring of an individual learning plan. Students who meet all applicable legal requirements shall be awarded a diploma and an Early Graduation Certificate.

HARDSHIP GRADUATION REQUESTS

Students who experience extreme health or economic hardship may apply for assistance with graduation requirements for hardship reasons. In the case of extreme hardship, the District may provide alternative methods for the student to complete District graduation requirements which may allow for early graduation. Methods may include, but are not limited to, regular classroom instruction, alternative classroom instruction, online courses, performance-based opportunities, college programs, consideration of waiver of District requirements that exceed state minimums (the District cannot waive state minimums), or credit recovery.