

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Piedmont Board of Education recognizes that a 12-year course of study in certain specific subject areas has proven to be beneficial in assisting students to become productive citizens and to prepare for advanced study. Therefore, it is the policy of the board of education that a minimum of 24 units of credit be earned in the subject areas listed below to be eligible for graduation.

<b>Standard Diploma</b> *College Preparatory Curriculum
4 units English
3 units Social Studies
3 units Mathematics
3 units Science
2 units Technology OR 2 units Foreign Language
9 units Electives
*Fine Arts embedded in English
<b>24 units Total</b>

**Alternate Diploma**

Students with disabilities may earn an alternate diploma based on Alternate Academic Achievement Standards; the student's IEP team makes graduation substitutions with an Essential Elements course or another LEA approved course; and the student meets all graduation requirements prior to exiting school at or before age 22. An alternate diploma issued by the LEA may not indicate that the recipient is a student with a disability.

There are two graduation options for students with disabilities in Oklahoma:

- 1) Graduate with a regular high school diploma, 2) Graduate with an alternative diploma

Earning the alternative diploma, a certificate of completion, or a GED does not end Piedmont Public’s School’s responsibility of FAPE; therefore, a student may continue to receive special education and related services until age 22.

STATUTES: §300.102 Limitation - exception to FAPE for certain ages

All ninth grade students, in order to graduate from an Oklahoma public school, will be required to complete the “college preparatory/work ready curriculum units or sets of competencies” at the secondary level. Beginning 2015-2016, incoming ninth grade students, will select a diploma pathway and be allowed to enroll in the appropriate coursework to meet pathway requirements with parent or legal guardian approval. Current state graduation requirements will be deemed to be the “core curriculum” option. The “college preparatory/work ready curriculum” to earn the Diploma of Distinction will include the following:

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, CONT.**

4 units of English to include Grammar, Composition, Literature, or any English course approved for college admission requirements;

3 units of mathematics, limited to Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Math Analysis, Calculus, Advanced Placement Statistics, or any mathematics course with content and/or rigor above Algebra I and approved for college admission requirements;

3 units of laboratory science, limited to Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or any laboratory science course with content and/or rigor equal to or above Biology and approved for college admission requirements;

3 units of history and citizenship skills, including one unit of American History, one half unit of Oklahoma History, one-half unit of United States Government and one unit from the subjects of History, Government, Geography, Economics, Civics, or Non-Western culture and approved for college admission requirements;

2 units of the same foreign or non-English language or two units of computer technology approved for college admission requirements, whether taught at a high school or technology center school, including computer programming, hardware, and business computer applications, such as word processing, databases, spreadsheets, and graphics, excluding keyboarding or typing courses;

For those graduating prior to July 1, 2018, 1 additional unit selected from the above categories or career and technology education courses approved for college admission requirements. For those graduating after July 1, 2018, 1 additional unit selected from the above categories or career and technology education courses, concurrently enrolled course, Advanced Placement courses or International Baccalaureate courses approved for college admission requirements; and

1 unit or set of competencies of fine arts, such as music, art, or drama, or 1 unit or set of competencies of speech.

In order to graduate from the district with a standard diploma, students shall complete the following core curriculum, college preparatory units at the secondary level:

**Language Arts**

4 units or sets of competencies

1 unit of Grammar and Composition **and**

3 units which may include: American Literature,  
English Literature,  
World Literature,  
Advanced English Courses,  
Other English courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above  
grammar and composition

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, CONT.**

**Mathematics**

3 units or sets of competencies

1 unit of Algebra I **and**

- 2 units which may include:
- Algebra II
  - Geometry 1
  - Trigonometry
  - Math Analysis or Precalculus
  - Statistics and/or Probability
  - Calculus
  - Computer Science I and II
  - Intermediate Algebra
  - Mathematics of Finance

Contextual mathematics courses that enhance technology preparation whether taught at a (1) comprehensive high school, or (2) technology center school when taken in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, taught by a certified teacher, and approved by the State Board of Education and the district board of education.

Mathematics courses taught at a technology center school by a teacher certified in the secondary subject area when taken in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade upon approval of the State Board of Education and the district board of education.

Other mathematics courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above Algebra I  
A science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) block course.

**Social Studies**

3 units or sets of competencies

1 unit of United States History

½ to 1 unit of United States Government

½ unit of Oklahoma History

- ½ unit to 1 unit which may include:
- World History
  - Geography
  - Economics
  - Anthropology
  - Other social studies courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above United States History, United States Government, and Oklahoma history

**Science**

For those graduating prior to July 1, 2018, 3 units or sets of competencies required as follows:

1 unit of Biology I **and**

2 units which may include the following courses, one of which must be a physical science:

- Chemistry I
- Physics
- Biology II
- Chemistry II

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, CONT.**

- Ecology
- Environmental Science
- Physical Science
- Earth Science
- Botany
- Zoology
- Physiology
- Astronomy
- Applied Biology/Chemistry
- Applied Physics
- Principles of Technology
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)
- Qualified agricultural education courses
- Contextual science courses that enhance technology preparation whether taught at a (1) comprehensive high school, or (2) technology center school when taken in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, taught by a certified teacher, and approved by the State Board of Education and the district board of education
- Science courses taught at a technology center school by a teacher certified in the secondary subject area when taken in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade upon approval of the State Board of Education and the district board of education
- Other science courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above Biology I

For those graduating after July 1, 2018, 3 units or sets of competencies of laboratory science approved for college admission requirements:

- 1 unit or set of competencies of life science, meeting the standards for Biology I:
- 1 unit or set of competencies of physical science, meeting the standards for Physical Science, Chemistry or Physics; **and**
- 1 unit or set of competencies from the domains of physical science, life science or earth and space science such that content and rigor is above Biology I or Physical Science.

**The Arts and Computer Education**

For those graduating prior to July 1, 2018, 2 units or sets of competencies  
 For those graduating after July 1, 2018, 1 unit or set of competencies which may include, but is not limited to, courses in Visual Arts and General Music and 1 unit or set of competencies of computer technology, whether taught at a high school or a technology center school, including computer programming, hardware and business computer applications, such as word processing, databases, spreadsheets, and graphics, excluding keyboarding or typing classes

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, CONT.****Electives**

8 units or sets of competencies

Credit may be given for the above-referenced classes when the courses are taken in the seventh or eighth grades if the courses are available at the middle school level, if the teachers are certified or authorized by law to teach the subjects for high school credit and the required course rigor is maintained. Courses taken at the middle school level for high school credit will be transcribed on the student's record as Pass/Fail, and they shall not count toward the student's high school grade point average.

Courses offered by a supplemental education organization that is accredited by a national accrediting body and that are taught by a certified teacher and which provide for the teaching and learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the required state standards, the relevant national standards, or any other frameworks that the state and district use to designate the curriculum may, upon approval of the State Board of Education and the school district board of education, be counted for academic credit and toward meeting state graduation requirements.

No student will be allowed to receive credit more than once for completion of the same unit or sets of competencies. All of the above-referenced classes may not be offered by the district. However, sufficient courses shall be offered to allow students to meet the graduation requirements during the secondary grade years of the student.

The remaining units need to consist of coursework designed to meet the individual needs and interests of the student. However, ~~all~~ students in grades nine and ten are required to enroll in full-time (seven hours) coursework or the equivalent, of rigorous academic and/or rigorous vocational courses each day, which may include arts, vocal and instrumental music, speech classes, and physical education classes. Students in grades eleven and twelve, having having completed a graduation pathway unit check, may transition to a six-hour full-time enrollment. Enrollment in career-technology programs are equivalent to 4 (four) hours. Enrollment in concurrent courses are equivalent to 2 (two) hours per concurrent course.

When a student completes a Pre-Advanced Placement course or Advanced Placement course without completing the AP Assessment, the grade will be recorded on the student's transcript and will be factored into the calculation of the student's grade point average on a 4.5 (four and one-half) point scale.

When a student completes an Advanced Placement course and the AP Assessment, the grade will be recorded on the student's transcript and will be factored into the calculation of the student's grade point average on a 5 (five) point scale.

When a student earns college credit through concurrent enrollment, the grade will be recorded on the student's transcript and will be factored into the calculation of the student's grade point average on a 5 (five) point scale. Students will receive high school credit for these courses. Academic credit will be awarded for courses that are correlated with courses offered by the district's high school. Elective credit will be awarded for courses that are not correlated.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, CONT.**

The Board of Education may establish requirements that exceed state graduation requirements.

Students who transfer into this school district from out of state after their junior year of high school shall not be denied, because of differing graduation requirements, the opportunity to be awarded a standard diploma. This applies to students who would be unable to meet the specific graduation requirements listed above without extending the date of graduation. Exception from the graduation requirements will be based on rules established by the State Department of Education. All exceptions and the reasons therefor shall be reported to the State Department of Education on or before July 1 of each year.

Students shall fulfill the requirements for a Personal Financial Literacy Passport in order to graduate from a public high school accredited by the State Board of Education with a standard diploma. The requirements for a Personal

Financial Literacy Passport shall be the satisfactory completion and demonstration of satisfactory knowledge in all 14 areas of instruction during grades seven through twelve. The fourteen (14) areas of instruction are:

1. understanding interest, credit card debt, and online commerce;
2. rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home;
3. savings and investing;
4. planning for retirement;
5. bankruptcy;
6. banking and financial services;
7. balancing a checkbook;
8. understanding loans and borrowing money, including predatory lending and payday loans;
9. understanding insurance;
10. identity fraud and theft;
11. charitable giving;
12. understanding the financial impact and consequences of gambling;
13. earning an income; and
14. understanding state and federal taxes.

Instruction will be provided in the 14 areas through integration in one or more courses in grades 7-12.

Effective school year 2015-2016 the “Dustin Rhodes and Lindsey Steed CPR Training Act” requires:

- That all students in public schools, between ninth grade and graduation, shall receive instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- That all students in public schools, between ninth grade and graduation, in the state shall receive instructional awareness of the purpose of automated external defibrillator.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, CONT.**

- That instruction in CPR shall be based upon an instructional program, which is nationally recognized and evidence-based. (See a list of programs that meet these requirements below.)
- A school district may use emergency medical technicians, paramedics, police officers, firefighters, teachers, other school employees or other similarly qualified organizations to provide the instruction.
- That instruction in CPR shall incorporate psychomotor skills training (the use of hands-on practice to support cognitive learning)
- The instruction may be provided as part of any course.
- A school administrator may waive the curriculum requirement for a student who has a disability.
- A parent can request in writing that their student not be included in the instruction.
- The State Board of Education shall establish a protocol for monitoring the requirements set forth by HB 1378
- Two or more school districts may enter into an interlocal or multi-district cooperative agreement to fulfill the requirements of the law.

In order to graduate with a standard diploma, students who entered ninth grade prior to, or during, the 2016-2017 school year are required to complete a previously or currently mandated Oklahoma School Testing Program assessment or alternate assessment approved by the superintendent. The highest-achieved score on the assessment and any business and industry-recognized endorsements attained will be reflected on the student's transcript.

**REFERENCE:** 70 O.S. § 11-103.2c  
70 O.S. § 11-103.6  
70 O.S. § 1210.508  
70 O.S. § 1210.523