Policy

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Code **IKF** Revised **11/24**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for high school graduation.

The South Carolina State Board of Education regulates the South Carolina State High School Diploma. A state high school diploma from this district is based upon the satisfactory completion of the number of units required by state law. One unit of credit (or fractional credit) is the amount of credit earned when the student satisfactorily completes 120 hours of instruction or satisfies competency assessments in a given subject area, including an approved locally designed course. For purposes of this policy, demonstrated competence means subject mastery of the course material as determined by district standards and review (i.e., tests, interviews, peer evaluation, writing samples, reports, or portfolios). For example, 30 hours equal ¼ credit***,*** 60 hours equals one ½ credit, 120 hours equals 1 credit.

The district must offer a standards-based academic curriculum organized around a career cluster system that provides students with individualized education pathways and endorsements, Coursework must be aligned with the student's personalized diploma pathway. When applicable, students will be offered national industry certifications or credentials.

Endorsements

Students will have the opportunity to earn endorsements within their personalized high school diploma pathway, which will identify a particular area of focus. Endorsements may be in the form of seals added to a student's uniform diploma; however, earning an endorsement is not a requirement for graduation. To earn a graduation endorsement, the student's program of study must meet certain criteria, including SBC – approved pathways, specific courses, and other South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) guidelines.

Students in the district may graduate from high school by meeting the requirements outlined in administrative rule IKF-R.

Adopted 1/11/82; Revised 6/1/98, 3/4/13, 10/2/17, 10/1/18, 11/24

Legal references:

A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
   1. Section 59-26-70 – No commission or agency to require foreign language as a prerequisite to receive a regular high school diploma.
   2. Section 59-39-100 – Diplomas to be uniform in every respect; units required to earn a diploma.
   3. 59-18-310(B) – Statewide assessment program.
   4. 59-29-110 – Accelerated program of study.
   5. 59-29-80 – Courses in physical education; ROTC program.
   6. 59-29-190 – Advanced placement courses for academically talented students.

7. 59-17-130 – American Sign Language as world language credit.
8. 59-38-10 – South Carolina Education Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care.

B. State Board of Education Regulations:
1. R43-259 – Graduation requirements.
2. R43-262 – Assessment program.
3. R43-234 – Defined program, grades 9-12.