

Preparing for High School

Prior to ninth grade, all students and their parent(s) or guardian(s) should meet with a school counselor or faculty advisor to create a focused course plan for high school. The plan is designed to ensure students meet all State and District requirements for graduation, while also helping students identify courses that match their interests and learning abilities. Course plans are reviewed each school year by the student and school counselor or faculty advisor. Plans may be revised based on academic progress and/or changes in the student's interests.

Becoming a Ready Graduate

Shelby County Schools is committed to helping every high school student become a "Ready Graduate." While "Ready Graduate" status is not a State requirement for graduation, it helps prepare students for success after high school by exposing them a variety of Early Post-Secondary Opportunities (EPSOs). These may include AP or IB courses, dual enrollment or statewide dual credit courses and career & technical training opportunities. You can learn more about EPSOs at scsk12.org/epso. High school counselors can also provide more information about the EPSOs available at each school.

Course Requirements for Graduation

English: 4 credits (English I, II, III & IV)

Math: 4 credits (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry & a Math course beyond Algebra I)

**Students must be enrolled in a Math course each year of high school*

Science: 3 credits (Biology, Chemistry or Physics & a lab Science course)

Social Studies: 3 credits (World History/ Geography, U.S. History/Geography, U.S. Government/Civics & Economics)

Physical Education & Wellness: 1.5 credits (Lifetime Wellness & PE elective)

Personal Finance: 0.5 credits

Foreign Language: 2 credits (Same foreign language; schools may waive the requirement to allow additional credits for an elective focus)

Fine Arts: 1 credit (Schools may waive the requirement to allow additional credits for an elective focus)

Elective Focus: 3 credits consisting of Math/Science, Career & Technical Education, Fine Arts, Humanities, Advanced Placement (AP) / International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual Enrollment, ROTC, Physical Education, College Readiness, Career Readiness and Liberal Arts/general studies.

TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS FOR GRADUATION: 22

**High school credits earned prior to ninth grade are counted toward a student's graduation requirements.*

Additional Requirements

Computer Education: A full year of computer education completed before graduation

United States Civics Test: Starting with the class of 2020, a passing score of 70% or higher must be earned on the United States Civics Test in order to graduate. Students may take the test as many times as necessary.

ACT/SAT Completion: All students who attend a Tennessee public school in grade 11 must complete the ACT or SAT prior to graduation in order to earn a regular high school diploma.

Grade Level Classification

Grade 9: Less than five (5) credits earned

Grade 10: Earned five (5) credits and passed English 9

Grade 11: Earned eleven (11) credits and passed English 10

Grade 12: Earned sixteen (16) credits and passed English 11

