

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### Definitions from Delaware Code, Title 14:

"Career Pathway" means the three (3) credits of pre-planned and sequential courses required for graduation designed to develop knowledge and skills in a particular career or academic area.

"Computer Science" means an advanced placement, honors, college prep or integrated computer science course that meets both the computer science and mathematics standards that can be used towards a mathematics graduation credit requirement in addition to those mathematics course requirements under subsection 5.1.1.

"Credit" means the acquisition of skills and knowledge at a satisfactory level as determined by the district and charter school boards through 135 hours (a Carnegie Unit) of actual classroom instruction, which may include various methods of delivery or through locally approved options contained in Section 8.0.

"Department" means the Delaware Department of Education.

"English Language Arts" means those four components of reading, writing, language, and speaking and listening that are included in the State Content Standards for high school English Language Arts as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501.

"Health Education" means those components that are included in the State Content Standards for high school health education as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501.

"High School" means grades 9 through 12.

"Homeless Youth" as defined by the provisions 42 U.S.C. §11434a(2), means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. §11302(a)(1)), and includes:

- Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; or are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. §11302(a)(2)(C));
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children (as such term is defined in 20 U.S.C. §6399 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended) who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above.

"Mathematics" means those conceptual categories of number and quantity, algebra, functions, geometry, statistics and probability combined with problem solving, modeling, reasoning, communicating, and making connections that are included in the State Content Standards for high

school mathematics as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501 either through integrated courses or in courses titles such as Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Computer Science, Discrete Mathematics, Statistics, and Probability.

**“Novice-high proficiency level”** means the novice-high level of proficiency of certain skills and knowledge as defined by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

"Physical Education" means those components that are included in the State Content Standards for high school physical education as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501 and 503. In addition to the one credit required for high school graduation, only one additional elective credit in physical education such as weightlifting, yoga, fitness, running, or tennis may be used to fulfill the graduation requirements.

"Science" means those components of the nature of science which include science and engineering practices, matter and its interactions, motion and stability, energy and its effects, waves and their applications, Earth's place in the universe, Earth's systems, Earth and human activity, life structure and processes, ecosystems, heredity, diversity and continuity of living thing, engineering design, and the links among engineering, technology, science, and society that are included in the State Content Standards for high school science as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501 either through integrated courses or in course titles such as Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

"Social Studies" means those components of civics, economics, geography, and history that are included in the State Content Standards for high school social studies as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501 either through integrated courses or in course titles such as United States History, World History, Geography, Economics, and Civics.

**“State of Delaware High School Diploma”** means a diploma granted to students who successfully complete the prescribed course requirements established by the State, or the district or charter school, if district or charter school credit requirements are higher than those of the State.

**“State of Delaware – Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards”** means a diploma awarded to a student who has met the requirements of the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) but will not complete the high school graduation course credit requirements established by the State, district, or charter school for a State of Delaware High School Diploma.

**“Student in DSCYF custody”** means a student, who is or was in the custody of the Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families (“DSCYF”) including the Division of Family Services (DFS), the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health (PBH) and the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (YRS), for any length of time, during his or her enrollment in high school.

"World Languages" means any language other than English that is used by peoples around the world for communicating information and ideas and transmitting its culture(s), including American Sign Language (ASL), Latin and Ancient Greek.

### **Credit Requirements for State of Delaware Diploma**

During the senior year, students shall maintain a credit load each semester that earns them at least a majority of credits that could be taken that semester including one of the four credits in mathematics. (14 DE Admin Code 505.5.1.4)

High school programs in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, world language, visual and performing arts, and vocational-technical must be aligned with the state content standards.

A state-sanctioned Diploma of Alternate Achievement shall be granted to students who are unable to satisfactorily meet the minimal requirements for a diploma and who have attended school twelve or more years excluding kindergarten. 14 DE Admin. Code 505 (6.0)

Students may not repeat courses for additional credit and/or grades, including those taken in the Academic Challenge Program. Students requesting to repeat a course for other academic reasons must receive prior approval from the building principal. Students repeating a course will only receive one total credit and receive the higher grade.

### Optional Credits

Indian River School District can award credit toward high school graduation for state-approved activities as listed in Title 14 Delaware Code, on the condition that the activities incorporate applicable state content standards. These optional credits must have prior approval of the school principal before any of the options may replace similar district courses.

- a. Courses taken at or through an accredited community college, two or four-year college. (Excluding Academic Challenge credits)
- b. Voluntary community service as defined in 14 Del. C. Sections 8901A and 8902A, with prior approval. (Limited to one (1) credit per policy JJ)
- c. Supervised work experience in the school and the community, which meets the educational objectives or special career interest of the individual student.
- d. Distance Learning courses may be delivered by the teacher to the learner in real time, online, or by video.
- e. High school courses taken while in the middle school in conjunction with an articulated agreement between the district middle school and the district high school(s). (May exceed three credit limit)
- f. Course credit transferred from another high school. (May exceed three credit limit)
- g. Course credit earned through summer or evening school classes, as a member of the military service and/or as part of the James H. Groves Adult High School.
- h. Tutoring programs approved by the principal and taught by a teacher certified in the subject being taught.
- i. Course credit awarded by agencies or instrumentalities of the state other than public school, which provide educational services to students (i.e., Stevenson House, Meadow Wood, etc.). A description of the program provided to the student, grades given, and the number of clock hours of instruction or a demonstration of competency must be provided to the school district prior to receipt of credit.
- j. Courses taught by a teacher certified in the subject being taught and credit earned upon demonstration of mastery of the competencies of the particular course.

All students must meet the State of Delaware's required credits for graduation as listed below

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| English            | 4 credits |
| Social Studies     | 3 credits |
| Math               | 4 credits |
| Science            | 3 credits |
| Physical Education | 1 credit  |
| Health             | .5 credit |
| Career Pathways    | 3 credits |

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| World Languages  | 2 credits    |
| Elective Courses | 4 credits    |
| Total Credits    | 24.5 credits |

Students who acquire a minimum of 24.5 credits, as set forth in this policy, will receive a State of Delaware Diploma.

The Indian River School District will consider Early Senior Completion for students on a case-by-case basis for students who have satisfied all state and district graduation requirements, including evidence of postsecondary readiness, and successful completion of the required approval process. A written request must be submitted to the school principal, who will then provide details on the procedural requirements. For students under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must be involved in the request and approval process. Early Senior Completion is contingent upon final approval by the Superintendent or their designee, in accordance with applicable policies and regulations.

Exceptional circumstances involved in the receiving of a diploma will be decided by the Superintendent.

Adopted 11/28/89

Revised 5/25/93, 7/27/93, 8/23/94, 11/21/97, 11/24/97, 4/16/99, 4/24/01, 7/26/05, 6/19/07, 5/24/11, 10/28/15, 6/24/19, 8/26/19, 6/23/25