

Graduation Course Requirements*

Graduation Requirements in Number of Credit Hours

Subject Area	All ECSD Students	Scholar Endorsement ¹	STEM Endorsement
English/Language Arts	4	4 ¹	4
Mathematics	4	4 ¹	5
Science	4	4 ¹	5
Social Studies	3	3 ¹	4
Health (.5 Units) & Personal Fitness (.5 Units)	1	1	1
Foreign Language ²	n/a ²	3	2
Pathway ³ (CTAE, Fine Arts, or Foreign Language ²)	3	3 (or 3 additional academic credits)	3 (STEM pathway)
Scientific Research	n/a	n/a	3
Successful Completion of a Virtual STEM Portfolio	n/a	n/a	3 years

Footnotes:

- Scholar Endorsement Courses:** Scholar Endorsement requires Honors, AP, or Dual Enrollment in these subject areas. Core classes taken at the middle school level for high school credit do not have to be designated as honors to count for Scholar Endorsement.
- Foreign Language:** Students planning to enter or transfer into a University System of Georgia institution or other post-secondary institution must take two units of the same Foreign Language or two units of Computer Science.
- Pathway Courses:** One pathway is required for graduation. Three courses in a specific area are needed to complete a pathway. Students in CTAE pathways must take an End of Pathway Assessment. To learn more about pathways, see page 13.

ECHS, SEHS, and ECCA/STEM students are expected to complete four years of high school enrollment, ensuring they graduate with their established cohort. This policy is designed to give students the maximum opportunity to explore academic and extracurricular options. Students are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities like Work-Based Learning or Dual Enrollment to enhance their schedules and future readiness.

Learn More

Visit [ecsdnews.com/grad](https://www.ecsdnews.com/grad) to learn more about Graduation Requirements.

SCHOLAR ENDORSEMENT

The Scholar Endorsement is an acknowledgment of students who have finished challenging classes with advanced material, engaging in critical reading, and doing daily homework. These courses are meant to prepare students for Advanced Placement classes, as well as to improve their chances of getting into competitive colleges. Students will be recognized at Class Night for earning the Scholar Endorsement. To earn the Scholar Endorsement, students must not have any failing grades on their high school transcript. To meet the high school graduation requirements, students can achieve the Scholar Endorsement by completing the minimum course requirements outlined above. Core classes taken at the middle school level for high school credit do not have to be designated as honors to count for Scholar Endorsement.

STEM ENDORSEMENT

The STEM Endorsement recognizes students who attend the Effingham College & Career Academy STEM Program and who have completed rigorous, STEM-focused coursework requiring advanced content, challenging intellectual engagement, daily homework, extensive critical reading, and out-of-class research and/or projects. Students may not have any failing course grades recorded on the high school transcript or credit removed from a course due to attendance. Students are recognized at Class Night for earning the STEM Endorsement.

*Course requirements are effective for students entering freshman year (9th grade) in the fall of 2026. Requirements may vary for previous years and are subject to change in future years. Visit [ecsdnews.com/grad](https://www.ecsdnews.com/grad) to find course requirements for each year's cohort.