## Diploma Types

### Traditional High School Diploma

A Traditional High School Diploma is awarded to students who meet the minimum standards established by the State Board of Education, earn the specified twenty-two (22) units of credit, complete the ACT, and have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct. Students must also take Computer Science and pass a US Civics exam designed by the LEA.

### Special Education Diploma

A Special Education Diploma may be awarded at the end of the fourth year of high school to students with disabilities who:

- have not met the requirements for a regular high school diploma,
- have received special education services or supports and made satisfactory progress on an individualized education program,
- and have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct,

Students who obtain a Special Education Diploma may continue to work toward a regular high school diploma through the end of the school year in which they turn twenty-two (22) years old.

### Occupational Diploma

An Occupational Diploma may be awarded at the end of the fourth year of high school to students with disabilities who:

- have not met the requirements for a regular high school diploma,
- have received special education services or supports and made satisfactory progress on an individualized education program,
- have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct,
- have completed the occupational diploma Skills, Knowledge, and Experience Mastery Assessment (SKEMA) created by the Tennessee Department of Education,
- and have completed two (2) years of paid or non-paid work experience.

Students who obtain an Occupational Diploma may continue to work toward a regular high school diploma through the end of the school year in which they turn twenty-two (22) years old.

### Alternate Academic Diploma

An Alternate Academic Diploma may be awarded at the end of the fourth year of high school to students with significant cognitive disabilities who:

- have participated in the high school alternate assessments,
- earned the prescribed twenty-two (22) credit minimum,
- have received special education services or supports and made satisfactory progress on an individualized education program,
- have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct,
- have completed a transition assessment(s) that measure, at a minimum, postsecondary education and training, employment, independent living, and community involvement.

The required credits may be earned either through the state-approved standards or through alternate academic diploma course requirements defined by the Department of Education. A student who earns an alternate academic diploma shall continue to be eligible for special education services under IDEA until the student receives a regular high school diploma or through the end of the school year in which they turn twenty-two (22) years old.