Graduation Requirements

To meet state and local graduation requirements, students must earn a minimum of 22 credits in the following specified areas.

English: 4 credits	
Math: 4 credits	The four math credits must include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and a fourth higher-level math course. *Students must be enrolled in a mathematics course each year.*
Science: 3 credits	The three science credits must include Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and a third lab course.
Social Studies: 3 credits	The three social studies credits must include: • World History and Geography (Standard or AP) or AP Human Geography or AP European History • US History and Geography (Standard, AP, or DE) or American History SDC • Economics (Standard or AP) and US Government and Politics (Standard, AP, or DE)
Lifetime Wellness: 1 credit	
Physical Education: 0.5 credit	The Physical Education requirement may be met through documented participation in at least 80 hours of approved extracurricular activities such as marching band, school sports, or competitive community sports.
Personal Finance: 0.5 credit	
World Language: 2 credits	The two world language credits must be obtained in the same language.
Fine Arts: 1 credit	
Area of Focus: 3 credits	Three additional credits beyond those listed above must be earned through a focused program of study designed to prepare students for the workforce and postsecondary study.
**Computer Science credit	Beginning with the entering Freshmen class of 2024-2025, high school students must take one Computer Science credit for high school graduation (TCA 49-1-232). This course can count as a 4th math credit or a 3rd lab science credit.

Assessments

- **TNReady End of Course Exams:** EOC exams are required by the State Board of Education and Tennessee Department of Education for students enrolled in English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Biology. A student's score on the EOC exam will be factored as a percentage of the student's final average in the related course.
- **ACT:** The ACT is required for every junior by the State Board of Education. To receive a regular high school diploma, all students enrolled in a Tennessee public school during their eleventh-grade year must take the ACT.
- **United States Civics Test:** To receive a regular high school diploma, all students must take and pass a United States civics test. This test will be administered upon completion of the US Government course.
- **Advanced Placement Exams:** AP exams are required for students enrolled in AP courses. All students enrolled in an AP course must pay the **$97** exam fee per course and participate in the College Board AP testing program in May. If a student does not sit the for AP exam, the additional 5 percentage points added to the student's grade(s) will be removed and the student's final grade will be recalculated to reflect that change. Students in AP courses may earn college credit if they perform well on the national exam.
- **Statewide Dual Credit Challenge Exams:** All students enrolled in an SDC course must sit for the challenge exam at the end of the course. If a student does not sit for the challenge exam, the additional 4 percentage points added to the student's grade(s) will be removed and the student's final grade will be recalculated to reflect that change. Students who meet the cut score on the culminating challenge exam earn credit that can be applied to any public postsecondary institution in the state.
- **National Industry Certification Exams:** Students enrolled in CTE programs of study are encouraged to complete the aligned industry certification exam.

Area of Focus

Part of meeting Tennessee's graduation requirements is the inclusion of an Area of Focus. As part of curricular planning, students will work with counselors and utilize post-secondary interest inventories and student input to make choices about that focus. Focused programs of study are designed to prepare students for the workforce, post-secondary study, or both. The intent of the area of focus is to provide students with an opportunity to explore a particular academic area in greater depth, and include options in Career & Technical Education, the Fine Arts, or the Liberal Arts - each of which offers several choices to meet student needs and desires.

Students who may not want to pursue a traditional university education as their post-secondary path can request to waive World Language or Fine Arts credit requirements to expand their area of focus. Students should discuss this option with their parents, their counselor, and their college and career counselor to ensure it's the best choice for them.

College & Career Readiness (CCR)

Tennessee's new College & Career Readiness (CCR) measure reflects how well students are prepared to pursue their chosen postsecondary pathway—whether that is college, career training, military service, or entering the workforce. CCR is demonstrated through a combination of academic progress, skill development, and completion of key readiness indicators.

Students can meet CCR expectations in several ways, including:

- Earning early postsecondary opportunities (EPSOs), such as dual enrollment, AP, SDC, industry certification, or work-based learning.
- Meeting benchmarks on nationally recognized assessments such as the ACT or ASVAB.
- Completing career-aligned programs of study that lead to stackable credentials and future opportunities.

As you explore courses and plan your pathway, pay close attention to EPSO options and courses that build the knowledge, skills, and credentials aligned to your long-term goals.