

Bartlett City Board of Education		4029
Descriptor Term: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	Descriptor Code: INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	Issue Date: 05/22/2014
	Rescinds:	Revised: 03/17/2016 07/23/2026

1 **I. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

2 To meet the requirements for graduation, a student shall have attained an approved record of
3 attendance, conduct, and subject matter, and such record shall be kept on file in Bartlett High
4 School.

5 Before graduation, every student shall meet the following requirements¹:

- 6 1. Achieve the specified twenty-two (22) units of credit;
- 7 2. Take the ACT, SAT, or other eleventh (11th) grade post-secondary readiness assessment,
8 as determined by the Tennessee Commissioner of Education, unless the student qualifies
9 for a limited exemption as defined by the Tennessee Department of Education²;
- 10 3. Beginning with students who enroll in ninth (9th) grade in the 2024-2025 school year or
11 any subsequent school year, earn at least one (1) credit of computer science in high
12 school, unless the student transfers from another state or country or a non-public school
13 to a Tennessee high school during their twelfth (12th) grade year;
- 14 4. Maintain a satisfactory record of attendance and discipline; and
- 15 5. Pass a United States civics test.³

16 If a middle school student successfully completes any of the State Board-required high school
17 credits, as evidenced by a passing grade in the course prior to grade nine (9), the student shall
18 receive graduation credit for that coursework.⁴

19 The following twenty-two (22) units shall be required for graduation for students who enter the 9th
20 grade:

21	English	4 credits
22	Mathematics	4 credits
23	Science	3 credits
24	Social Studies	3 credits
25	Personal Finance	0.5 credit

¹ T.C.A. 49-6-6001; State Board of Education Policy 2.103; TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.06

² T.C.A. 49-6-6001(b); State Board of Education Policy 2.103

³ T.C.A. 49-6-408; State Board of Education Policy 2.103

⁴ State Board of Education Policy 2.102

1	Wellness	1 credit
2	Physical Education	0.5 credit
3	World Language	2 credits
4	Fine Arts	1 credit
5	Elective Focus	3 credits

6 If a student completes any of the required math credits prior to the 9th grade, the student is still
7 required to enroll in a mathematics course in at least three (3) years of high school.

8 Students may not receive credit for courses in which the student has never enrolled.

9 In order to meet the social studies course credit requirements to earn a full diploma upon
10 graduation from high school, each student must take and pass the civics test given by BCS.

11 Two high school ESL courses shall be counted toward the four (4) English credits required for
12 graduation. At least one (1) of the ESL courses counted toward graduation credit shall be counted
13 toward credit in an English course with an end-of-course assessment. Additional high school ESL
14 courses shall be counted as elective humanities credits.

15 Students may fulfill their computer science requirement by substituting computer science for the
16 student's fourth credit of mathematics, third credit of science, or an elective focus credit. Students
17 may only use computer science as a substitution to fulfill one (1) credit in mathematics, or one (1)
18 credit in science, or one (1) or more elective focus credits required for a traditional high school
19 diploma.

20 **II. EARLY GRADUATION⁵**

21 Students may complete an early high school graduation program and be eligible for unconditional
22 entry into a public two (2)-year institution of higher education or conditional entry into a public four
23 (4)-year institution of higher education subject to the requirements below. Any student wishing to
24 complete an early high school graduation program must fulfill each of the following requirements:

- 25 1. Earn the required seventeen (17) credits that include:
 - 26 A. English I, II, III, and IV
 - 27 B. Algebra I and II*
 - 28 C. Geometry*
 - 29 D. United States History
 - 30 E. Two (2) courses in the same World language
 - 31 F. One (1) course selected from the following:
 - 32 a. Economics
 - 33 b. Government
 - 34 c. World Civilizations
 - 35 d. World Geography
 - 36 G. One (1) course selected from the following:
 - 37 a. History and appreciation of visual and performing arts

⁵ T.C.A. 49-6-8103; State Board of Education Policy 2.103; Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 912

- b. A standards-based arts course, which may include studio art, band, chorus, dance or other performing arts
- H. Health and Physical Education (Wellness)
- I. Biology
- J. Chemistry

2. Attain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 on the Tennessee Uniform Grading System four (4) point scale;
3. Score at the On-Track or Mastered level on each End of Course assessment taken (excluding end-of-course assessments taken during the student's final semester prior to early graduation);
4. Meet benchmark scores of twenty-five (25) or higher on the mathematics portion of the ACT and twenty-five (25) or higher on the English portion of the ACT, equivalent scores on the SAT, or benchmark score on the CLT;
5. Achieve a passing score on a nationally recognized foreign language proficiency assessment; and
6. Completes two (2) early postsecondary courses.

A student pursuing early graduation through the Move on When Ready program may take two (2) high school English courses in an academic year.

A student pursuing early graduation through the Move on When Ready program must complete an intent form available from the Department of Education and submit it to her or his high school principal and the department of education prior to the beginning of grade nine (9) or as soon thereafter as the intent is known. The intent shall be indicated on a form provided by the school and signed by the parent.

A student pursuing early graduation through the Move on When Ready program is exempt from any additional graduation requirements.

A student who completes the Move on When Ready program shall be awarded a regular high school diploma.

A student who does not participate in the Move On When Ready program may still graduate earlier than the end of their senior year of high school, provided the student meets all graduation requirements set forth in Section I of this Policy and notifies their Principal in writing of his/her intention to graduate early by January 15 of the school year in which they intend to graduate.

STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES⁶

Students receiving special education services who successfully earn the prescribed twenty-two (22) credit minimum and complete their Individualized Educational Program (IEP) shall be awarded a regular diploma.

⁶ T.C.A. §49-6-6005

A special education diploma shall be awarded to students who have not met the requirements for a regular high school diploma but have⁷:

1. Completed four (4) years of high school;
2. Made satisfactory progress on their IEP; and
3. Maintained satisfactory records of attendance and conduct.

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

III. OCCUPATIONAL DIPLOMA⁸

An occupational diploma may be awarded to students with disabilities at the end of their fourth (4th) year of high school who have:

1. Not met the requirements for a traditional high school diploma;
2. Received special education services or supports and made satisfactory progress on an IEP;
3. Have maintained satisfactory records of attendance and conduct;
4. Have completed the occupational diploma Skills, Knowledge, and Experience Mastery Assessment (SKEMA); and
5. Have completed two (2) years of paid or non-paid work experience.

The decision to attain an occupational diploma shall be made at the conclusion of the student's tenth (10th) grade year or two (2) academic years prior to the expected graduation date.

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

IV. ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC DIPLOMA⁹

Special education students who do not meet the requirements for a regular high school diploma may be awarded an alternate academic diploma if the student has:

1. Completed at least four (4) years of high school;
2. Participated in the high school alternative assessment;
3. Earned the prescribed twenty-two (22) credit minimum;
4. Made satisfactory progress on their IEP;
5. Maintained satisfactory records of attendance and conduct; and
6. Completed a transition assessment that measures postsecondary education and training, employment, independent living, and community involvement.

STUDENT LOAD

All full-time students in grades 9-12 shall be enrolled each semester in subjects that produce a minimum of five (5) units of credit for graduation per year. Students with hardships and gifted students may appeal this requirement to the Superintendent and then to the Board.¹⁰

⁷ T.C.A. 49-6-6005; State Board of Education Policy 2.103

⁸ State Board of Education Policy 2.103

⁹ TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.06; State Board of Education Policy 2.103

¹⁰ TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.03(6)