



## Cache County School District

### Policy Series 4000: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

#### Policy No. 4900 P4

### Focused Graduation Pathway

#### Purpose

The Focused Graduation Pathway (FGP) provides an alternative pathway for eligible students who are significantly deficient in credits to earn a traditional high school diploma. The program is offered exclusively through Cache High School and shall be implemented in accordance with Utah State Board of Education Rule R277-722 and district graduation requirements.

#### Program Availability

The Focused Graduation Pathway shall be offered exclusively through Cache High School. Students enrolled in other Cache County School District high schools who are determined to be eligible for the Focused Graduation Pathway may be referred to Cache High School for participation.

#### Eligibility

A student may participate in the Focused Graduation Pathway at Cache High School if the student:

- 1) is at least 16 years of age;
- 2) is enrolled as a junior or senior in high school;
- 3) is significantly behind in credits earned toward graduation:
  - a. at least six credits behind if a junior; or
  - b. at least three credits behind if a senior;
- 4) demonstrates a ninth-grade reading level or higher on an assessment approved by the district;
- 5) remains enrolled as a student at Cache High School, and
- 6) has been recommended by school staff based on academic need and potential for success.
- 7) exception: In unique or extenuating circumstances, a student who otherwise meets the eligibility requirements may request an exception to participate in the Focused Graduation Pathway at the student's traditional high school rather than enrolling at Cache High School. Exceptions shall be considered on a case-by-case basis and shall be limited to circumstances in which participation at Cache High School would create a significant barrier to the student's successful completion of the Focused Graduation Pathway. Requests shall be submitted to the Executive Director of Secondary Education and are subject to approval by the CCSD Instructional Council.

#### Enrollment Process

Prior to enrollment, the student and the parent or guardian shall meet with the school counselor and principal of Cache High School.

- 1) During the meeting, school personnel shall explain:
  - a. the requirements of the Focused Graduation Pathway;
  - b. available academic supports and services;
  - c. graduation requirements that remain after successful completion of GED subject examinations; and
  - d. expectations for participation and progress monitoring.
- 2) Written parental consent shall be obtained prior to participation unless the student is a verified unaccompanied minor.
- 3) Participation in the Focused Graduation Pathway is voluntary.

### **Program Requirements**

Students enrolled in the Focused Graduation Plan must:

- 1) participate in required instructional activities and supports;
- 2) complete GED preparation requirements established by the school;
- 3) follow attendance and participation expectations established by the school; and
- 4) comply with school rules and behavioral expectations.
- 5)

Successful completion of required assessments may be used to fulfill credit requirements in accordance with state guidelines.

### **GED Testing and Credits**

- 1) Students shall complete GED examinations through approved testing centers or other methods authorized by GED policies and procedures. Students are responsible for all GED exam fees.
- 2) Schools may award graduation credit for successful completion of GED examinations as follows:
  - a. Reasoning Through Language Arts – up to 4.0 credits of language arts;
  - b. Mathematical Reasoning – up to 3.0 credits of mathematics;
  - c. Science – up to 3.0 credits of science; and
  - d. Social Studies – up to 3.0 credits of social studies.
- 3) Credit awarded through the Focused Graduation Pathway shall be recorded on the student's transcript as pass/fail.
- 4) Students shall complete all remaining graduation requirements established by the district and school.

### **Diploma and Graduation**

Students who successfully complete all graduation requirements, including any remaining requirements not satisfied through the Focused Graduation Pathway (FGP), shall be awarded a traditional high school diploma.

Students who successfully complete all graduation requirements shall be eligible to participate in the Cache High graduation ceremony in accordance with district policy and procedures.

## **Implementation**

Cache High School shall:

- 1) develop and maintain a written Focused Graduation Plan for each student enrolled in the FGP; and
- 2) designate a Focused Graduation Plan Coordinator. The coordinator shall:
  - a. verify student eligibility;
  - b. maintain required documentation and consent forms;
  - c. monitor student progress;
  - d. coordinate instructional supports and GED testing; and
  - e. ensure compliance with district policy and state requirements.

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