



## New Graduation Requirements Frequently Asked Questions.

Check back frequently as new questions are added and additional information is provided. Below are the best responses as of April 9, 2024, from the KSDE graduation work group

### General CTE Guidance:

You cannot require one single CTE course be taken by each student in a district for graduation. You can have students meet graduation requirements by taking a CTE course that meets or aligns with graduation course standards; however, it should be tied to the student's interest so that they learn the information tied to the standards (Competencies), course required for graduation, in the context of the Pathway. So, you may have a list of courses for them to choose from based on their interests.

### What are some examples of computer science course that would be accepted?

In accordance with HB 2466 (PACK Act) each secondary school must offer at least one computer science class. For additional information, please check out the standards by following this link: <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Career-Standards-and-Assessment-Services/Content-Area-A-E/Computer-Science>

**Updated information/STEM:** based on language from the February 15, 2024 state wide zoom - **Local school systems will determine what constitutes an advanced course in the areas of science, technology, engineering, math, or other similar studies (non-entry level courses).**

**Updated information/ELA and Communications:** based on language from the February 22, 2024 state wide zoom

KSDE's current guidance provides the following options:

Systems wishing to have a semester of Communication within ELA can do so and will need a course code affiliated with the Communication class. If this is the route chosen, an appropriately licensed English teacher may teach this class.

**OR**

Districts who require a stand-alone communication class may assign either a Speech/Theatre endorsed teacher to provide instruction or an English Language Arts endorsed teacher to provide instruction. Please note: debate, forensics, and public speaking courses will require a Speech/Theatre endorsed teacher.

Please note: The chief administrative officer may waive up to one unit of this requirement if the chief administrative officer determines that a pupil may benefit more by taking another subject.

### Could Forensics/Debate potentially count towards 1 full ELA credit for graduation?

This would be a local control decision, as long as the class is mapped to the appropriate ELA standards, including reading, writing, literature, grammar, and at least one-half unit of communication.

### **Can Culinary Arts count as a fine arts credit?**

Based on the considerations around this being primarily a CTE pathway course, it cannot be counted as Fine Arts.

### **If we award mastery credit, do we need to have a licensed staff member and a course code mapped for this course?**

This would be a local control decision, but should a district move to use competency and mastery, a licensed teacher would need to be part of the process.

### **Is the FAFSA required?**

Current guidance as of today is as follows (based on the February 15, 2024 state wide zoom meeting):

- The intent with the new graduation requirements beginning with the Class of 2028 (current 8<sup>th</sup> graders) is for each student to complete the FAFSA prior to graduation.
- Any student, family, or school can opt a student out of completing the FAFSA.

### **Does a Business Communication class meet the requirement for speech?**

This would be a local control decision, but as long as the standards for a speech class are met in this class, it could count. An appropriately licensed business teacher could teach this class.

### **State assessments - Do students have to have a 3+ in all areas or just one?**

#### **Does each area count as one asset or all three as one asset?**

Students who achieve a score of 3+ in one area will have that count as one post-secondary asset. Additional scores of 3+ in different state assessments will count as additional post-secondary assets.

### **Community Service Hours - Will there be parameters set by the state on all of this? How many hours? How often? Etc.**

There is a minimum of 40 hours per the commissioner's presentation, but a local district could add more hours.

### **For the ACT - Will the super score be counted?**

The ACT super score will be counted as a post-secondary asset.

### **Senior Exit Project - Will there be parameters set by the state on this asset?**

This is a local control decision and will remain as such.

### **Special Education - Will these students follow the same guidelines?**

Special education students will have their guidelines determined by the IEP team in accordance with state and federal regulations.

### **What advanced CTE classes count as the 1 unit of STEM?**

See above updated guidance from the statewide zoom on February 15, 2024.

## Under science, do the three areas (physical, biological and earth/space) need to all be transcribed classes?

The current guidance is to consult the KSDE science standards and ensure that standards are mapped to courses that every student is required to take for graduation, however local districts transcribe those classes.

## Will Health and PE need to be tracked as separate classes?

These classes will need to be transcribed separately and taught as such. Generally, a PE endorsement will be approved to teach both health and PE.

## When does this take effect?

These new requirements are tentatively set to begin with the class of 2028.

## Post Secondary Asset List

The items on the list below are official at this time. The agency is developing a process to review the assets and ask for feedback from across the state on what might need to be added or edited. The agency will communicate our formal review process soon, which will require state board approval each year, but again, the list is currently official for the 24-25 school year. Students must acquire a minimum of two post-secondary assets before graduating - can require more if the local district feels this is necessary.

Districts will need to track students' acquisition of post-secondary assets.

Districts will also need to keep tracking students' acquisition of post-secondary assets once the minimum is met.

- Youth Apprenticeships
- 40 or more Community Service hours
- Client-centered Projects
- Workplace learning experience directly related to a student IPS
- Industry-Recognized Certifications
- Seal of Biliteracy
- ACT Composite (Score of 21 or higher)
- WorkKeys Level (Silver or higher)
- 9+ College hours
- State Assessment scores of 3 or 4 for Math, ELA, Science (demonstrating College Readiness)
- ASVAB per requirements of military branch selected
- SAT score (1200 or higher)
- Completing Board of Regents Curriculum
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)
- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
- CTE Scholar
- Eagle Scout or Gold Scout
- 4-H Kansas Key Award
- Two or more high school athletics/activities
- JROTC
- 90% attendance in high school
- Senior Exit Interview/Senior Projects
- CTSO Officers

## What/how will competency and mastery be measured?

Guidance related to competency and mastery are being developed and will be shared once they are finalized. What that could look like is under review with more information coming soon.

## Financial Literacy Information

**Course Title:** Financial Literacy (Employability and Life Skills)

**Course Code:** 22990

**Course Description:** Financial literacy course provides students with an understanding of the concepts, principles and skills involved in making and applying sound financial decisions. This course emphasizes earning income, spending, saving, investing, managing credit and managing risk.

**Qualified Teachers:** Per the February 15, 2024 state wide zoom: **Any standard license at the level with district verified Financial Literacy training. Examples of training are college credits related to financial literacy, targeted financial literacy professional development, or a certification in the field.**

The **Consumer and Personal Finance Course 22210** for .5 credit will not continue to be a funded course in Pathways (Pathway Applications for 2024-2025) since every student in Kansas will be required to take the new course as a graduation requirement.

### Can students double count classes towards graduation?

Guidance related to this question is that NO a student may not count a class twice for graduation credits. For example a student may not take Forensics in one year and have it count both as a fine arts and a speech requirement, however the student may take two years of forensics and one year could count as fine arts and one year as a speech requirement.

### What are some examples of advanced CTE courses that would be accepted?

See above updated guidance from the statewide zoom on February 15, 2024.

### What counts as advanced technology, math or science classes?

See above updated guidance from the statewide zoom on February 15, 2024.

### Can the local board of education adopt different graduation requirements for certain students?

Districts are required to award diplomas to requesting students who have met the state minimum graduation requirements and were in the custody of the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) or Kansas Department for Children and Families (KDCF) is on or after their 14th birthday.

For more information about these requirements, please see the Diploma for Students in Custody of KDOC and KDCF (SB 23) [Fact Sheet on the Graduation Webpage](#).

Local boards of education may adopt a different number of graduation requirements (not lower than the state minimum) for adult learners whose four- and five-year cohorts have graduated or for students attending an alternative school or program. Most typically, diplomas are awarded to these students for successful completion of the state minimum graduation requirements.

Local boards of education can also adopt a policy giving the superintendent and/or principal the discretion to waive local graduation requirements that are in excess of the state minimum for students on a case-by-case basis. Situations that would be appropriate to receive this discretion include, but are not limited to, students who experienced high mobility, teen pregnancy, and long-term illness. The

Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) does not support policies that automatically waive local graduation requirements for students with disabilities that are more than the state minimum.

### Is a district allowed to waive the Physical Education (PE)/Health requirement?

The PE/Health requirement shall be waived if the school district is provided with either of the following: A statement by a licensed physician that a pupil is mentally or physically incapable of participating in a regular or modified physical education program; or a statement, signed by a lawful custodian of the pupil, indicating that the requirement is contrary to the religious teachings of the pupil.

### Can a student earn high school credit for a course taken in eighth grade?

It is up to each local district whether an eighth-grade course will count as a high school credit. If high school credit is given, the eighth-grade course must be equivalent to, or the same as, a high school course.

### Where can I find more information about Regents' Qualified Admissions requirements?

The Kansas Board of Regents has information available on their website:

[http://www.kansasregents.org/qualified\\_admissions](http://www.kansasregents.org/qualified_admissions)

### How will post-secondary assets be tracked, and will they be transcribed?

Current Guidance:

- Students must acquire a minimum of two post secondary assets before graduating.
- Districts will need to track student cumulative post secondary assets.
- You may require students to acquire more than two postsecondary assets from the list.
- KSDE will notify you of adjustments to the list based on feedback we have received.

### What qualifies as an industry level certification?

Earn an Excel in CTE Qualifying Recognized Credential aligned to the Pathway.

Please find information regarding Excel in CTE on KBOR's site, [Excel in CTE Initiative \(SB155\) \(kansasregents.org\)](#).

[2023-2024 Excel in CTE SB155 Qualifying Cred.pdf \(kansasregents.org\)](#)

In addition the following is a list of industry recognized credentials:

[Postsecondary Success \(Board Outcome\) \(ksde.org\)](#).

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