

Requiring More

States increased the number of mathematics and science credits needed for a high school diploma from an average of 2.2 years of math and 2.0 years of science in 1989 to 3.0 years of math and 2.7 of science in 2006.

	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS			
	MATH		SCIENCE	
	1989	2006	1989	2006
Alabama	2.0	4.0	2.0	4.0
Alaska	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Arizona	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Arkansas	2.0 to 3.0 ¹	4.0	2.0 to 3.0 ¹	3.0
California	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Colorado	local decision	local decision	local decision	local decision
Connecticut	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
Delaware	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
District of Columbia	2.0	3.0 ²	2.0	3.0 ²
Florida	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Georgia	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Hawaii	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Idaho	2.0	4.0	2.0	4.0
Illinois	2.0	3.0	1.0	1.0
Indiana	2.0	4.0	2.0	3.0 ³
Iowa	local decision	local decision	local decision	local decision
Kansas	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Kentucky	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Louisiana	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Maine	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Maryland	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Massachusetts	local decision	local decision	local decision	local decision
Michigan	local decision	4.0	local decision	3.0
Minnesota	1.0	3.0	1.0	3.0
Mississippi	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Missouri	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Montana	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0
Nebraska	local decision	local decision	local decision	local decision
Nevada	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
New Hampshire	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
New Jersey	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
New Mexico	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
New York	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
North Carolina	2.0	4.0	2.0	3.0
North Dakota	2.0	local decision	2.0	local decision
Ohio	2.0	3.0	1.0	3.0
Oklahoma	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Oregon	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Pennsylvania	3.0	local decision	3.0	local decision
Rhode Island	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
South Carolina	3.0	4.0	2.0	3.0
South Dakota	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Tennessee	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Texas	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Utah	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Vermont	2.0 to 3.0 ¹	3.0	2.0 to 3.0 ¹	3.0
Virginia	2.0 to 3.0 ¹	3.0	2.0 to 3.0 ¹	3.0
Washington	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
West Virginia	2.0	4.0	2.0	3.0
Wisconsin	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Wyoming	local decision	3.0	local decision	3.0
U.S.	2.2	3.0	2.0	2.7

Notes:
¹A total of five units in math and science was required. The state was assigned a value of 2.5 credits for calculating the national average.
²The District of Columbia did not participate in the 2006 CCSSO online survey. Data shown are from the 2004 CCSSO report.
³Indiana requires six semester credits. The EPE Research Center converted the semester credits into Carnegie units. A single Carnegie credit is assigned to an academic course consisting of two semesters.