

Graduation Policies For the Class of 2011

	DEFINING READINESS					HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION CREDENTIALS							HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAMS							
	State has defined college readiness	How college readiness is defined	State has defined work readiness	How work readiness is defined	K-12 work-readiness definition is different from college readiness	Total number of credits required to earn standard diploma	Standard diploma options	Advanced recognition for exceeding standard requirements	Focus for advanced recognition		Basis for advanced recognition	Alternative credential for not meeting all standard requirements	Basis for alternative credential	K-12 system offers pathway leading to industry-recognized certificate or license	State has exit exam	Subjects tested	Exam based on standards for 10th grade or higher		State finances remediation for students failing exit exams	Appeals or alternative route to diploma
ALABAMA	✓	courses	✓	courses, skills		24.0	standard, CTE	✓	academic, CTE		courses	✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	ALABAMA
ALASKA			✓	standards		21.0	standard					✓	fail exit exam		✓	EM	✓		✓	ALASKA
ARIZONA	✓	skills, standards	✓	skills, standards		20.0	standard	✓	academic		tests			✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	ARIZONA
ARKANSAS	✓	courses	✓	courses		22.0	standard							✓	✓	M	✓	✓	✓	ARKANSAS
CALIFORNIA	✓	courses	✓	standards	✓	13.0	standard	✓	academic		tests	✓	pass proficiency test	✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	CALIFORNIA
COLORADO	✓	skills	✓	skills			standard													COLORADO
CONNECTICUT	✓	courses	✓	courses		20.0	standard													CONNECTICUT
DELAWARE						22.0	standard							✓						DELAWARE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA						24.0	standard							✓						DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FLORIDA	✓	standards, tests	in progress			24.0	standard							✓	disabilities					FLORIDA
GEORGIA	✓	standards, tests	✓	standards, tests		22.0	college prep, CTE	✓	academic, CTE		courses, GPA	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	GEORGIA
HAWAII	in progress		in progress			24.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE		courses, GPA	✓	disabilities	✓						HAWAII
IDAHO						21.0	standard								✓					IDAHO
ILLINOIS	✓	standards	✓	standards		16.0	standard													ILLINOIS
INDIANA	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		20.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE		courses, GPA, tests			✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	INDIANA
IOWA	✓	standards, tests	✓	standards		13.0	standard	✓	local option		local option			✓						IOWA
KANSAS			in progress			21.0	standard													KANSAS
KENTUCKY	✓	courses, skills, standards, tests	in progress			22.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE		courses, tests	✓	disabilities	✓						KENTUCKY
LOUISIANA	✓	courses, skills	✓	skills, tests	✓	23.0	standard, CTE	✓	academic, CTE		courses, GPA, tests	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMSH ²	✓		✓	LOUISIANA
MAINE	✓	standards	in progress			16.0	standard					✓	education disruption	✓						MAINE
MARYLAND	✓	courses, skills, standards	✓	skills, standards		21.0	standard	✓	local option		local option	✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	MARYLAND
MASSACHUSETTS			✓	standards			standard	✓	academic		courses, GPA, tests	✓	local option	✓	✓	EMS	✓	✓	✓	MASSACHUSETTS
MICHIGAN	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		16.0	standard					✓	local option	✓						MICHIGAN
MINNESOTA	✓	standards	✓	standards		21.5	standard								✓	EM ⁴	✓	✓	✓	MINNESOTA
MISSISSIPPI	✓	skills				21.0	standard					✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMSH	✓		✓	MISSISSIPPI
MISSOURI			✓	standards		24.0	standard	✓	academic		courses, GPA, tests			✓						MISSOURI
MONTANA	in progress		✓	standards		20.0	standard													MONTANA
NEBRASKA			in progress			200 credit hours ¹	standard													NEBRASKA
NEVADA	✓	courses, tests				22.5	standard, CTE	✓	academic		courses, GPA	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMS	✓		✓	NEVADA
NEW HAMPSHIRE			✓	standards		19.75	standard	✓	local option		local option	✓	local option	✓						NEW HAMPSHIRE
NEW JERSEY	✓	courses, standards	✓	courses, standards		22.0	standard							✓		EM	✓	✓	✓	NEW JERSEY
NEW MEXICO	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		23.0	standard					✓	fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMSH	✓		✓	NEW MEXICO
NEW YORK	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		22.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE		courses, tests	✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMSH	✓		✓	NEW YORK
NORTH CAROLINA	✓	courses	✓	courses		20.0	standard	✓	academic		courses, GPA	✓	disabilities	✓						NORTH CAROLINA
NORTH DAKOTA			✓	standards		22.0	standard													NORTH DAKOTA
OHIO	✓	skills	in progress			20.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE		courses, GPA, tests			✓	✓	EMSH	✓		✓	OHIO
OKLAHOMA	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		23.0	standard	✓	academic		courses, GPA, tests			✓						OKLAHOMA
OREGON	in progress		✓	standards		24.0	standard					✓	disabilities, local option	✓						OREGON
PENNSYLVANIA	✓	standards	✓	standards			standard	✓	academic		tests			✓						PENNSYLVANIA
RHODE ISLAND			in progress			20.0	standard					✓	disabilities	✓						RHODE ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA	✓	courses, skills, standards				24.0	standard	✓	academic		courses, GPA, tests	✓	fail exit exam	✓	✓	EM	✓	✓		SOUTH CAROLINA
SOUTH DAKOTA						22.0	standard	✓	academic		courses, GPA			✓						SOUTH DAKOTA
TENNESSEE	✓	courses, skills	✓	skills, standards	✓	20.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE		GPA	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMS	✓			TENNESSEE
TEXAS	✓	standards	✓	standards		26.0	standard	✓	academic		courses, tests	✓	local option	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓		TEXAS
UTAH						24.0	standard					✓	district criteria	✓						UTAH
VERMONT						20.0	standard							✓						VERMONT
VIRGINIA	in progress		✓	skills, standards		22.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE		courses, GPA, tests	✓	disabilities, district criteria	✓	✓	EMSH ⁵	✓	✓	✓	VIRGINIA
WASHINGTON	✓	standards	✓	skills, standards	✓	19.0	standard							✓	✓	E ⁶	✓		✓	WASHINGTON
WEST VIRGINIA	✓	courses, skills, tests	✓	courses, skills, tests	✓	24.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE		courses, tests	✓	disabilities	✓						WEST VIRGINIA
WISCONSIN	✓	standards	✓	standards		13.0	standard					✓	alternative education program	✓						WISCONSIN
WYOMING	✓	courses	in progress			13.0	standard	✓	academic		tests									WYOMING
U.S.	33		33	5		20.8²		26				29		42	24		21	15	21	U.S.

Notes:

- CTE refers to career and technical education.
- Exit-exam subjects tested: E=English (includes writing), M=Mathematics, S=Science, and H=History/Social Studies

Footnotes:

1. Credit hours for Nebraska are not expressed in Carnegie units.
2. Subject-specific credits for states that do not have total course-credit requirements are not listed in the total-credits column and are not reflected in the national average for total credit requirements.
3. Students must pass either the science or social studies components of the Graduation Exit Examination (GEE) to receive a standard diploma.
4. Students in Minnesota can graduate by passing statewide reading and writing assessments and either passing mathematics assessments or meeting other requirements.

5. To receive the standard diploma, students must earn at least six verified credits by passing end-of-course assessments. One of those credits may be earned by passing a student-selected test in computer science, technology, career and technical education, or other areas.
6. For the graduating class of 2011, students must pass an exit exam in reading and writing. Students in the class of 2013 will be required to pass reading, writing, math, and science assessments.

SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2011

For information on indicator definitions and sources, see Page 30.