

# Graduation Policies for the Class of 2013

## 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 <sup>1</sup>	Standard-diploma options	Advanced recognition for exceeding standard requirements	Focus for advanced recognition	Basis for advanced recognition	Alternative credentialing 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, district criteria		✓	EM	✓		✓	ALASKA
ARIZONA	✓	skills, standards	✓	courses, skills, standards, tests		22.0	standard	✓	academic	tests			✓	✓	M	✓	✓	✓	ARIZONA
ARKANSAS	✓	courses	✓	courses		22.0	standard	✓	academic	GPA			✓	✓	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						✓	class of 2020					CONNECTICUT
DELAWARE	in progress		in progress			22.0	standard				✓	disabilities	✓						DELAWARE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	✓	standards	✓	standards		24.0	standard				✓	disabilities	✓						DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FLORIDA	✓	standards, tests	✓	standards, tests		24.0	standard				✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	FLORIDA
GEORGIA	✓	standards, tests	✓	standards, tests		23.0	standard				✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	GEORGIA
HAWAII	in progress		in progress			24.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	courses, GPA	✓	disabilities	✓						HAWAII
IDAHO						23.0	standard						✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	IDAHO
ILLINOIS	✓	standards	✓	standards		16.0	standard												ILLINOIS
INDIANA	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		20.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	courses, GPA, tests	✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	INDIANA
IOWA	✓	standards, tests	✓	standards		14.0	standard	✓	local option	local option									IOWA
KANSAS	in progress		in progress			21.0	standard						✓						KANSAS
KENTUCKY	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	tests	✓	22.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	courses, tests	✓	disabilities	✓						KENTUCKY
LOUISIANA	✓	courses, skills	✓	skills, tests	✓	24.0	college prep, CTE	✓	academic, CTE	courses, GPA, tests	✓	disabilities, overage students	✓	✓	EMSH <sup>4</sup>	✓		✓	LOUISIANA
MAINE	✓	standards				16.0	standard				✓	education disruption	✓						MAINE
MARYLAND	✓	courses, skills, standards	✓	skills, standards		21.0	standard	✓	local option	local option	✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMS	✓	✓	✓	MARYLAND
MASSACHUSETTS	in progress		✓	standards			standard						✓	✓	EMS	✓	✓	✓	MASSACHUSETTS
MICHIGAN	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		16.0	standard												MICHIGAN
MINNESOTA	✓	skills, standards	✓	skills, standards		21.5	standard							✓	EM <sup>5</sup>	✓	✓	✓	MINNESOTA
MISSISSIPPI	✓	standards	in progress			24.0	standard				✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	MISSISSIPPI
MISSOURI	✓	skills, standards	✓	skills, standards		24.0	standard						✓						MISSOURI
MONTANA	in progress		✓	standards		20.0	standard												MONTANA
NEBRASKA			✓	skills		200 credit hours <sup>2</sup>	standard												NEBRASKA
NEVADA	✓	courses, tests	in progress			22.5	standard, CTE	✓	academic	courses, GPA	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMS	✓		✓	NEVADA
NEW HAMPSHIRE	✓	skills, standards	✓	skills, standards	✓	20.0	standard	✓	local option	local option	✓	local option	✓						NEW HAMPSHIRE
NEW JERSEY	✓	standards	✓	standards		24.0	standard						✓	✓	EM	✓		✓	NEW JERSEY
NEW MEXICO	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		24.0	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		21.0	standard	✓	academic	courses, GPA	✓	disabilities	✓						NORTH CAROLINA
NORTH DAKOTA	✓	standards	✓	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			✓	✓	EMSH <sup>6</sup>	✓	✓	✓	OKLAHOMA
OREGON	in progress		✓	standards, tests		24.0	standard				✓	disabilities, district criteria							OREGON
PENNSYLVANIA	✓	standards	✓	standards			standard						✓						PENNSYLVANIA
RHODE ISLAND			in progress			20.0	standard						✓	class of 2014					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, standards, tests	✓	courses, skills, standards, tests		22.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	GPA	✓	disabilities	✓						TENNESSEE
TEXAS	✓	standards	✓	standards		26.0	standard	✓	academic	courses, tests	✓	local option	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	TEXAS
UTAH	✓	courses, skills	✓	courses, skills		24.0	standard				✓	district criteria	✓						UTAH
VERMONT						20.0	standard						✓						VERMONT
VIRGINIA	✓	standards	✓	skills, standards		22.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	courses, GPA, tests	✓	disabilities, district criteria	✓	✓	EMSH <sup>7</sup>	✓	✓	✓	VIRGINIA
WASHINGTON			✓	skills, standards		20.0	standard						✓	✓	EM	✓		✓	WASHINGTON
WEST VIRGINIA	✓	courses, skills, tests	✓	courses, skills, standards, 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
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>38</b>		<b>38</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>21.1<sup>3</sup></b>		<b>23</b>			<b>27</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>U.S.</b>

**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:**  
<sup>1</sup> Data on course-credit requirements are provided by the Education Commission of the States.  
<sup>2</sup> Credit hours for Nebraska are not expressed in Carnegie units.  
<sup>3</sup> 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.  
<sup>4</sup> Students must pass either the science or social studies components of the Graduation Exit Examination (GEE) to receive a standard diploma.

<sup>5</sup> Students in Minnesota can graduate by passing statewide reading and writing assessments and either passing mathematics assessments or meeting other requirements.  
<sup>6</sup> To graduate with a standard diploma, Oklahoma requires students to pass tests in Algebra 1, English 1, and two of the following five subjects: Algebra 2, Biology 1, English 3, Geometry, and U.S. History.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2013

For information on indicator definitions and sources, see Page 28.