

Graduation Policies For the Class of 2010

	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	in progress		✓	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	in progress		✓	skills		20.0	standard						✓						CONNECTICUT
DELAWARE						22.0	standard				✓	disabilities	✓						DELAWARE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA						23.5	standard				✓	disabilities	✓						DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FLORIDA	in progress		in progress			24.0	standard				✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	FLORIDA
GEORGIA	in progress		✓	skills, standards		22.0	college prep, CTE	✓	academic, CTE	courses, GPA	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	GEORGIA
HAWAII						24.0	standard	✓	academic	courses, GPA	✓	disabilities	✓						HAWAII
IDAHO						21.0	standard							✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	IDAHO
ILLINOIS	in progress		in progress			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			standard						✓						IOWA
KANSAS			in progress			21.0	standard												KANSAS
KENTUCKY	✓	courses, skills, standards, tests				22.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	courses, tests	✓	disabilities	✓						KENTUCKY
LOUISIANA	in progress		in progress			23.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	courses, GPA, tests	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMSH ⁴	✓		✓	LOUISIANA
MAINE	in progress		in progress			16.0	standard				✓	education disruption	✓						MAINE
MARYLAND	✓	courses	✓	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			standard				✓	local option	✓						MICHIGAN
MINNESOTA	✓	standards	✓	standards		21.5	standard							✓	EM ⁵	✓	✓	✓	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						200 credit hours ¹	standard												NEBRASKA
NEVADA			✓	standards		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	tests	✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMSH	✓		✓	NEW YORK
NORTH CAROLINA	✓	courses, tests	✓	courses, tests		20.0	standard	✓	academic	courses, GPA	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	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			✓	Class of 2012					OKLAHOMA
OREGON	in progress		✓	standards		24.0	standard				✓	disabilities, local option	✓						OREGON
PENNSYLVANIA	✓	standards	✓	standards			standard	✓	academic	tests			✓						PENNSYLVANIA
RHODE ISLAND ²			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		24.0	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 ⁶	✓	✓	✓	VIRGINIA
WASHINGTON	✓	standards	✓	skills, standards	✓	19.0	standard						✓	✓	E ⁷	✓		✓	WASHINGTON
WEST VIRGINIA	✓	courses, skills, tests	✓	courses, skills, tests	✓	24.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	courses, tests	✓	disabilities	✓						WEST VIRGINIA
WISCONSIN	in progress		in progress			13.0	standard				✓	alternative education program	✓						WISCONSIN
WYOMING						13.0	standard	✓	academic	tests	✓	local option							WYOMING
U.S.	23		30		5	21.0 ³		25			30		40	25		22	16	22	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. Beginning with the graduating class of 2012, Rhode Island will require all school districts to use students' results on statewide assessments as part of graduation determinations. Students will not be prohibited from graduating based solely on assessment results.
 3. 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.

Revised on August 17, 2010, to reflect an error in the "Total number of credits" column. Because of incorrect data provided by the Education Commission of the States, the total course credit numbers for Utah and the U.S. average have been revised. The correct number of total credits for Utah is 24.0, and the national average is 21.0.

4. Students must pass either the science or social studies components of the Graduation Exit Examination (GEE) to receive a standard diploma.
 5. For the graduating classes of 2010 through 2014, students in Minnesota can graduate by passing statewide reading and writing assessments and either passing mathematics assessments or meeting other requirements.
 6. 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.
 7. For the graduating class of 2010, 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, 2010
 For information on indicator definitions and sources, see Page 30.