

Graduation Policies for the Class of 2012

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						✓	Class of 2020					CONNECTICUT
DELAWARE						22.0	standard					disabilities	✓						DELAWARE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	in progress		in progress			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						21.0	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			✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	INDIANA
IOWA	✓	standards, tests	✓	standards		14.0	standard	✓	local option	local option			✓						IOWA
KANSAS			in progress			21.0	standard						✓						KANSAS
KENTUCKY	✓	courses, skills, 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 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	✓	✓	EMS	✓	✓	✓	MARYLAND
MASSACHUSETTS	in progress		✓	standards			standard	✓	academic	courses, GPA, tests	✓	local option	✓	✓	EMS	✓	✓	✓	MASSACHUSETTS
MICHIGAN	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		16.0	standard						✓						MICHIGAN
MINNESOTA	✓	standards	✓	standards		21.5	standard						✓		EM ⁴	✓	✓	✓	MINNESOTA
MISSISSIPPI	✓	skills		skills		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 ¹	standard												NEBRASKA
NEVADA	✓	courses, tests				22.5	standard, CTE	✓	academic	courses, GPA	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMS	✓		✓	NEVADA
NEW HAMPSHIRE			✓	standards		20.0	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						✓						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	✓	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 ²	✓	✓	✓	OKLAHOMA
OREGON	in progress		✓	standards, tests		24.0	standard				✓	disabilities, local option							OREGON
PENNSYLVANIA	✓	standards	✓	standards			standard	✓	academic	tests			✓						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						✓						SOUTH DAKOTA
TENNESSEE	✓	courses, skills	✓	courses, 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	✓	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 ⁴	✓	✓	✓	VIRGINIA
WASHINGTON	✓	standards	✓	skills, standards	✓	19.0	standard						✓	✓	E ²	✓		✓	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.	37		37		5	20.9²		23			26		43	24		23	16	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 graduate with a standard diploma, Oklahoma requires students in the class of 2012 to pass tests in Algebra 1, English 2, and two of the following five subjects: Algebra 2, Biology 1, English 3, Geometry, and United States History.

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 2012, students must pass an exit exam in reading and writing. Students in the class of 2013 will be required to pass reading, writing, and math assessments.

SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2012

For information on indicator definitions and sources, see Page 32