

Descriptor Term: Graduation Requirements	Descriptor: IKF	Issued: Draft 8/1/11
	Rescinds: IKF	Issued: 6/22/10

BOARD POLICY

1. For the entering ninth grade class of 2006-2007 and subsequent years, twenty-six Carnegie units will be required for all students graduating from the Tupelo Public School District inclusive of the listed courses.

<u>Curriculum Area</u>	<u>Carnegie Units</u>	<u>Required Subjects</u>
English	4.0 Units (1)	4.0 Units
Mathematics	4.0 Units (2)	1.0 Algebra I
Science	4.0 Units (3)	1.0 Biology I
Social Studies	4.0 Units	1.0 World History 1.0 US History 0.5 US Government 0.5 Mississippi Studies (4) 0.5 Economics
Health & PE	1.0 Unit	0.5 Comprehensive Health or Family & Individual Health
Business & Technology	1.0 Unit (5)	0.5 Keyboarding 0.5 Computer Applications
The Arts	1.0 Unit	
<u>Electives</u>	<u>7.0 Units (6)</u>	
Total	26.0 Units	

1.1. Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the seven (7) general electives required for graduation.

1.2. Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra, as well as Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Survey of Mathematical Topics, Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses

required for graduation, however, these courses may be included in the seven (7) general electives required for graduation. At least one of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics, and AP Statistics.

1.3. One unit may be in Technology Applications or Introduction to Agriscience or Agriscience I or Concepts of Agriscience or Allied Health or Aquaculture. Students who elect not to complete one unit from the courses listed in sentence one of this note, three (3) Carnegie Units must be selected from among the following courses: Astronomy, Geology, Physical Science, Zoology, Environmental Science, Botany, Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics, Science Skills, and Reasoning. If one of the units from the sentence 1 list is taken, the student must select two (2) Carnegie Units from the note 2 list.

1.4. The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. The Carnegie Units earned in Social Studies must include Mississippi Studies, U.S. History, World History, U.S. Government, Economics and 0.5 Carnegie Units from the following courses: Biblical History of the Middle East, AP European History, Global Studies, Law Related Studies, Minority Studies, Psychology, AP Psychology, or Sociology.

1.5. One unit in Computer Discovery is accepted in lieu of the two $\frac{1}{2}$ unit courses. Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the Business and Technology Framework (academic and vocational).

1.6. Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities that meet the instructional requirements specified in the Fitness through Physical Education Framework and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association. In addition, the limitations have been removed on the number of elective Carnegie Units earned in band, physical education, and choral music. Exemption from physical education will require annual submission of a letter or written statement from a licensed physician.

1.7. Starting with the entering freshman class of 2010-2011, students must successfully complete a Graduation Project. Students will select a topic in which s/he will submit a research paper, create a product, design a portfolio, and participate in an oral presentation. An evaluation rubric will be used to score the projects. The rubric will be developed by a team appointed by Tupelo High School administration.

1.8. The culmination of the Graduation Project will occur during the students' senior year to show his or her competency/proficiency rating according to the rubric for each component of the Graduation Project in order to graduate. Occupational Course of Study (OCS) students may have a modified Graduation Project. The OCS students will participate in the parts of the Graduation Project as state in the students' Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

2. For the entering ninth grade class for school year 2008-2009 and subsequent years that are enrolled in one of the District's academic alternative programs, a student may opt to graduate with an alternate diploma with a reduced amount of credit requirement as outlined in the Mississippi Department of Education Graduation Requirements Standard 20 Appendix A-3. Appendix A-3 states, *"Beginning school year 2008-2009 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) will be required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified below, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of Appendix A-3 requirements. Any student who is taken out of these requirements of Appendix A-3 will be required to complete the graduation requirements as specified in Appendix A-2."* The requirements for graduation requirements for Standard 20 Appendix A-3 are outlined in IKF Exhibit 2.

If a student's parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of Appendix A-3, for lesser graduation requirements, then the student must fulfill the requirements as outlined in Appendix A-2. The graduation requirements for Standard 20 Appendix A-2 are outlined in IKF Exhibit 3.

3. 2. A graduate of the TPSD must successfully complete the specified academic end of course tests (subject area tests) in U.S. History from 1877, English II (with a writing component), Biology I, and Algebra I as well as meeting any other graduation requirements mandated by the State of Mississippi or required by the District. All students must pass the four academic end-of-course tests (subject area tests) in order to earn a regular high school diploma.

4. 3. With the prior approval of the principal, students enrolled in an accredited summer school program may earn a maximum of one unit of credit applicable to graduation requirements during each summer school session. A total of one Carnegie unit earned through a correspondence course may also be counted toward meeting the minimum graduation requirements. The correspondence course must have the prior approval of the principal.

5. 4. Students who successfully meet all graduation requirements as established by the State of Mississippi and the Board of Trustees of the TPSD will be awarded a diploma based on the following standards:

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Type of Diploma</u>
Successfully complete the minimum number of required Carnegie units and required courses.	Diploma
Successfully complete the minimum number of Carnegie units and courses required by Graduation Requirement Standard 20 of Mississippi Department of Education.	Alternate Diploma

Successfully complete 26 (27 Carnegie Units for 2006-2007 entering ninth graders) Carnegie units and required courses with 85 minimum average.

Diploma with Commendations

Successfully complete 28 Carnegie units and required courses with 85 minimum averages.

Diploma with Honors

6. 5. Students with a final grade point average between 95 and 100 for all courses taken in grades 9-12 will graduate with special distinction. Students with a final grade point average between 89 and 94 for all courses taken in grades 9-12 will graduate with distinction.

7. 6. In lieu of the above requirements, a student who has been ruled eligible for a special education in the District may exercise an option to work toward a certificate of completion or an occupational diploma. At the completion of eighth grade, the requirements for earning a certificate or diploma will be presented to the parents of a student ruled eligible for special education services which explains the procedures and requirements for each option. The parents will execute a signed agreement with the District specifying the option selected. This decision will be subject to reconsideration by all parties.

8. 7. The Individual Education Plan (IEP) will thereafter reflect the option selected by the parents and will specify whether the student is seeking a diploma or certificate. By or before age twenty-one, a special education student will be eligible to receive a certificate and participate in high school graduation ceremonies upon satisfactory and successful completion of the objectives at an achievement level consistent with the ability of the student and as specified in the student's IEP.

9. 8. All students successfully completing the requirements for the General Educational Development program will be awarded a certificate upon the completion of their Individual Career Plan.

EXHIBITS

None

IKF-E1 Graduation Requirement Occupational Diploma

IKF-E2 Appendix A-3 Graduation Requirements Standard 20

IKF-E3 Appendix A-2 Graduation Requirements Standard 20

REFERENCES

None

FORMS

None

***RESCINDS**

~~HKF Issued 03/08/2005~~

IKF Issued 06/22/2010

Descriptor Term: Graduation Requirement Occupational Diploma	Descriptor: IKF-E1	Issued: Draft 8/1/11
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Mississippi Occupational Diploma

Required Courses

(k) Requirements for the Mississippi Occupational Diploma. Effective for students with disabilities as defined by ~~the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 101-476)~~ **federal law** who begin the ninth grade in 2002-2003 school year, students must earn the course credits outlined and successfully complete an approved occupational portfolio in order to be awarded the Mississippi Occupational Diploma.

1. Mississippi Occupational Diploma

Credits

English Language Arts 4

Four credits to include the equivalent of:

132135 Employment English I 1

132136 Employment English II 1

132137 Employment English III 1

132138 Applied Employment English IV 1

Mathematics 4

Four credits to include the equivalent of:

132153 Job Skills Math I 1

132154 Job Skills Math II 1

132155 Job Skills Math III 1

132156 Applied Job Skills Math IV 1

Science 4

Four credits to include the equivalent of:

132181 Life Skills Science I 1

132182 Life Skills Science II 1

132183 Life Skills Science III 1

132184 Applied Life Skills Science IV 1

Social Studies 4

Four credits to include the equivalent of:

132170 Career Preparation I 1

132171 Career Preparation II 1

132172 Career Preparation III 1

132173 Applied Career Preparation IV 1

132168 10th School Based Work Assessment (Career Technical Ed) 1

132168 11th Community Based Job Shadowing (Career Technical Ed) 1

132166 * 540 hours of successful paid work experience	2
Electives	5
(Existing laws require LEAs to offer arts education, physical education, wellness education, career/technical education, and driver education as electives.)	
TOTAL	25

*Or successful completion of a two (2) year career technical (Vocational) program.

EXHIBITS

None

REFERENCES

Individual with Disabilities Act (Public Law 108-476)

FORMS

None

RESCINDS

IKF Issued 03/08/2005

IKF Issued 06/22/2010

Descriptor Term:	Descriptor:	Issued:
	IKF-E2	Draft 8/1/11
Graduation Requirements: MDE Appendix A-3	Rescinds:	Issued:

APPENDIX A-3

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD 20

SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012

(Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009)

Beginning school year 2008-2009 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) will be required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified below, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of Appendix A-3 requirements. Any student who is taken out of these requirements of Appendix A-3 will be required to complete the graduation requirements as specified in Appendix A-2. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under MS Code 37-16-7.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4¹	
MATHEMATICS	4²	Algebra I
SCIENCE	4³	Biology I
SOCIAL STUDIES	4	1 World History 1 U.S. History

		½ Geography ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies ⁴
HEALTH	½	Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY	1 ⁵	1 Computer Discovery or ½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications
THE ARTS	1	Any approved 500.000 course or completion of the 2-course sequence for Computer Graphics Technology I and II
ELECTIVES	5½ ⁶	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	24	

APPENDIX A-3 (Continued)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD 20

SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012

(Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009)

¹ Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 5½ general electives required for graduation.

² Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 5½ general electives required for graduation. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I & II. Beginning school year 2007-2008 for all entering eighth graders, at least two of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics, and AP Statistics. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

³ One unit may be in Introduction to Agriscience, Concepts of Agriscience, Science of Agricultural Plants, Science of Agricultural Animals, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Agriscience I & II; Allied Health I & II; Aquaculture I & II; Forestry I & II; Horticulture I & II; Plastics and Polymer Science I & II; and Technology Applications I & II. Two units may be earned by completing the AEST 3-course sequence: one unit in Concepts of Agriscience; one unit in Science of Agricultural Animals or Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environment; and one unit in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship. Beginning school year 2008-2009 for all entering eighth graders, one unit must be a lab-based physical science. The allowable lab-based physical science courses are Physical Science, Chemistry I, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, Physics I, Physics II, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, and AP Physics C – Mechanics.

⁴ The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government

course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.

⁵ Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational).

⁶ Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

Descriptor Term: Graduation Requirements: MDE Appendix A-2	Descriptor:	Issued:
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APPENDIX A-2

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD 20

SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009

(Entering ninth graders in 2005-2006)

Any student who completes the minimum graduation requirements as specified below and has achieved a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations is eligible to receive a high school diploma. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under MS Code 37-16-7.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4 ¹	
MATHEMATICS	4 ²	Algebra I
SCIENCE	3 ³	Biology I
SOCIAL STUDIES	3	1 World History 1 U.S. History

		½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies ⁴
HEALTH	½	Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY	1 ⁵	1 Computer Discovery or ½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications
THE ARTS	1	Any approved 500.000 course or completion of the 2-course sequence for Computer Graphics Technology I and II
ELECTIVES	4½ ⁶	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	21	

APPENDIX A-2 (Continued)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD 20

SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009

(Entering ninth graders in 2005-2006)

¹ Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 4½ general electives required for graduation.

² Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 4½ general electives required for graduation. Beginning school year 2004-2005 for all entering eighth graders, at least one of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics, and AP Statistics. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I & II. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

³ One unit may be in Introduction to Agriscience, Concepts of Agriscience, Science of Agricultural Plants, Science of Agricultural Animals, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Agriscience I & II; Allied Health I & II; Aquaculture I & II; Forestry I & II; Horticulture I & II; Plastics and Polymer Science I & II; and Technology Applications I & II. Two units may be earned by completing the following AEST 3-course sequence: one unit in Concepts of Agriscience; one unit in Science of Agricultural Animals or Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environment; and one unit in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship.

⁴ The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.

⁵ Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational).

⁶ Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.