

<i>Descriptor Term:</i> Graduation Requirement	<i>Descriptor:</i> IKF	<i>Issued:</i> Draft 8/1/11
	<i>Rescinds:</i> IKF	<i>Issued:</i>

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

IKF-R

FORMS

None

***RESCINDS**

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