

Duchesne County School District - Policy Proposal

4.0510.05 Focused Graduation Pathway

Existing Policy	Proposed Policy
4.0500 INSTRUCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS	<p>4.0500 INSTRUCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>4.0510.05 FOCUSED GRADUATION PATHWAY</p> <p>PROGRAM PURPOSE</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to outline the standards and procedures for implementing the Focused Graduation Pathway to provide eligible students with an alternative route to high school completion through the General Education Development (GED) high school equivalency exam.</p> <p>PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>A. The goal of the Focused Graduation Pathway, FGP, program is to allow students an alternate pathway to high school completion using a hybrid of in person courses and proficiency-based completion of core credits through successful passing of GED assessments.</p> <p>B. The program will be overseen by the Adult Education Director for Duchesne County School District.</p> <p>C. High school administrators will refer students based on the recommendations of their counselors and intervention teams using outlined eligibility criteria and individual student needs and goals.</p> <p>CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA</p> <p>A. To be considered as a candidate for the Focused Graduation Pathway a candidate must</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. be 16 years of age or older.2. be a junior or senior enrolled in high school3. be significantly behind in high school credits earned with at least 9 credits behind if a junior, or at least 4.5 credits behind if a senior.4. demonstrate a 9th grade reading level as indicated by Lexile

measure, proficiency at a state or national reading assessment 9th grade or higher, or by demonstrating consistent proficiency on common summative assessment literacy checks based on text rated complex and on or above a 9th grade reading level.

5. maintain their high school enrollment with satisfactory attendance throughout the entirety of the pathway.

ENROLLMENT

Students wishing to enroll in the Focused Graduation Pathway must meet with applicable school staff to review policy and procedures. Enrollment into the Focused Graduation Pathway is voluntary. Parents must provide written consent for their student to be enrolled in the Focused Graduation Pathway. If the student is a verified unaccompanied minor, the student may sign consent.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

Students will be enrolled in GED® prep courses for each subject area identified as a need. These classes will be taught by qualified subject area teachers. Students working towards completing equivalency exams will be required to participate in at least one preparation course.

TESTING

When the student has demonstrated readiness through a practice test or other measures, the Coordinator will ensure alerts are cleared so the student will be eligible to test at an approved testing center. A Focused Graduation Pathway student must complete a GED® exam at an approved testing center or through an online proctored test, in accordance with exam policies and procedures.

CREDITS

Core credit will be awarded to a Focused Graduation Pathway student for passing GED exams up to:

- 4.0 language arts credits for passing the Reasoning through Language Arts exam
- 3.0 social studies credits for passing the Social Studies exam
- 3.0 mathematics credits for passing the Mathematical Reasoning exam
- 3.0 science credits for passing the Science exam

Awarded credits shall be recorded on the student's transcript as

	<p>Pass/Fail instead of a letter grade when official exam results are obtained by the school. The equivalency exam will be included in the description line of the transcript for each entry.</p> <p>ADDITIONAL CREDITS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA</p> <p>Students will need to complete all remaining graduation requirements to be eligible for graduation. Student enrollment and retention of Focused Graduation Pathway students will maintain enrollment in a K-12 school until they have completed the requirements for graduation, or their class has graduated.</p> <p>Students will be assigned a mentor teacher or counselor to track their progress towards graduation and to set goals for post graduation.</p> <p>REPORTING REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>The Coordinator will annually report to the Superintendent the following: • Enrollment numbers • Completion rates • Other relevant data as determined by the Superintendent</p> <p><i>Utah Admin Rule: R277.722.3</i></p>
4.0510.05 ELECTIVE INSTRUCTION - DRIVER EDUCATION	4.0510.06 ELECTIVE INSTRUCTION - DRIVER EDUCATION
4.0510.06 PASS/FAIL COURSES	4.0510.07 PASS/FAIL COURSES

Notes/Resources:

We need to greatly simplify both of these models.

USBA Model Policy:

Graduation:

Focused Graduation Pathway

Board Approval of Focused Graduation Pathway—

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A District school may participate in the Focused Graduation Pathway program and enroll students in the program if the Board of Education grants approval to the school and if the approved application has been submitted to the State Superintendent of Education. For approval to be granted, the school must submit a written application to the Board of Education which:

1. OutlineshowtheFocusedGraduationPathwaywillbeimplementedinthe school;
2. Demonstrates that the school has developed school policies and procedures to implement the program, consistent with the requirements set out in this policy; and
3. Designates a Focused Graduation Pathway Coordinator to oversee the program.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-722-3(1) (February 7, 2025)

Program Requirements—

A participating school must:

1. Maintain a student-teacher ratio for the program which does not exceed the school's average student-teacher ratio for all GED preparation courses;
2. Provide necessary support for a student with disabilities, as required by [Utah Admin. Rule R277-705](#);
3. Provide subject-matter expert to students when preparing for each GED test;
4. Coordinate the clearance of GED alerts for a Focused Graduation Pathway student with the State Superintendent; and
5. Annually report to the State Superintendent on Focused Graduation Pathway enrollment, completion rates, and other relevant data as required by the State Superintendent.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-722-3(3) (February 7, 2025)

Student Enrollment in the Focused Graduation Pathway—

To enroll in the Focused Graduation Pathway program, a student must:

1. Be at least 16 years of age;

2. Be a junior or senior enrolled in the high school;
3. Be significantly behind in high school credit earned, which means

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- a. If a junior, at least 6 credits behind, or
- b. If a senior at least 3 credits behind;

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4. Demonstrate 9th grade reading level or higher on an assessment chosen by the District; and
5. Participate in a formal meeting with applicable school staff where:
 - The policies and procedures for the Focused Graduation Pathway are explained, and
 - Voluntary consent of the student's parent (or of the student if the student is a verified unaccompanied minor) is provided for participation.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-722-4 (February 7, 2025)
6. Once enrolled in the Focused Graduation Pathway, the student must remain

enrolled in a Utah K-12 school throughout the entirety of the pathway. The school may not withdraw the student from enrollment in the school before the student takes any of the four subject GED tests.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-722-3(2) (February 7, 2025) Utah Admin. Rules R277-722-4(1)(e) (February 7, 2025)

Testing and Credit—

A Focused Graduation Pathway student shall complete a GED exam at approved testing centers or through an online proctored test, in accordance with GED policies and procedures. A Focused Graduation Pathway student may be awarded core credit for passing GED exams as determined by the school and as outlined in the school's application, up to the amounts as follows:

1. 4.0 credits for language arts for passing Reasoning through Language Arts;
2. 3.0 credits for social studies for passing Social Studies;
3. 3.0 credits for mathematics for passing Mathematical Reasoning; and
4. 3.0 credits for science for passing Science.

Awarded credit shall be recorded on a transcript as pass/fail instead of a letter

grade. To be eligible for graduation, a Focused Graduation Pathway student must complete all remaining graduation requirements under Policy EHA.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-722-5 (February 7, 2025)

Diploma and Official Transcripts—

Upon successful completion of the Focused Graduation Pathway and all other graduation requirements, a Focused Graduation Pathway student shall be awarded a traditional high school diploma and be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. A Focused Graduation Pathway student who completes the GED exam in English and fulfills the requirements of [Utah Admin. Rules R277-499](#) shall be eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy.

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[Utah Admin. Rules R277-722-6 \(February 7, 2025\)](#)

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Wasatch District Policy:

I. AUTHORITY

A. This policy is established under the authority of the Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3, and Utah Code Subsections 53E-3-501(1)(b) and 53E-3-401(4). It aligns with State Board Rule R277-722 and governs the implementation of the Focused Graduation Pathway (FGP) within the district.

II. PURPOSE

A. The purpose of this policy is to outline the standards and procedures for implementing the Focused Graduation Pathway to provide eligible students with an alternative route to high school completion through the General Education Development (GED) high school equivalency exam.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. **FGP Student:** A student aged 16 to 19 who meets the eligibility requirements, attends a participating school, and consents to participate in the Focused Graduation Pathway.

B. **GED Exam:** A standardized high school equivalency test measuring proficiency in Reasoning Through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies.

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IV. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- A. The goal of the Focused Graduation Pathway, FGP, program is to allow students an alternate pathway to high school completion using a hybrid of in person courses and proficiency-based completion of core credits through successful passing of GED assessments.
- B. The program will be overseen by the Adult Education Director for Wasatch County School District.
- C. High school administrators will refer students based on the recommendations of their counselors and intervention teams using outlined eligibility criteria and individual student needs and goals.

V. CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A. To be considered as a candidate for the Focused Graduation Pathway a candidate must

1. be 16 years of age or older.
2. be a junior or senior enrolled in high school
3. be significantly behind in high school credits earned with at least 6 credits

behind if a junior, or at least 3 credits behind if a senior.

4. demonstrate a 9th grade reading level as indicated by Lexile measure, proficiency at a state or national reading assessment 9th grade or higher, or by demonstrating consistent proficiency on common summative assessment literacy checks based on text rated complex and on or above a 9th grade reading level.

5. Maintain their high school enrollment with satisfactory attendance throughout the entirety of the pathway.

VI. APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT

A. Only students enrolled in the Alternative High School program are eligible to apply for the Focused Graduation Pathway (FGP).

B. Students wishing to enroll must submit their application for FGP to the Alternative School administration.

C. All applications will be reviewed by a district committee consisting of the District Student Services Director and representatives from each high school and the Alternative High School.

D. Enrollment in the FGP is voluntary.

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E. **Parental consent is required** for a student to be admitted to the FGP.

1. In cases where the student is a verified unaccompanied minor, the student may provide written consent on their own behalf.

F. Once accepted into the FGP, students are expected to maintain active enrollment and participation in the K–12 school system until they have completed high school.

VII. THE FGP EXPERIENCE IS DESIGNED TO HELP STUDENTS:

- Obtain the skills and dispositions necessary for post–high school success
- Earn additional academic credits
- Build positive relationships
- Explore career pathways and postsecondary opportunities

VIII. INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

- Classes will maintain a ratio of one (1) instructor per ten (10) participating students.
- FGP students will additionally have access to highly qualified subject area experts

IX. during credit recovery blocks at the Alternative High School.

C. Wasatch County Adult Education program will provide GED Prep courses for all FGP students.

1. If students are working towards completing GED exams, they will be required to participate in at least one preparation course either during the school day or in the Adult Education setting.

a. Students who take their GED prep course(s) during the school day will be scheduled into credit recovery blocks in the afternoons for the subject matter they are studying for with a content expert.

(1) The Adult Education Coordinator will work with the content expert to outline the specific learning needs of each FGP student based on results from GED ready assessments.

(2) The course will be part of the student's schedule on the Student Information System and

(3) attendance will be recorded and tracked.

b. Students who take their GED prep course(s) in the evening with our Adult Education team will

(1) sign-in to the attendance kiosk and

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(2) their attendance will be recorded as a GED prep class in the K-12 student information system during an 8th period class by our attendance secretary.

2. As with all study skills classes and credit recovery classes, students attending these classes will be required to

- a. set goals,
- b. track their progress, and
- c. work on overall improvement in academic behaviors.

D. Successful completion of either (during the K-12 schedule or at the Adult Education Program) GED prep course, with a minimum 80% attendance, will earn the student 0.25 elective credits per term.

E. Students receiving Special Education Services and support and accommodations through a 504 will continue to receive services overseen by their case manager or their school counselor in accordance with R277-705.

IX. TESTING

A. When the student has demonstrated readiness through a GED practice test or other measures, the Adult Education Director will ensure GED alerts are cleared so the student will be eligible to test at an approved GED testing center.

B. A Focused Graduation student must complete a GED exam at an approved testing center or through an online proctored test, in accordance with GED policies and procedures.

X. CREDITS

- A school may award core credit to an FGP student for passing GED exam up to:
 - 1. 4.0 Credits for language arts for passing Reasoning through Language Arts
 - 2. 3.0 Credits for social studies for passing Social Studies
 - 3. 3.0 Credits for mathematics for passing Mathematical Reasoning
 - 4. 3.0 Credits for science for passing Science
- Awarded credits shall be recorded on the student's transcript as Pass/Fail instead of

a letter grade when official results are obtained by the school. GED will be included in the description line of the transcript for each entry.

C. Additional credits required to receive a District or High School diploma:

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1. Students will need to complete all remaining graduation requirements to be

eligible for graduation.

2. For a **Minimum Wasatch County School District Diploma and graduating**

with the Alternative High School, students need a total of 24 Credits.

D. In addition to 13 core credits students will need the following 11 additional credits: (1) 2.00 Credits for Healthy Lifestyles (0.50 Core and 1.50 Elective)

- (2) 1.50 Credits for Arts
- (3) 0.50 General Financial Literacy (4) 0.50 Credits for Computer Literacy (5) 1.00 Credits for CTE
- (6) 5.50 Credits for Elective

2. For a **High School Diploma and graduation with a boundary high school** students will need a total of 28 credits.

a. In addition to 13 core credits students will need to complete the following additional 15 credits:

- (1) 2.00 Credits for Healthy Lifestyles (0.50 Core and 1.50 Elective)
- (2) 1.50 Credits for Arts
- (3) 0.50 General Financial Literacy
- (4) 0.50 Credits for Computer Literacy
- (5) 1.00 Credits for CTE
- (6) 9.50 Credits for Elective

XI. STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION

A. FGP Students will maintain dual enrollment in both their boundary high school, or the alternative high school, and the Adult Education System.

B. Schools may not withdraw an FGP student from K-12 enrollment until the student has attempted at least one of the four subject-area GED tests.

C. Students will be assigned a strive mentor teacher to track their progress towards graduation with credits as well as setting goals for making study plans and completing GED tests prior to graduation as well as additional credits needed to receive a diploma.

XII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. Annual Data will be reported by the Adult Education to the Superintendent, including:

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- 1. FGP enrollment numbers.
- 2. Completion rates.
- 3. Other relevant data as determined by the Superintendent.

XIII. OVERSIGHT AND COMPLIANCE

A. The Superintendent will oversee the implementation of this policy and ensure compliance with state and local requirements.

B. Schools failing to meet the standards outlined in this policy may lose authorization to participate in the FGP.

