

## **§2319. High School Graduation Requirements**

### **A. Standard Diploma**

1. For incoming freshmen prior to 2008-2009, the 23 units required for graduation shall include 15 required units and 8 elective units; the elective units can be earned at technical colleges as provided in §2389.

2. For incoming freshmen in 2008-2009 and beyond, the 24 units required for graduation shall include 16 required units and 8 elective units for the Louisiana Core Curriculum, or 21 required units and 3 elective units for the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum; the elective units can be earned at technical colleges as provided in §2389.

3. Beginning with incoming freshmen in 2008-2009, all ninth graders will be enrolled in the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum.

a. After the student has attended high school for a minimum of two years, as determined by the school, the student, the student's parent, guardian, or custodian may request that the student be exempt from completing the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum.

b. The following conditions shall be satisfied for consideration of the exemption of a student from completing the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum.

i. The student, the student's parent, guardian, or custodian and the school counselor (or other staff member who assists students in course selection) shall meet to discuss the student's progress and determine what is in the student's best interest for the continuation of his educational pursuit and future educational plan.

ii. During the meeting, the student's parent, guardian, or custodian shall determine whether the student will achieve greater educational benefits by continuing the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum or completing the Louisiana Core Curriculum.

iii. The student's parent, guardian, or custodian shall sign and file with the school a written statement asserting their consent to the student graduating without completing the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum and acknowledging that one consequence of not completing the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum may be ineligibility to enroll in into a Louisiana four-year public college or university. The statement will then be approved upon the signature of the principal or the principal's designee.

iv. The student, the student's parent, guardian, or custodian and the school counselor (or other staff member who assists students in course selection) shall jointly revise the Career Options Law Five-Year Plan.

c. The student in the Louisiana Core Curriculum may return to the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum, in consultation with the student's parent, guardian, or custodian and the school counselor (or other staff member who assists students in course selection).

d. After a student who is 18 years of age or older has attended high school for two years, as determined by the school, the student may request to be exempt from completing the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum by satisfying the conditions cited in Subparagraph 3.b with the exception of the requirement for the participation of the parent, guardian, or custodian, given that the parent/guardian has been notified.

B. In addition to completing a minimum of 23 Carnegie credits, students must pass the English language arts and mathematics components of the GEE and either the science or social studies portions of GEE to earn a standard high school diploma. For students with disabilities who have passed two of the three required components of the GEE and have exhausted all opportunities available through the end of the twelfth grade to pass the remaining required GEE component, that GEE component may be waived by the State Superintendent of Education if the Department of Education determines the student's disability significantly impacts his/her ability to pass the GEE component.

1. The English language arts and mathematics components of GEE shall first be administered to students in the tenth grade.

2. The science and social studies components of the graduation test shall first be administered to students in the eleventh grade.

3. Remediation and retake opportunities will be provided for students that do not pass the test. Students shall be offered 50 hours of remediation each year in each content area they do not pass. Refer to *Bulletin 1566: Guidelines for Pupil Progression*, and the addendum to *Bulletin 1566: Regulations for the Implementation of Remedial Education Programs Related to the LEAP/CRT Program, Regular School Year*.

4. Students may apply a maximum of two Carnegie units of elective credit toward high school graduation by successfully completing specially designed courses for remediation.

a. A maximum of one Carnegie unit of elective credit may be applied toward meeting high school graduation requirements by an eighth grade student who has scored at the *Unsatisfactory* achievement level on either the English language arts and/or the mathematics component(s) of the eighth grade LEAP provided the student:

- i. successfully completed specially designed elective(s) for LEAP remediation;
- ii. scored at or above the *Basic* achievement level on those component(s) of the eighth grade LEAP for which the student previously scored at the *Unsatisfactory* achievement level.

C. Prior to or upon the student's entering the tenth grade, all LEAs shall notify each student and his/her parents or guardians of the requirement of passing GEE.

1. Upon their entering a school system, students transferring to any high school of an LEA shall be notified by that system of the requirement of passing GEE.

D. The Certificate of Achievement is an exit document issued to a student with a disability after he or she has achieved certain competencies and has met certain conditions. Refer to *Bulletin 1706: Regulations for the Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act*.

E. Minimum Course Requirements for High School Graduation

1. For incoming freshmen prior to 2008-2009, the minimum course requirements for graduation shall be the following:

<b>English</b>	<b>4 units</b>
Shall be English I, II, and III, in consecutive order; and English IV or Business English.	
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>3 units</b>
(Effective for incoming freshmen 2005-2006 and beyond.) All students must complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I (1 unit) or</li> <li>• Algebra I-Pt. 1 and Algebra I-Pt. 2 (2 units) or</li> <li>• Integrated Mathematics I (1 unit)</li> </ul> The remaining unit(s) shall come from the following: Integrated Mathematics II, Integrated Mathematics III, Geometry, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, and Discrete Mathematics.	
(Effective for incoming freshmen 1997-98 through 2004-2005) Shall be selected from the following courses and may include a maximum of 2 entry level courses (designated by E): Introductory Algebra/Geometry (E), Algebra I-Part 1 (E), Algebra I-Part 2, Integrated Mathematics I (E), Integrated Mathematics II, Integrated Mathematics III, Applied Mathematics I (E), Applied Mathematics II, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra I (E), Geometry, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, and Discrete Mathematics	
<b>Science</b>	<b>3 units</b>

Shall be the following: 1 unit of Biology 1 unit from the following physical science cluster: Physical Science, Integrated Science, Chemistry I, Physics I, Physics of Technology I 1 unit from the following courses: Aerospace Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physics II, Physics of Technology II, Agriscience II, an additional course from the physical science cluster, or a locally initiated science elective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students may not take both Integrated Science and Physical Science</li> <li>• Agriscience I is a prerequisite for Agriscience II and is an elective course.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>3 units</b>
Shall be American History, 1/2 unit of Civics or AP American Government, 1/2 unit of Free Enterprise; and 1 of the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, or AP European History.	
<b>Health Education</b>	<b>1/2 unit</b>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>1 1/2 units</b>
Shall be Physical Education I and Physical Education II, or Adapted Physical Education for eligible special education students. A maximum of 4 units of Physical Education may be used toward graduation. NOTE: The substitution of JROTC is permissible.	
<b>Electives</b>	<b>8 units</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23 units</b>

2. For incoming freshmen in 2008-2009 and beyond who are completing the Louisiana Core Curriculum, the minimum course requirements for graduation shall be the following:

<b>English</b>	<b>4 units</b>
Shall be English I, II, and III, and English IV or Senior Applications in English	
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>4 units</b>
Algebra I (1 unit) or Algebra I-Pt. 1 and Algebra I-Pt. 2 (2 units) Geometry The remaining units shall come from the following: Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Senior Applications in Math, Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, or a locally initiated elective approved by BESE as a math substitute.	
<b>Science</b>	<b>3 units</b>
Shall be the following: 1 unit of Biology 1 unit from the following physical science cluster: Physical Science, Integrated Science, Chemistry I, Physics I, Physics of Technology I 1 unit from the following courses: Aerospace Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physics II, Physics of Technology II, Agriscience II, Anatomy and Physiology, an additional course from the physical science cluster, or a locally initiated elective approved by BESE as a science substitute. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students may not take both Integrated Science and Physical Science</li> <li>• Agriscience I is a prerequisite for Agriscience II and is an elective course.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>3 units</b>
Shall be American History, 1/2 unit of Civics or AP American Government, 1/2 unit of Free Enterprise; and 1 of the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, or AP European History.	
<b>Health Education</b>	<b>1/2 unit</b>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>1 1/2 units</b>

Shall be Physical Education I and Physical Education II, or Adapted Physical Education for eligible special education students. A maximum of 4 units of Physical Education may be used toward graduation. NOTE: The substitution of JROTC is permissible.	
<b>Electives</b>	<b>8 units</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24 units</b>

3. For incoming freshmen in 2008-2009 and beyond who are completing the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum, the minimum course requirements shall be the following:

<b>English</b>	<b>4 units</b>
Shall be English I, II, III, and English IV	
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>4 units</b>
Algebra I (1 unit) or Algebra I-Pt. 2 Geometry Algebra II The remaining unit shall come from the following: Financial Mathematics, Senior Applications in Math, Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, or a locally-initiated elective approved by BESE as a math substitute.	
<b>Science</b>	<b>4 units</b>
Shall be the following: 1 unit of Biology 1 unit of Chemistry 2 units from the following courses: Physical Science, Integrated Science, Physics I, Physics of Technology I, Aerospace Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physics II, Physics of Technology II, Agriscience II, Anatomy and Physiology, or a locally initiated elective approved by BESE as a science substitute. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students may not take both Integrated Science and Physical Science</li> <li>• Agriscience I is a prerequisite for Agriscience II and is an elective course.</li> </ul> A student completing a Career and Technical Area of Concentration may substitute a BESE/Board of Regents approved IBC-related course from within the student's Area of Concentration for the 4th required science unit	
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>4 units</b>
Shall be the following 1/2 unit of Civics or AP American Government 1/2 unit of Free Enterprise 1 unit of American History 1 unit from the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, or AP European History 1 unit from the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, AP European History, Law Studies, Psychology, Sociology, or African American Studies. A student completing a Career and Technical Area of Concentration may substitute a BESE/Board of Regents approved IBC-related course from within the student's Area of Concentration for the 4th required social studies unit.	
<b>Health Education</b>	<b>1/2 unit</b>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>1 1/2 units</b>
Shall be Physical Education I and Physical Education II, or Adapted Physical Education for eligible special education students. A maximum of four units of Physical Education may be used toward graduation. NOTE: The substitution of JROTC is permissible.	
<b>Foreign Language</b>	<b>2 units</b>
Shall be 2 units in the same foreign language or 2 Speech courses	
<b>Arts</b>	<b>1 unit</b>

1 unit Fine Arts Survey or 1 unit of Art (§2333), Dance (§2337), Music (§2355), Theatre Arts (§2333), or Applied Arts. A student completing a Career and Technical Area of Concentration may substitute a BESE/Board of Regents approved IBC-related course from within the student's area of concentration for the required applied arts unit.	
<b>Electives</b>	<b>3 units</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24 units</b>

**F. High School Area of Concentration**

1. All high schools shall provide students the opportunity to complete an area of concentration with an academic focus and/or a career focus.

a. Incoming freshmen prior to 2008-2009 can complete an Academic Area of Concentration by completing the current course requirements for the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity Award.

b. Incoming freshmen in 2008-2009 and beyond can complete an Academic Area of Concentration by completing the course requirements for the LA Core 4 curriculum.

c. To complete a career Area of Concentration, students shall meet the minimum requirements for graduation including four elective primary credits in the Area of Concentration and two related elective credits, including one computer/technology course. Areas of Concentration are identified in the Career Options Reporting System with each LEA designating the Career and Technical Education Areas of Concentration offered in their school system each year. The following computer/technology courses can be used to meet this requirement.

Course	Credit
Computer/Technology Literacy	1
Computer Applications or Business Computer Applications	1
Computer Architecture	1
Computer Science I, II	1 each
Computer Systems and Networking I, II	1 each
Desktop Publishing	1
Digital Graphics & Animation	1/2
Multimedia Presentations	1/2 or 1
Web Mastering or Web Design	1/2
Independent Study in Technology Applications	1
Word Processing	1
Telecommunications	1/2
Introduction to Business Computer Applications	1
Technology Education Computer Applications	1
Advanced Technical Drafting	1
Computer Electronics I, II	1 each
Database Programming with PL/SQL	1
Java Programming	1
Database Design and Programming	1/2
Digital Media I, II	1 each

**G. Academic Endorsement**

1. Graduating seniors who meet the requirements for a standard diploma and satisfy the following performance indicators shall be eligible for an academic endorsement to the standard diploma.

a. Students graduating prior to 2010-2011 shall complete an Academic Area of Concentration. Students graduating in 2010-2011 and beyond shall complete the following curriculum requirements:

<b>English</b>	<b>4 units</b>
English I, II, III, and IV	
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>4 units</b>

Algebra I (1 unit) or Algebra I-Pt. 2	
Geometry	
Algebra II	
The remaining unit shall come from the following Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, or Discrete Mathematics	
<b>Science</b>	<b>4 units</b>
1 unit of Biology	
1 unit of Chemistry	
1 unit of advanced science from the following courses: Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, or Physics II	
1 additional science unit	
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>4 units</b>
1/2 unit of Civics or AP American Government and Politics	
1/2 unit of Free Enterprise	
1 unit of American History	
1 unit from the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, or AP European History	
1 unit from the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, AP European History, Economics, Law Studies, Psychology, Sociology, or African American Studies.	
<b>Health Education</b>	<b>1/2 unit</b>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>1 1/2 units</b>
NOTE: The substitution of JROTC is permissible.	
<b>Foreign Language</b>	<b>2 units</b>
Shall be 2 units in the same foreign language	
<b>Arts</b>	<b>1 unit</b>
1 unit Fine Arts Survey or 1 unit of Art (§2333), Dance (§2337), Music (§2355), Theatre Arts (§2333), or Applied Arts.	
<b>Electives</b>	<b>3 units</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24 units</b>

b. Students shall pass all four components of GEE with a score of *Basic* or above, or one of the following combinations of scores with the English language arts score at *Basic* or above:

- i. one *Approaching Basic*, one *Mastery* or *Advanced*, *Basic* or above in the remaining two; or
- ii. two *Approaching Basic*, two *Mastery* or above.

c. Students shall complete one of the following requirements:

- i. Senior Project;
- ii. one Carnegie unit in an AP course with a score of three or higher on the AP exam;
- iii. one Carnegie unit in an IB course with a score of four or higher on the IB exam; or
- iv. three college hours of non-remedial, articulated credit in mathematics, social studies, science, foreign language, or English language arts.

d. Students shall meet the current minimum grade-point average requirement for the TOPS Opportunity Award.

e. Students shall achieve an ACT Composite Score of at least 23 or the SAT equivalent.

#### H. Career/Technical Endorsement

1. Students who meet the requirements for a standard diploma and satisfy the following performance indicators shall be eligible for a career/technical endorsement to the standard diploma.

a. Students graduating prior to 2010-2011 shall meet the current course requirements for the TOPS Opportunity Award or the TOPS Tech Award. Students graduating in 2010-2011 and beyond shall meet the course requirements for the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum.

b. Students shall complete the career area of concentration.

c. Students graduating prior to 2009-2010 shall pass the English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies components of the GEE 21 at the *Approaching Basic* level or above. Students graduating in 2009-2010 and beyond shall pass all four components of the GEE with a score of basic or above OR one of the following combinations with the English language arts score at basic or above:

- i. one approaching basic, one mastery or advanced, and basic or above in the remaining two;
- ii. two approaching basic, two mastery or above.

d. Students shall complete a minimum of 90 work hours of work-based learning experience related to the student's area of concentration (as defined in the *LDE Diploma Endorsement Guidebook*) OR senior project related to student's area of concentration with 20 hours of related work-based learning and mentoring and complete one of the following requirements:

i. industry-based certification in student's area of concentration from the list of industry-based certifications approved by BESE; or

ii. three college hours in a career/technical area that articulate to a postsecondary institution, either by actually obtaining the credits and/or being waived from having to take such hours in student's area of concentration.

e. Students shall achieve a minimum GPA of 2.5.

f. Students graduating prior to 2008-2009 shall achieve the current minimum ACT Composite Score (or SAT Equivalent) for the TOPS Opportunity Award or the TOPS Tech Award. Students graduating in 2008-2009 and beyond shall achieve a minimum ACT Composite Score (or SAT Equivalent) of 20 or the State ACT average (whichever is higher) or the Silver Level on the WorkKeys Assessment.

I. A Louisiana state high school diploma cannot be denied to a student who meets the state minimum high school graduation requirements; however, in those instances in which BESE authorizes an LEA to impose more stringent academic requirements, a school system diploma may be denied.

J. Each school shall follow established procedures for special requirements for high school graduation to allow each to address individual differences of all students.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7; R.S. 17:24.4; R. S. 17:183.2; R.S. 17: 395.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 31:1291 (June 2005), amended LR 31:2211 (September 2005), LR 31:3070 (December 2005), LR 31:3072 (December 2005), LR 32:1414 (August 2006), LR 33:429 (March 2007), LR 33:432 (March 2007), LR 33:2050 (October 2007), LR 33:2354 (November 2007), LR 33:2601 (December 2007).