

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

**Credits**

Twenty-three (23) credits in grades 9-12 are required for graduation. One-half (1/2) credit will be awarded for successful completion of each semester of course work except where otherwise noted. Credits may not serve dual purposes, (i.e., economics may not serve for both an economics and math credit), except for the on-line experience. Beginning with the Class of 2011, middle school courses that address the required MDE High School Merit Curricular requirements, will count toward high school graduation requirements and credits. However, middle school grades will not be included in the high school GPA for any purpose. Under certain circumstances, a grade of "G" may be given for the following reasons:

- Dual Enrollment
- Testing Out
- On Line Classes
- Home Schooled Classes
- Home Based Classes

The Individualized Education Plan for Special Education Students (IEP) will support required courses as a priority. On rare and unusual occasions, Special Education students may be approved for a "G" grade as defined by the Individualized Educational Plan and approved by the Director of Special Services and the principal. A grade of "G" will not be computed into a G.P.A. but will count as credit for graduation. In order to participate in the graduation ceremony a student must meet all graduation requirements as prescribed by Board Policy.

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| A. <u>English</u>  | <u>4 Credits</u> |
| 1. English 9   | 1 Credit         |
| 2. English 10  | 1 Credit         |
| 3. 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade (literature course)                      | 1 Credit         |
| 4. 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade (an approved aligned English elective)   | 1 Credit         |
| 5. A minimum of one (1) English credit must be selected each year. |                  |

\* No modifications except for State approved IEP purposes or as District administrative guidelines allow for transfer students. The IEP will support required courses as a priority.

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| B. <u>Science</u>                 | <u>3 Credits</u> |
| 1. Biology                        | 1 Credit         |
| 2. Chemistry                      | 1 Credit         |
| 3. Geophysical Science or Physics | 1 Credit         |

\* No modifications except for State approved IEP purposes or as District administrative guidelines allow for transfer students. The IEP will support required courses as a priority.

- C. Mathematics 4 Credits
1. Algebra 1 (Grade 7, 8 or 9) or Algebra 1B (Grade 9) 1 Credit
  2. Geometry (Grade 8 or high school) 1 Credit
  3. Algebra 2, or Algebra 2 In the Work Place 1 Credit
  4. All students must earn a mathematics credit during their last year of high school. This must be earned through a Mathematics elective or other approved mathematics related course. 1 Credit
  5. The math credit earned in middle school Algebra I and Geometry may be used to meet high school mathematics requirements, and shall be counted toward the twenty-three (23) credits required for graduation. However, middle school grades will not be included in the high school GPA for any purpose.
  6. Three (3) credits of math must be earned in high school.
- \* No modifications except for State approved IEP purposes or as District administrative guidelines allow for transfer students. The IEP will support required courses as a priority.
- D. Social Studies 3 Credits
1. 20<sup>th</sup> Century American History 1 Credit
  2. World Studies 1 Credit
  3. American Government or AP Government ½ Credit
  4. Economics or AP Economics ½ Credit
- \* No modifications except for State approved IEP purposes or as District administrative guidelines allow for transfer students. The IEP will support required courses as a priority.
- E. Health and Physical Education 1 Credit
1. Foundations of Health and Physical Education ½ Credit
  2. Healthy Life Habits ½ Credit
- \* No modifications except for State approved IEP purposes or as District administrative guidelines allow for transfer students. The IEP will support required courses as a priority.
- F. Applied, Visual and Performing Arts 1 Credit  
(Visual and Performing Arts include elective courses like all art classes, drama, music, etc.)  
  
(Applied Arts include elective courses with a creative design component, e.g. technology design, yearbook, etc.)

- \* No modifications except for State approved IEP purposes or as District administrative guidelines allow for transfer students. The IEP will support required courses as a priority.

G. World Language (Beginning with the Class of 2016)\* 2 Credits

The World Language earned in middle school may be used to meet high school World Language requirements and shall be counted toward the twenty-three (23) credits required for graduation. However, middle school grades will not be included in high school G.P.A. The two (2) credits must be earned in the same World Language course.

- \* No modifications except for State approved IEP purposes or as District administrative guidelines allow for transfer students. The IEP will support required courses as a priority.

H. Electives will fill the remainder of the twenty-three (23) credits required.

I. On Line Learning Experience \*

All students must complete one (1) approved on-line learning experience. Credit given for all on-line courses may also serve to meet the on-line learning experience.

- \* No modifications except for State approved IEP purposes or as District administrative guidelines allow for transfer students. The IEP will support required courses as a priority.

**Michigan Merit Examination**

The Michigan Merit Exam or State approved alternative to the Merit Exam, for students who qualify at the high school level, is a graduation requirement. For seniors only, in case of a critical incident where no allowable State accommodations can be made, this requirement may be appealed to a committee comprised of two Board members, a building administrator, and an administrator appointed parent. The committee's recommendation is presented to the Board for action, and the Board's decision is final.

**Personal Curriculum**

Public Act 141 allows modifications to high school graduation requirements through a personal curriculum plan. State and district guidelines limit the conditions under which a personal curriculum may be developed and implemented. Personal curriculum plans will only be permitted for the following reasons:

- 1) State approved IEP purposes

- 2) For mathematics after the student has earned a total of 2.5 credits with .5 credit in Algebra II
- 3) For transfer students from out of State who have earned 3 years of high school credit

**Student Classification**

High school students will be classified according to their number of years in high school:

- Year 1 - Freshman
- Year 2 - Sophomore
- Year 3 - Junior
- Year 4 - Senior

If a senior does not have enough credits earned to graduate at the end of year four (4), s/he will remain classified as a senior. Graduation requirements will remain those of the student's high school entering class.

For a student entering a school system for the first time at the high school level, his/her birth date, as required by Michigan Law to enter school, will be used to determine classification as a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior.

If a student leaves school for any time period, classification will be made based on the date s/he entered school based on Michigan Law.

Students who were retained at the elementary or middle school level remain classified with his/her current grade level when entering high school.

In order to assure that students are on schedule for graduation, students should adhere to the following credits:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Minimum Number of Credits</u>
Sophomore	5 ½
Junior	11
Senior	17

**Recommendations**

- A. All students should earn four (4) science credits, which will include the required three (3) year sequence of biology, chemistry and physics/geo physical.
- B. All students should earn at least two (2) credits in a two (2) year sequence in World Language. (Beginning with the Class of 2016, all students are required to take two (2) credits of the same World Language) It is strongly encouraged and highly

recommended that students schedule two (2) consecutive years in the same World Language.

### **Transfer Credits**

- A. Students transferring to South Lyon high schools from another school will:
  - 1. Receive credit from religion courses which shall be recorded as elective credit.
  - 2. Not receive credit toward graduation for driver education classes.
  - 3. Receive appropriate credit for other courses as indicated by sending school.
- B. Credit from correspondence courses will not be accepted toward graduation.
- C. Academic credits for transferring students should be reconfigured to equate to the credit system for South Lyon Community Schools.  
The maximum credits per semester shall equal three (3) credits.  
These requirements may be adjusted to insure that transfer students meet specific departmental requirements for graduation.
- D. Grades from accredited home schooling programs will not be averaged into the GPA, for any purpose, although credit may be accepted for courses passed as they apply to South Lyon curriculum.
- E. Testing out of class by achieving a final grade of 78% (C+) or higher on the testing out examination shall result in earned credit; however, it will not be included in the high school GPA for any purpose.

### **Dual Enrollment**

Under Public Act 160, (Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act) the District provides qualified students the opportunity to dually enroll in college courses provided they have received authorization from the building principal or his/her designee prior to registration.

Students will receive one-half (1/2) credit for successful completion of each dual enrollment course. Grades will not be averaged into the GPA for any purpose.

### **Supplemental Credits**

Supplemental credit can be earned in the following ways: College courses, summer school courses, Alternative Education courses, online courses and the extended day program at Oakland Technical Center. All supplemental credits must be approved by the building principal or his/her designee prior to registration. However, no student may be enrolled in more than one (1) credit per semester.

#### **A. Alternative Education Credits**

Students taking supplemental credits through the Alternative program must be at least sixteen (16) years of age. Full-time high school students may take no more than

two (2) classes (one (1) credit) per semester, four (4) classes (two (2) credits) per year beyond the normal schedule.

**B. Credit for Online Courses**

The District recognizes the opportunity to enroll in online courses may enhance and enrich the educational opportunities already available to students. The District will abide by all State requirements and regulations regarding online coursework.

The following District requirements for acceptance of credit for online courses are consistent with State of Michigan requirements:

1. All high school students are eligible to enroll in up to two (2) online course(s) for a maximum of one (1) credit per semester. Students may enroll in no more than two (2) online courses, or up to one (1) credit, during the summer.
2. Online courses may not be used to substitute for South Lyon high schools' offerings, except on rare and unusual occasions approved by the high school principal or his/her designee.
3. On rare and unusual occasions, Special Education students may be approved for an online seat time waiver as defined by the Individualized Educational Plan and approved by the Director of Special Services and the principal. These will be considered Alternative Path students.
4. Students may receive credit for online courses offered by accredited high schools, Intermediate School Districts, universities and the Michigan Department of Education, that have been approved by the high school principal or his/her designee.
5. With the exception of dual enrollment, online courses must be taken in addition to, not in place of, the student's regular schedule, and must be taken as a seventh class.
6. Credit for online courses will appear on the student's transcript but the grade will not be averaged into the GPA for any purpose.
7. A student enrolled in an online course who wishes to use District technology in order to participate in the online course must do so between 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on school days during the school year. A home-schooled student must be enrolled in at least one (1) class at one (1) of the South Lyon high schools in order to be enrolled in an online course.
8. A mentor teacher will be available between 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on school days during the school year.

9. A homebound student may take an approved online course for credit as long as the student is enrolled in six (6) classes through one (1) of the South Lyon high schools.
10. The student is responsible for costs associated with the online course, since it will be taken outside of the regular school day.
11. In the case of home-schooled students, the District will claim one-sixth FTE (full time equivalent) for each high school class in which the student is enrolled, but will not claim one-sixth FTE for the online course. Therefore, the home-schooled student is also responsible for costs associated with the online course.

**C. College Courses**

High school students who have received authorization by the building principal to take college courses, but not under the provisions of the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act, will receive one-half (1/2) credit for successful completion of each course. The grades will not be averaged into the GPA for any purpose.

M.C.L.A. 380.1166,380.1279  
20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.  
29 U.S.C. 794  
42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.

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