

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. 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
- Rare and unusual accommodation

All students are expected to receive a grade in their classes that, in keeping with the South Lyon Schools grading policy, will result in a grade point average. The Individualized Education Plan for Special Education Students (IEP) will support required courses as a priority. When a special education student has met the objectives of the class and demonstrated his/her effort to complete all required assignments and still cannot make a passing grade, the teacher may present a request to the Director of Special Education to give the student a grade of G. If the Director of Special Education supports the teacher's request, he/she may recommend to the principal whose approval must be obtained to give the student a grade of G. The grade of G is to be given on rare and unusual circumstances with consideration to the IEPC and the disability, and not to manipulate a grade point average, or to make a student eligible under the extra-curricular eligibility requirements. In order to participate in the graduation ceremony a student must meet all graduation requirements as prescribed by Board Policy.

For students with Individualized Education Plans, the IEP will support required courses as a priority.

District administrative guidelines allow for some flexibility for transfer students. Personal curriculum plans may be developed for transfer students from out of State who have earned 3 years of high school credit.

The district strongly encourages all college bound students to carefully weigh whether adjusting the graduation requirements using either a personal curriculum or permission of the counselor and administrator (as outlined below) would hinder his or her acceptance into the college or university the student wishes to attend. It is recommended that students speak

with admissions counselors at their desired schools prior to considering any adjustments in the traditional graduation requirements.

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

* No modifications allowed for personal curriculum purposes.

- B. Science 3 Credits
1. Biology 1 Credit
 2. Chemistry or Analytical Chemistry 1 Credit
 3. Geophysical Science or Physics 1 Credit

* Students must take Biology and may select 1 or 2 credits from the following options, with counselor and administrator approval: Chemistry or Analytical Chemistry, Geophysical Science or Physics, Anatomy (online for 2015-16 and offered in SLCS beginning in 2016-17), or Agricultural Science (online only). Students must earn at least 3 total credits in science. A third credit could be earned, with counselor and administrator approval, through successful completion of an MDE-approved Computer Science program or curriculum (offered at OTC) or another MDE-approved formal Career Technical Education (CTE) program or curriculum.

- C. Mathematics 4 Credits
1. Algebra 1 (Grade 7, 8 or 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.

* With counselor and administrator approval, students may partially or fully fulfill the Algebra II requirement by successfully completing an MDE-approved formal CTE program or curriculum and successfully completing the embedded content

which addresses the same benchmarks as Algebra II.

- * A personal curriculum can be utilized to adjust the total number of credits needed to 3.5, to allow a student to take his or her final credit in Junior year, and/or to modify the Algebra II requirement. The Algebra II requirement may be modified if a student successfully completes one semester of Algebra II; enrolls in an MDE-approved formal CTE program or curriculum and successfully completes the embedded content which addresses the same benchmarks as first semester Algebra II; or successfully completes one semester of one of the following courses: statistics (online), functions and data analysis (online), a technical mathematics class (online) for 15-16 only, or Consumer Math (offered by SLCS only to 12th graders beginning in 2016-17).

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| D. <u>Social Studies</u> | <u>3 Credits</u> |
| 1. 20 th 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 |

- * **A personal curriculum can be utilized to reduce the total number of required Social Studies credits to 2.5; however the student must still successfully complete 20th Century American History, World Studies, and American Government or AP Government.**

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| E. <u>Health and Physical Education</u> | <u>1 Credit</u> |
| 1. Foundations of Health and Physical Education | ½ Credit |
| 2. Healthy Life Habits | ½ Credit |

- * A personal curriculum can be utilized to reduce the total number of required Health and Physical Education credits to zero; however, the student must take an additional credit in ELA, Mathematics, Science, or World Language OR must successfully complete an MDE-approved formal CTE program. The additional credit cannot be used concurrently to fulfill another required graduation credit.

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| F. <u>Applied, Visual and Performing Arts</u> | <u>1 Credit</u> |
| (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.)

- * A personal curriculum can be utilized to reduce the total number of required Applied, Visual, and Performing Arts credits to zero; however, the student must

take an additional credit in ELA, Mathematics, Science, or World Language OR must successfully complete an MDE-approved CTE program. The additional credit cannot be used concurrently to fulfill another required graduation credit.

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.

- * With counselor and administrator approval, students in the Classes of 2016-2024 inclusive, may fulfill either $\frac{1}{2}$ credit or 1 credit through successful completion of an MDE-approved formal CTE program or curriculum OR by taking an additional half or full credit of Applied, Visual, and Performing Arts. The additional half or full credit cannot be used concurrently to fulfill another required graduation credit.

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. 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.

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 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. 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.

Per MCL 388.514(9), if a student does not complete or does not successfully complete the dual enrollment course, the pupil shall repay to the school district any funds expended that are not refunded by the eligible postsecondary institution. This does not apply to a pupil who does not complete the course due to a family or medical emergency as determined by the eligible postsecondary institution.

If a pupil does not repay the money, he/she will no longer be allowed the opportunity to take additional dual enrollment courses.

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. Credit for online courses will appear on the student's transcript but the grade will not be averaged into the GPA. Grades from approved credit recovery courses will be considered for co-curricular and extracurricular eligibility.
6. In place of a local course, 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.
7. 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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