

### **GRADUATION/DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS**

Students who have completed all required course work, as set forth below, but who have not successfully completed all state mandated achievement or graduation assessment requirements may return at subsequent regularly scheduled achievement or graduation assessment administrations to retake failed areas. Upon the successful completion of achievement or graduation assessment requirements such student shall be eligible to be awarded a high school diploma.

Each diploma shall be signed by the President and Chief Financial Officer of the Board, the Superintendent, and the Principal of the High School and shall bear the date of its issue.

The requirements for graduation and participation in commencement shall be the completion of work and studies representing the instructional program assigned to grades 9 through 12, including all state mandated achievement or graduation assessments. The requirements will be sent annually to parents of students entering Mentor High School. They will also be published annually in the Mentor High School student handbook and posted annually on the Mentor High School electronic student management system.

The requirements for participation in commencement and receiving a diploma starting with the class of 2002 shall include twenty-one (21) units earned in grades 9-12 to be distributed as follows:

1. English language arts, four units;
2. Health, one-half unit;
3. Mathematics, three units;
4. Physical education, one-half unit;
5. Science, three units, which at all times shall include both of the following:
  - a. Biological sciences, one unit;
  - b. Physical sciences, one unit.
6. Social studies, three units, which shall include both of the following:
  - a. American history, one-half unit;
  - b. American government, one-half unit.
7. Elective units, seven units until September 15, 2003 and six units thereafter.

Each student's electives shall include at least one unit, or two half units, chosen from among the areas of business/technology, fine arts, and/or foreign language.

Beginning with students who enter the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2010, the requirements for participation in commencement and receiving a diploma shall include twenty units in grades 9-12 to be distributed as follows:

1. English language arts, four units;
2. Health, one-half unit;
3. Mathematics, four units, which shall include one unit of Algebra II or its equivalent;
4. Physical education, one-half unit;
5. Science, three units with inquiry-based laboratory experience that engages students in asking valid scientific questions and gathering and analyzing information, which shall include the following or their equivalent:
  - a. Physical sciences, one unit;
  - b. Life sciences, one unit;
  - c. Advanced study in one or more of the following sciences, one unit:
    - i. Chemistry, physics, or other physical science;
    - ii. Advanced biology or other life science;
    - iii. Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science.
6. Social studies, three units, which shall include both of the following:
  - a. American history, one-half unit;
  - b. American government, one-half unit;

The study of economics and financial literacy as expressed in the social studies content standards shall be integrated into one or more existing social studies credits or into the content of another class. The academic content standards for financial literacy and entrepreneurship shall be integrated into one or more existing social studies credits or into the content of another class after the State Board of Education has adopted such standards (on or after June 30, 2010).

7. Five units consisting of one or any combination of foreign language, fine arts (two (2) semesters in any of grades 7-12), business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies not otherwise required.

A student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010, and before July 1, 2014, may qualify for graduation even though he/she has not completed the Ohio core curriculum in accordance with applicable law.

Units earned in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies that are delivered through integrated academic and career-technical instruction are eligible to meet graduation requirements.

Advanced student work completed prior to the ninth grade shall be applied toward graduation requirements if the advanced work was taught by a teacher who possessed a license valid for teaching high school and designated by the Board of Education as meeting the high school curriculum requirements.

### Honors Diploma

Shall be granted in accordance with Ohio law. However, no student shall be eligible for graduation honors unless they have been enrolled for two (2) consecutive semester(s) prior to the final semester utilized for purposes of determining such honors.

### Veterans Diploma

The Board may grant a diploma for veterans of World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam conflict in accordance with Ohio law.

The Board may also grant a diploma to any woman who left high school in any state during World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam conflict to support her family or the war effort in accordance with Ohio law.

### Alternative Conditions for Graduation

As an alternative to the requirement that a person successfully complete all of the Ohio graduation assessments in order to be eligible for a high school diploma, a person who has successfully completed all but one of the assessments may be awarded a diploma if he or she has satisfied all of the following conditions:

1. On the assessment that the person failed to attain the designated score, he or she missed that score by ten points or less;
2. The person has a ninety-seven per cent school attendance rate in each of the last four years of school, excluding any excused absences;
3. The person has not been expelled from school in any of the last four school years;
4. The person has a grade point average of at least 2.5 in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed in accordance with rules established by the State Board of Education;
5. The person has completed the high school curriculum requirements in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed;

6. The person has taken advantage of any intervention programs provided by the District or school in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed, and has a ninety-seven per cent attendance rate, excluding any excused absences, in any of those programs that are provided at times beyond the normal school day, school week, or school year or has received comparable intervention services from a source other than the District or school;
7. The person holds a letter recommending graduation from each of his or her high school teachers in the subject area of the assessment that he or she failed and from the High School Principal.

#### Children of Military Families Who Have Transferred from Another State

Pursuant to O.R.C. §3301.60, for students who are children of military families and have transferred to the District from another state (the “sending state”), the District shall waive specific courses required for graduation if the student satisfactorily completed similar coursework in a public school district in the sending state or shall provide a reasonable justification for the denial of a waiver. If a waiver is not granted, the District shall provide an alternative means for the student to acquire the required coursework so the student may graduate on time.

Where assessments are required for graduation, the District shall accept the exit or end-of-course assessments required for graduation in the sending state, national norm-referenced achievement test, or alternative testing.

If a student who has transferred into the District at the beginning of or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate after the District has considered the above-referenced alternatives, the District shall work with the student’s prior public school district in the sending state to determine if the student meets the graduation requirements of that district. If the sending state is not a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, the District shall use its best efforts as set forth above to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student.

LEGAL REFS: O.R.C. §§3301.60, 3313.61, 3313.603

Adopted: October 13, 2009