



Education Policy and Procedures

2017-2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(for students who enter Chicago public high schools as Freshman in/after September 2016)¹

The following requirements were written with the intention of preparing our students for success in a variety of experiences after high school. While these requirements align to the entrance requirements for the state universities of Illinois, they were also written to prepare students for a variety of careers right out of high school. There is great flexibility in the exact courses that schools offer and students take to meet these requirements. To see how all courses in CPS' High School Course Catalog align to the graduation requirements below, please visit: cps.edu/instructionalsupports.

SUBJECT AREA	CREDITS ² REQUIRED	DESCRIPTION
English / English as a Second Language (ESL)	4	One credit is required in each of the following: English I, II, III, <u>and</u> IV. ESL courses satisfy the graduation requirement for English.
Mathematics	3	One credit is required in Algebra, Geometry, <u>and</u> Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry. Advanced mathematics courses are substituted for Algebra and/or Geometry if successfully completed prior to entering high school.
Science	3	One credit is required in Biology along with two credits from any of the following options: Chemistry; Earth/Space Science; Environmental Science; and Physics.
Social Science	3	One credit is required in <u>both</u> World Studies and U.S. History along with one half credit in Civics or AP US Government and one half credit in any other Social Science course.
World Language	2	Two years of the <u>same</u> world language are required. This requirement cannot be met by earning one credit in two <u>different</u> world languages.
Fine Arts	2	Two credits are required. This requirement can be met by earning two credits in the <u>same</u> category, or one credit in any two of the following four categories: Music; Dance; Theatre/Drama; and Visual Art/Drafting.
Physical Education	2	Two credits in PE are required with Health and Driver's Education as mandated components. ROTC may satisfy the PE requirement. ALL high school students are required to be enrolled in daily physical education or have an <u>authorized individual exception</u> on-file.
Career Education	1	One credit from any of the following options: Career & Technical Education; Dual Enrollment ³ ; and Advanced Academics, Fine Arts, and ROTC (courses that are not aligned to the above graduation requirements or meet requirements already satisfied).
Computer Science	1	One credit is required in Computer Science.
Electives	3	Most courses in the catalog will meet the Elective requirement. Electives should be chosen with student's future goals in mind (see Sample Course of Study on back).
TOTAL	24 Credits	
Non-Credit Bearing Requirements		
Service Learning		Students must complete two (2) Service Learning Projects. One project must be completed in conjunction with Civics. The other project may be completed independently or in conjunction with a course offering during 9 th or 10 th grade.
Consumer Education		Students must complete a course that integrates a unit of study on Financial Education ⁴ into its curriculum. This unit of study may be part of a stand-alone Financial Education related course or embedded within a Math, Social Science, CTE or Post-Secondary Seminar course.
Public Law 195		Students must pass an assessment in which they demonstrate knowledge of the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions. This is often part of the U.S. History curriculum.
District-Wide Assessment (DWA)		Taking the state-mandated college and career ready determination exam unless otherwise excused by state law. Students must qualify as having taken the state-mandated college and career ready determination exam in accordance with state guidelines.
Post-Secondary Plan		Students will provide valid evidence to their School Counselor to demonstrate they have a concrete post-secondary plan before high school graduation. Examples of that evidence can include a college acceptance, gap year program, military enlistment, a career training program or job.

(Continued on back)

ENGLISH LEARNER — If you are an English Learner (EL), you will take English as a Second Language (ESL) taught by an ESL-endorsed teacher and all core content courses aligned to academic standards that are taught by an ESL and/or bilingual-endorsed teacher, as appropriate. Please note that ESL I, II, III and Transition English I-IV courses satisfy the four years of English required for graduation. Your English Literacy Proficiency Level (LitPL), based on your most recent screener or ACCESS assessment, will determine placement in the ESL course sequence. If you are enrolled in a Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) program, you will also receive native language or sheltered English instruction in core content courses, as appropriate. If you are in a Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI) you should receive sheltered English instruction in all core content courses, as appropriate.

DIVERSE LEARNER — Diverse Learners receiving special education and related services under an Individualized Education Program (IEP) are expected to graduate with a regular diploma unless they reach 22 years of age without fulfilling graduation requirements. Diverse Learners are expected to meet the same graduation requirements as their non-disabled peers unless the IEP modifies the graduation requirements in whole or in part. For questions regarding graduation for Diverse Learners, please call the Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services at (773) 553-1800.

SAMPLE COURSE OF STUDY — The course of study below lists sample high school courses taken during each grade level. The graduation requirements satisfied during each grade level are also listed. The actual courses taken and graduation requirements satisfied annually may differ as this depends on: 1) the courses offered at each school and 2) each student's particular goals and interests. Parents and students are encouraged to review CPS' High School Course Catalog at: cps.edu/instructionalsupports and consult with the school's guidance department to select courses that support their long-term goals. Further information can also be found online at chooseyourfuture.org.

Subject Area (Credits Required)	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
English / English as a Second Language (ESL) (4)	English I (ESL I)	English II (ESL II)	English III (ESL III)	English IV (Transition English I - IV)
Mathematics (3)	Algebra	Geometry	Advanced Algebra / Trigonometry	
Science (3)	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	
Social Science (3)	World Studies	U.S. History (Public Law 195)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civics (Semester 1) • Sociology (Semester 2) (Consumer Ed)
World Language (2)			French I	French II
Fine Arts (2)	Photography	Beginning Band		
Physical Education (2)	P.E. I (Health)	P.E. II (Driver's Education)		
Career Education⁵ (1)				Dual Enrollment
Computer Science (1)			Exploring Computer Science	
Electives (3)			P.E. III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Calculus • P.E. IV
Total (24)	6	6	6	6
Service Learning Projects (2)	Project #1		Civics Project	
District-Wide Assessment (DWA)	In accordance with Illinois State Board of Education Guidelines			

Notes:

- For more information on the Minimum High School Graduation Requirements, please visit: cps.edu/Pages/Gettingtothenextgrade.aspx
- In most cases, 1 credit is equivalent to 1 year in a particular course. However, there are courses in which 1 credit may be earned in a single semester. Credits from a previous school may transfer and be applied toward CPS' graduation requirements. If credits are from a school outside of the United States, please call (773) 553-1936 and make an appointment with Beata Arceo for foreign transcript evaluation.
- The Dual Enrollment program allows junior and senior students to earn college credit while attending high school. The college credit earned is transferable to many four-year colleges or universities.
- For students who enter in the freshman class of 2017 or later, amend the Consumer Education requirements to ensure that each student receives a unit of study in Financial Education.
- Students enrolled in a Career & Technical Education (CTE) program are recommended to start taking Career Education courses in the 10th grade as many CTE programs are 3 years in length.