Chicago Public Schools

Department of Education Policy and Procedures

CPS MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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.

REQUIREMENT	DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT	ENTERED 9TH GRADE IN:				
		SY 15-16	SY 16-17	SY 17-18	SY 18-19	SY 19-20
Career Ed / JROTC	2.0 credits in *any* Career Education and/or JROTC III / IV courses	✓				
	1.0 credit in the options above		✓	✓	✓	✓
Civics	0.5 credit in Civics or AP Government. (Must include 1 Service Learning Project)		✓	✓	✓	✓
Computer Science	1.0 credit in Computer Science (recommended in 9th grade)		✓	✓	✓	✓
Financial Education (Formerly Consumer Ed)	Must complete a course that integrates Consumer Education into its curriculum	✓	✓			
	Must complete a course that integrates a unit of study on Financial Education, aligned to state standards, into its curriculum			✓	✓	✓
District-Wide Assessment (DWA)	Must take the SAT or DLM-AA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Drivers Ed	Must complete a course that integrates Drivers Education into its curriculum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Electives	3.0 total credits in *any* Academic courses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
English / ESL	English I (1.0 credit); English II (1.0 credit); English III (1.0 credit); English IV (1.0 credit)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fine Arts	2.0 total credits may be earned in the same Fine Arts category or any combination of categories	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health Ed	Must complete a course that integrates Health Education into its curriculum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Math	Algebra (1.0 credit); Geometry (1.0 credit); Advanced Algebra/Trig (1.0 credit)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PE / JROTC	2.0 total credits must be earned in any PE class. Students must pass Health & Driver's Education. JROTC also satisfies this requirement.**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Post-Secondary Plan (LPS)	Must provide evidence of a Post-Secondary Plan		✓	✓	✓	✓
Public Law 195	Must complete a course that integrates the U.S. and Illinois constitutions into its curriculum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Science	Biology (1.0 credit); 2.0 credits from Chemistry, Earth & Space Science, Environmental Science, or Physics	✓	✓	✓		
	Biology (1.0 credit); Chemistry (1.0 credit); Physics (1.0 credit)				✓	✓
Service Learning	Forty (40) Service Learning Hours	✓				
	Two classroom integrated (2) Service Learning Projects; one project must be completed in a Civics or AP Govt course		✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Science	World Studies (1.0 credit); U.S. History (1.0 credit); 1.0 total credit in any other Social Science course(s)	✓				
	World Studies (1.0 credit); U.S. History (1.0 credit); 1.0 total credit (0.5 must be in Civics). Other 0.5 credit can be Civics (recommended) or any other Social Science course		✓	✓	✓	✓
World Language	2.0 total credits in the same World Language	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Note: Please review CPS' Minimum HS Graduation Requirements policy for in-depth details. **Per CPS Physical Education Policy, all high school students shall be scheduled in a physical education course each semester in every grade level (9-12) except when an exception has been authorized.

ENGLISH LEARNER — If you are an English Learner (EL), you will take English as a Second Language (ESL) taught by an ELA- and ESL-endorsed teacher and all core content courses are aligned to academic standards and taught by an ESL and/or bilingual-endorsed teacher, according to your EL-program eligibility. 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 will 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.cps.edu.

SUBJECT AREA (CREDITS REQUIRED)	9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH 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)	Civics 0.5 Civics required (suggested 1.0) (Service Learning Project)	
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 Education (1)				Dual Enrollment
Computer Science (1)	Exploring Computer Science			
Electives (3)			P.E. III	• Pre-Calculus • P.E. IV
Total (24)	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**
Service Learning Projects (2)	Project #1		Civics Project	
Consumer Education/ Financial Education unit of study	In accordance with Chicago Board of Education Guidelines			
District-Wide Assessment (DWA)	In accordance with Illinois State Board of Education Guidelines			

Notes:

1. For more information on the Minimum High School Graduation Requirements, please visit: cps.edu/Pages/Gettingtothenextgrade.aspx
2. In most cases, 1 credit is equivalent to 1 year in a particular course. However, there are courses in which other than 1 credit may be earned in a particular course. 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.
3. The Dual Enrollment program allows eligible students to earn college credit while attending high school. The college credit earned is transferable to many fouryear colleges or universities.
4. Students enrolled in a Career & Technical Education (CTE) program are recommended to start taking these courses in the 10th grade as many CTE programs are 3 years in length.