



386 E. Black Street
P.O. Drawer 10072
Rock Hill, SC 29731

T: (803) 981-1000
F: (803) 981-1094
www.rockhillschools.org

Memo

TO: Dr. Tommy Schmolze, Superintendent
FROM: Ms. Jennifer Morrison, Executive Director of Secondary Education
CC: Dr. John A. Jones, Jr., Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Kershena Dickey, Assistant Superintendent of Academics and Accountability
DATE: May 8, 2024
SUBJ: **Presentation of Revisions to IKF and IKF-R**

At the Tuesday, May 8, 2024, Board business meeting, Ms. Jennifer Morrison will present proposed revisions to Policy IKF and Administrative Rule IKF-R (Graduation Requirements) for discussion. This policy was last revised in May 2015.

Proposed revisions address current practice and ensure district compliance with state guidelines. Feedback on the proposed changes was solicited from all Rock Hill Schools principals.

Proposed revisions are indicated in red.

PROPOSED POLICY

IKEF

Policy IKF Graduation Requirements

~~Issued 5/18~~

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for high school graduation.

The South Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) regulates the South Carolina state high school diploma. A state high school diploma from this district is based upon the satisfactory completion of the number of units required by state law. A unit of work is the amount of credit earned when the student satisfactorily completes 120 hours of instruction in a given subject area.

Students in the district may graduate from high school by meeting the requirements outlined in administrative rule [IKF-R](#).

Students who have an individual education plan (IEP non-diploma students), who will be eligible to receive a certificate of attendance or state occupational credential, may participate in graduation ceremonies if all requirements of their IEP are met successfully or if the student reaches the age of 21, whichever comes first.

Students must meet all requirements outlined in administrative rule [IKF-R](#) to be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony at the end of the school year.

Adopted 10/23/89; Revised 8/27/90, 5/27/02, 11/23/09, 8/24/15, 5/29/18

Legal References:

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

[Section 59-17](#)-130 - American Sign Language as world language credit.

[Section 59-26](#)-70 - No commission or agency to require foreign language as a prerequisite to receive a regular high school diploma.

[Section 59-29](#)-80 - Courses in physical education; ROTC programs; marching band.

[Section 59-29](#)-190 - Advanced placement courses for academically talented students.

[Section 59-29](#)-240 - Civics test requirement.

[Section 59-39](#)-100 - Issuance of uniform diplomas by accredited high school; units required. [Section 59-39](#)-110 - Accelerated program of study.

State Board of Education Regulations:

[R-43-234](#) - Defined program grades 9-12 and graduation requirements.

[R-43-235](#) - Employability credential for students with disabilities.

[R-43-259](#) - Adult education.

York 3/Rock Hill School District

CURRENT POLICY

IKEF

Policy IKF Graduation Requirements

Issued 5/18

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for high school graduation.

The South Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) regulates the South Carolina state high school diploma. A state high school diploma from this district is based upon the satisfactory completion of the number of units required by state law. A unit of work is the amount of credit earned when the student satisfactorily completes 120 hours of instruction in a given subject area.

Students in the district may graduate from high school by meeting the requirements outlined in administrative rule [IKF-R](#).

Students who have an individual education plan (IEP non-diploma students), who will be eligible to receive a certificate of attendance or state occupational credential, may participate in graduation ceremonies if all requirements of their IEP are met successfully or if the student reaches the age of 21, whichever comes first.

Students must meet all requirements outlined in administrative rule [IKF-R](#) to be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony at the end of the school year.

Adopted 10/23/89; Revised 8/27/90, 5/27/02, 11/23/09, 8/24/15, 5/29/18

Legal References:

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

[Section 59-17-130](#) - American Sign Language as world language credit.

[Section 59-26-70](#) - No commission or agency to require foreign language as a prerequisite to receive a regular high school diploma.

[Section 59-29-80](#) - Courses in physical education; ROTC programs; marching band.

[Section 59-29-190](#) - Advanced placement courses for academically talented students.

[Section 59-29-240](#) - Civics test requirement.

[Section 59-39-100](#) - Issuance of uniform diplomas by accredited high school; units required.

[Section 59-39-110](#) - Accelerated program of study.

State Board of Education Regulations:

[R-43-234](#) - Defined program grades 9-12 and graduation requirements.

[R-43-235](#) - Employability credential for students with disabilities.

[R-43-259](#) - Adult education.

York 3/Rock Hill School District

PROPOSED POLICY

IKF-R

AR IKF-R Graduation Requirements

~~Issued 5/18~~

A student must earn 24 units of credit in state-approved courses for graduation.

The unit requirements are distributed as follows:

<u>Subject</u>	Credit units
English/Language arts	4
Mathematics	4
Sciences	3
U.S. History and Constitution	1
Economics	.5 1/2
U.S. Government	.5 1/2
Other social studies	1
PE or Junior AFROTC or Marching Band with PE	1
Computer science (including keyboarding)	1
World Foreign Language or Career and Technology Education elective	1
Personal Finance	.5
Electives (including 1/2 credits in health)	6.5 7
Total	24

The student must complete a study of and take a final examination on the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist papers, and American institutions and ideals. This instruction must be given for a period of at least one year or its equivalent, either within the required course in U.S. History and Constitution or within another course.

The student must pass a high school credit course in science and a course in United States history in which an end-of-course examination is administered.

The student must be enrolled for a minimum of one semester immediately preceding his/her graduation except in the case of a bona fide change of residence. Units earned in a summer school program do not satisfy this requirement.

Awarding of High School Credit

A school may also award and accept credit towards a high school diploma for the following:

- in units of one-fourth, one-half, and a whole; for example, an academic standards-based course that requires a minimum of 120 hours of instruction (one unit), 60 hours of instruction (one-half unit), and 30 hours of instruction (one-fourth unit)
- a course that has been approved by the South Carolina Department of Education in a proficiency-based system
- those gateway courses that are a part of the end-of-course examination program only if the student takes the course approved by the school in which he/she is enrolled and meets all the stipulated requirements of the program
- courses in summer programs that meet all the regulatory requirements for courses offered for students in grades nine through 12
- a course that is approved by the district, whether the school offers the particular course or not, if the student receives prior approval
- a course that the student takes in an approved adult education program if the course is approved by the superintendent or his/her designee
- locally designed subject-area courses, elective courses, and CATE courses under conditions as outlined in State Board of Education regulations
- the PE credit if the PE course meets all statutory requirements including the personal fitness and wellness component and the lifetime fitness component
- ~~the one-half unit of credit carried by the keyboarding course for half of the required computer science unit~~
- the American Sign Language course as the required unit in a foreign language
- a college course that a student in grades nine through 12 takes under the district's dual credit arrangement; any dual credit courses must be included on the transcript while in progress

Adult Education

For adult education students receiving a diploma, the unit requirements are distributed as follows:

<u>Subject</u>	Credit units
English/Language arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
U.S. History and Constitution	1
Economics	.5 1/2
U.S. Government	.5 1/2
Other social studies	1
Computer science (including keyboarding*)	1
Electives	9
Total	24

High School Credit for College Work

Students in grades nine through 12 and/or adult education programs may earn credits for college course work that can be applied to the required number of units for a state high school diploma.

The following conditions apply:

- Courses may be offered through distance learning and cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education. One quality point will be added to the CP weighting for dual credit courses that are applicable. Only courses applicable to baccalaureate degrees or to associate degrees offered by institutions accredited
- by the board of education of that state or the appropriate regional accrediting agency [the New England Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (AdvancED/SACS CASI), North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or Northwest Association of Colleges and Schools] qualify.
- Tuition costs and any other fees will be the responsibility of the student or his/her parent/legal

guardian. Issued 11/23/09; Revised 8/24/15, 6/13/16, 5/29/18

York 3/Rock Hill School District

CURRENT POLICY

IKF-R

AR IKF-R Graduation Requirements

Issued 5/18

A student must earn 24 units of credit in state-approved courses for graduation.

The unit requirements are distributed as follows:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Credit units</u>
English/Language arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
U.S. History and Constitution	1
Economics	1/2
U.S. Government	1/2
Other social studies	1
PE or Junior ROTC	1
Computer science (including keyboarding)	1
Foreign language or Career and technology education	1
Electives (including 1/2 credits in health)	7
Total	24

The student must complete a study of and take a final examination on the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist papers, and American institutions and ideals. This instruction must be given for a period of at least one year or its equivalent, either within the required course in U.S. History and Constitution or within another course.

The student must pass a high school credit course in science and a course in United States history in which an end-of-course examination is administered.

The student must be enrolled for a minimum of one semester immediately preceding his/her graduation except in the case of a bona fide change of residence. Units earned in a summer school program do not satisfy this requirement.

Awarding of High School Credit

A school may also award and accept credit towards a high school diploma for the following:

- in units of one-fourth, one-half, and a whole; for example, an academic standards-based course that requires a minimum of 120 hours of instruction (one unit), 60 hours of instruction (one-half unit), and 30 hours of instruction (one-fourth unit)
- a course that has been approved by the South Carolina Department of Education in a proficiency-based system
- those gateway courses that are a part of the end-of-course examination program only if the student takes the course approved by the school in which he/she is enrolled and meets all the stipulated requirements of the program
- courses in summer programs that meet all the regulatory requirements for courses offered for students in grades nine through 12
- a course that is approved by the district, whether the school offers the particular course or not, if the student receives prior approval

- a course that the student takes in an approved adult education program if the course is approved by the superintendent or his/her designee
- locally designed subject-area courses, elective courses, and CATE courses under conditions as outlined in State Board of Education regulations
- the PE credit if the PE course meets all statutory requirements including the personal fitness and wellness component and the lifetime fitness component
- the one-half unit of credit carried by the keyboarding course for half of the required computer science unit
- the American Sign Language course as the required unit in a foreign language
- a college course that a student in grades nine through 12 takes under the district's dual credit arrangement; any dual credit courses must be included on the transcript while in progress

Adult Education

For adult education students receiving a diploma, the unit requirements are distributed as follows:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Credit units</u>
English/Language arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
U.S. History and Constitution	1
Economics	1/2
U.S. Government	1/2
Other social studies	1
Computer science (including keyboarding*)	1
Electives	9
Total	24

High School Credit for College Work

Students in grades nine through 12 and/or adult education programs may earn credits for college course work that can be applied to the required number of units for a state high school diploma.

The following conditions apply:

- Courses may be offered through distance learning and cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education. One quality point will be added to the CP weighting for dual credit courses that are applicable.
- Only courses applicable to baccalaureate degrees or to associate degrees offered by institutions accredited by the board of education of that state or the appropriate regional accrediting agency [the New England Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (AdvancED/SACS CASI), North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or Northwest Association of Colleges and Schools] qualify.
- Tuition costs and any other fees will be the responsibility of the student or his/her parent/legal guardian.

Issued 11/23/09; Revised 8/24/15, 6/13/16, 5/29/18

York 3/Rock Hill School District