

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 03-1022-PO02**  
**AMEND BOARD REPORT 00-0726-PO2**  
**AMEND BOARD REPORT 98-0826-PO1**  
**AMEND BOARD REPORT 97-0827-PO2**  
**MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Amend Board Report ~~00-0726-PO2~~ 03-1022-PO02 ("Minimum High School Graduation Requirements") to ~~clarify the Community Service Learning Requirements in relation to the number of hours necessary and when these hours must be completed~~ clarify the English, Mathematics and Science Requirements.

**PURPOSE:**

The policy regarding minimum high school graduation requirements increases academic rigor and prepares students for post secondary education and the world of work. The graduation requirements meet or exceed requirements for entry into Illinois public colleges and universities, ~~as stated in Public Act 86-0954.~~

~~This policy is part of the Chicago Public Schools Design for High Schools, which continues to evolve with feedback from teachers, principals, LSC members, students, parents, and other interested parties.~~

**PRESENT POLICY:**

~~Board Report 00-0726-PO2 clarifies that a student with disabilities will receive a diploma when he or she meets graduation requirements with, as appropriate, accommodations and curricular modifications established through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process, which takes into account the student's disability and its impact on performance.~~

**HISTORY OF BOARD ACTION:**

"Policy for Revised Graduation Requirements for Freshman Students Entering High School September 1984" (Board Report 84-1114-ED14), adopted November 14, 1984. (Rescinded by 97-0827-PO2); Resolution to Establish Policy for Minimum Promotion Requirements for High School Students (Board Report 95-0222-RS3), adopted February 22, 1995 Note: Rescinded by 97-0827-PO1 (Amend Board Report 96-0828-PO3: Adopt the Amended High School Promotion Policy); Resolution to Establish Policy for Minimum High School Graduation Requirements of Three Courses of Science" (Board Report 95-0222-RS4), adopted February 22, 1995. (Rescinded by 97-0827-PO2); Resolution to Establish Policy for Minimum Graduation Requirements of Three Courses of Mathematics (Board Report 95-0222-RS5), adopted February 22, 1995 (Rescinded by 97-0827-PO2); Rescind Board Reports 95-0222-RS4, 95-0222-RS5, 84-1114-ED14 and Adopt Minimum High School Graduation Requirements Policy (Board Report 97-0827-PO2), adopted August 27, 1997; Amend Board Report 97-0827-PO2 Minimum High School Graduation Requirements to Include Community Service Learning Requirements (Board Report 98-0826-PO1), Adopted August 26, 1998; Amend Board Report 98-0826-PO1 Minimum High School Graduation Requirements (Board Report 00-0726-PO2), Adopted July 26, 2000; Amend Board Report 00-0726-PO2 Minimum High School Graduation Requirements (Board Report 03-1022-PO02), Adopted October 22, 2003.

**POLICY TEXT:**

**CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

**I. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS** ~~(an increase from 20 to 24 required credits)~~

A student must earn a minimum total 24 credits in the following areas:

A. English ~~(a continuation of four required credits; emphasis on written communication, oral communication, and literature; English I and English II serve to satisfy the state requirement for writing intensive courses)~~ (4.0 credits)

1. English I
2. English II
3. English III
4. English IV

B. Mathematics ~~(an increase from two to three required credits)~~ (3.0 credits)

1. Algebra
2. Geometry
3. Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry

For students who successfully complete Algebra prior to entering high school or who successfully place out of Algebra upon entering high school as Freshmen, the following three required credits apply:

- a. Geometry
- b. Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry
- c. Pre-calculus or College Algebra/Analytic Geometry or an Advanced Placement mathematics course or an advanced mathematics elective course that is approved by the Office of High School Programs

For students who successfully complete Algebra and Geometry prior to entering high school or who successfully place out of Algebra and Geometry upon entering high school as Freshmen, the following three required credits apply:

- a. Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry
- b. Pre-calculus or College Algebra/Analytic Geometry or an Advanced Placement mathematics course
- c. An advanced mathematics elective course that is approved by the Office of High School Programs

These requirements apply equally to students who received formal high school credit for the Algebra or Geometry course taken prior to entering high school and to students who successfully place into a more advanced course, but did not receive formal high school credit for an Algebra or Geometry course.

C. Science ~~(an increase from one to three required credits with a new laboratory requirement for all science courses in three focal areas)~~ (3.0 credits)

1. Biology (life science focal area) (1.0 credit)
2. Other Laboratory Science Courses (a combination of the following four courses at either 0.5 or 1.0 credit each for a total of 2.0 credits. No more than 1.0 credit in one course may be used towards satisfaction of the science requirement):

- a. Chemistry
- b. Earth and Space Science
- c. Environmental Science
- d. Physics

~~3. Earth and Space or Environmental Science (earth science focal area)  
Chemistry or Physics (physical science focal area)~~

D. ~~Social Science (a continuation of three required credits; newly defined World Studies subject area with integration of five State social science goals: government, economics, history, geography, and social systems) (3.0 credits)~~

- 1. World Studies
- 2. United States History
- 3. ~~One Elective~~ Other Social Science course

E. ~~World Language (a new two-credit requirement in the same language such as Spanish, French, German, Russian, Japanese, etc.) (2.0 credits)~~

- 1. Course I
- 2. Course II

F. ~~Fine Arts (a continuation of the two-credit requirement) (2.0 credits)~~

- 1. Art or Drafting
- 2. Music

G. ~~Physical Education or ROTC (a change from four years/two credits to two years/two credits in Physical Education; athletic team credit possible in lieu of Physical Education but not in lieu of Health and Driver's Education) (2.0 credits)~~

- 1. Physical Education I/Health or ROTC I/Health
- 2. Physical Education II/Driver's Education or ROTC II/Driver's Education

H. ~~Career Education or ROTC (an addition of two required credits; college career pathways or advanced academic/fine arts options part of Career Education) (2.0 credits)~~

- 1. Career Education I or ROTC III
- 2. Career Education II or ROTC IV

I. ~~Electives (a reduction from six to three flexible course options) (3.0 credits)~~

### **III. II. COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING REQUIREMENT**

#### **A. ~~Participation in Community Service Learning~~**

It is the intent of the Board to develop, encourage and promote partnerships with city agencies, community-based organizations and not-for-profit service entities in order to provide appropriate service opportunities for high school students. These requirements were developed with the assistance from a broad-based volunteer Task Force.

Implementation of the Service Learning graduation requirement shall begin with sophomores in September 1998, and will apply to all students, starting with the graduating class of 2001.

- 1. All students must complete ~~Community~~ Service Learning project prior to graduation;

2. High School principals shall designate a special Service Learning Coach to oversee projects, student participation, record-keeping and agency involvement;
  3. Service Learning projects shall be linked to current academic goals and curriculum and shall promote social awareness and career development;
  4. A total of forty hours prior to graduation, with a minimum of twenty hours completed by the end of the sophomore year, which includes preparation, action, and reflection, will be required of each student; and
  5. Service Learning criteria shall be developed by the Office of High School Programs.
- ~~B. Participation in Student Advisory of each year of high school as a non-credit program.~~
- ~~C. Completion of State non-credit requirements (Consumer Education, demonstrated knowledge of U.S. and Illinois constitutions) as part of subject area curricula.~~
- ~~D. Demonstration of mastery in core subject areas (English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science) through exams at end of courses.~~
- ~~E. Completion of certificate of initial mastery requirements after Junior Academy.~~
- ~~F. Completion of exit requirements set by local school.~~

### **III. OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Completion of State non-credit requirements (Consumer Education, demonstrated knowledge of U.S. and Illinois constitutions) as part of subject area curricula.
- B. Taking the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) unless otherwise excused by state law. Students must qualify as having taken the PSAE in accordance with state guidelines.

### **II. IMPLEMENTATION IV. APPLICATION OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

- A. The required minimum graduation requirements apply to students entering Chicago public high schools as freshmen in Fall 1997. Implementation of the amendments to this policy shall begin with students who entered Chicago public high schools as freshmen in September 2005.
- B. Students in vocational/technical programs must meet all minimum graduation requirements along with any applicable special program requirements.
- C. Students with limited-English-proficiency meet all graduation requirements with placement in English/ESL and support in other subject areas as appropriate.
- D. Students with disabilities meet graduation requirements with appropriate accommodations and curricular modifications as determined by their individual education plans (IEPs). Any student with disabilities who has attended four years of high school but has not earned twenty-four (24) credits or whose IEP prescribes the continuation of special education and/or related services or the provision of transition services beyond the completion of four years of high school may participate in the graduation ceremony. The Chief Executive Office shall issue guidelines regarding this participation, including the issuance of a certificate and notification of parents and students.

- E. Students may place out of courses through exams, but shall not receive credit towards graduation for courses not actually taken.
- F. Schools have the option to develop an integrated or thematic equivalent of subject area courses in so far as standards are met.
- G. Credit is awarded in Carnegie Units that are equivalent to 120 hours of instructional time; integrated/thematic courses will be translated into Carnegie Units.
- H. Office of High School Programs shall determine appropriate placement for transfer students and students participating in independent study following an assessment of the individual student's academic progress and completion of relevant coursework. Based on this assessment, the Office of High School Programs may award credit towards fulfillment of the minimum graduation requirements noted in this Policy.

**LEGAL REFERENCES:** 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64; 105 ILCS 5/14-16; 105 ILCS 5/27-5; 105 ILCS 5/27-6; 105 ILCS 5/27-12.1; 105 ILCS 5/27-21; 105 ILCS 5/27-22; 105 ILCS 5/27-22.05; 105 ILCS 5/27-22.2; 105 ILCS 5/27-22.3; 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2; 110 ILCS 305/8; 110 ILCS 520/8e; 110 ILCS 660/5; 110 ILCS 665/10-85; 110 ILCS 670/15-85; 110 ILCS 675/20-85; 110 ILCS 680/25-85; 110 ILCS 685/30-85; 110 ILCS 690/35-85; 23 Ill. Adm. Code § 1.440; 23 Ill. Adm. Code § 1.445; 23 Ill. Adm. Code § 1.460.


**EDUCATIONAL REVIEW:**

~~The foundation for this policy was put in place through task force recommendations, citywide discussions, and school community suggestions that resulted in the Chicago Public Schools Design for High Schools. Assisting with review and revision were the Department of High School Programs, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Office of Accountability, Office of Instruction and School Management, Office of Language and Cultural Education, Office of Specialized Services, and Department of Local School Council Relations.~~

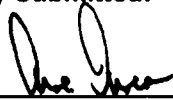
**Approved for Consideration:**

  
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**Barbara J. Eason-Watkins**  
**Chief Education Officer**

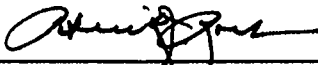
**Noted:**

  
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**John Maiorca**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

  
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**Arne Duncan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Approved as to legal form:** 

  
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**Patrick J. Rocks**  
**General Counsel**