The board recognizes the importance of setting rigorous graduation requirements to help ensure that students are receiving an education that will prepare them to be productive members of society.

In order to graduate from high school, students must meet the following requirements:

1. successful completion of all course unit requirements mandated by the State Board of Education (see Section A);

2. successful completion of all other requirements mandated by the board, as provided in this policy.

The principal shall ensure that students and parents are aware of all graduation requirements. Guidance program staff shall assist students in selecting their high school courses to ensure that students are taking all of the required units and selecting electives consistent with their post-graduation plans. For students who have transferred to the school system during high school or who, for other reasons, have completed course work outside of the school system, the principal shall determine what course work will be applied as credit toward graduation. The principal shall consider the requirements of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (G.S. 115C-407.5) and the requirements of subsection C.3 of this policy in determining the graduation requirements for children of military families.

A. COURSE UNITS REQUIRED

Students must fulfill the requirements of the Future-Ready Core Course of Study, unless they are approved for the Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study. Course unit requirements for the Future-Ready Core Course of Study differ depending on the year a student enters ninth grade for the first time. Students entering ninth grade for the first time between 2009-2012 school year, must fulfill the requirements of the Future Ready Core Course of Study. Students entering as a 9th grader in 2012-2013 and beyond must fulfill the requirements of the new Future Ready Core Course of Study including endorsements.

The Buncombe County Board of Education has established 28 (twenty-eight) credits as the cumulative number required for graduation. Credits which count toward graduation from high school may begin accumulating in middle school when middle school courses meet specific criteria. High school level equivalent courses taken prior to the ninth grade will be counted in the cumulative number of units required for graduation but will not be part of the students GPA calculation. A student must meet the requirements for graduation depending upon their first year of entry into the ninth grade. All students are required to have a four-year plan. Students may receive more than 10 units of credit during one school year with principal prior approval. The principal of the receiving school will develop procedures for evaluating the academic record of transfer students and
awarding credit.

**FUTURE –READY CORE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
<th>2012-2013</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
<td>(4 Credits)</td>
<td>(4 credits)</td>
<td>• I, II, III, IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics</strong></td>
<td>(4 Credits)</td>
<td>(4 credits)</td>
<td>• Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II Or • Integrated Math I, II, III • 4th Math Course to be aligned with the student’s post high school plans • In rare instances a principal may exempt students from the Future Ready Core mathematics sequence in compliance with state law, State Board of Education Policy and locally developed guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
<td>(3 Credits)</td>
<td>(3 credits)</td>
<td>• Biology • An earth/environmental science • A physical science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Studies</strong></td>
<td>(3 Credits)</td>
<td>(4 credits)</td>
<td>• World History • U.S. History • Civics and Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health &amp; P.E.</strong></td>
<td>(1 Credit)</td>
<td>(1 credits)</td>
<td>• Health/Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elective Credits</strong></td>
<td>(9 Credits)</td>
<td>(9 credits)</td>
<td>• Two electives must be any combination of Career Technical education, Arts Education or Second Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Four Credit Concentration</strong></td>
<td>(4 Credits)</td>
<td>(4 credits)</td>
<td>• Four credit concentration focused on student interests and postsecondary goals per Buncombe County School guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduation Project</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Successfully complete the BCS Graduation Project • Successfully complete the Cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENDORSEMENTS**

a. Math Rigor

“Yes” indicates students who complete the traditional Math I, Math II, Math III (or Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II) sequence;

“No” indicates those who do not (for instance, those students who take a substitution math sequence or students in the Occupational Course of
Study).

b. CTE Concentrator

“Yes” indicates those students who complete a four-course CTE concentration with one course at Level 2;

“No” indicates all others.

c. Endorsement(s)

“College- UNC” indicates students meeting the requirements for admission to a UNC System university;

“College” indicates students meeting requirements for admission to a non-UNC System University or college, the community college system or a technical school admission (requirements vary);

“Career” indicates students who meet the requirements of the Career endorsement (completing a CTE Concentration plus earning either a WorkKeys certification at the Silver level or above, or another industry-recognized credential).

Students may graduate from high school with only one of the above endorsements, or with a combination of the following:

“College – UNC” and “Career”; or

“College” and “Career” endorsement

Students may also graduate with no endorsements noted on their diploma and transcript. These endorsements may also be earned in combination with the long-standing Academic Scholars endorsement.

FUTURE-READY OCCUPATIONAL

This course of study shall be made available for certain students with disabilities who have an IEP and for whom this course of study is recommended by the IEP Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Endorsements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Occupational English I, II, III, IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Occupational Mathematics I, II, III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Life Skills Science I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Social Studies I (Civics/U.S. History)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td>Social Studies II (Self-Advocacy/Problem Solving)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; P.E.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Health/Physical Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Career/Technical (4 Credits) • Career/Technical Education electives

Electives (6 Credits) • Occupational Preparation I, II, III, IV
• Completion of 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment

Note: A waiver may be available to substitute specific activities for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years per NCDPI memo dated October 12, 2010.

(6 Credits) • Elective credits/completion of IEP objectives/Career Portfolio required

B. HIGH SCHOOL END-OF-COURSE TESTING

Students must take all end-of-course (EOC) tests required by the State Board of Education.

The EOC/North Carolina Final Exam test results will count as 25 percent of a student’s final grade in each high school course for which an EOC test is available, except that this requirement does not apply to students following the Occupational Course of Study where the exam will count 10 percent of the student’s final grade.

C. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The board adopts the following policies with regard to graduation.

1. Honor Graduates

Honor graduates may be designated by principals on the basis of criteria established by the superintendent. A student who completes the requirements of the North Carolina Academic Scholars Program will receive recognition, including a seal affixed to his or her diploma. Recognition of honor graduates may be included in graduation programs.

2. Students with Disabilities

Graduation requirements must be applied to students with disabilities to the extent required by state and federal law and State Board policy.

3. Children of Military Families

In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the board adopts the following policy provisions for students to whom the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children applies.
a) Waiver Requirements

Specific course work required for graduation will be waived if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school system. If a waiver is not granted, school administrators shall provide the student with reasonable justification for the denial. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the superintendent or designee shall provide the student with an alternative means of acquiring the required course work so that the student may graduate on time.

b) Testing Requirements for Graduation

The superintendent shall accept the following in lieu of any local testing requirements for graduation: (1) the end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state; (2) national norm-referenced achievement tests; or (3) alternative testing. If these alternatives are not feasible for a student who has transferred in his or her senior year, subsection c below will apply.

c) Transfers During Senior Year

If a child of a military family who has transferred at the beginning of or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school system after all of the alternatives listed above have been considered and the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school, then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the sending school system to ensure that the student will receive a diploma from the sending board of education.

4. Early admission to college

Early admission to college requires that a plan be reviewed and approved by the principal prior to any arrangements with a college or university. An Early Admission to College Contract must be signed by the student; parent or legal guardian; and principal. A copy of the signed contract will be retained at the school.

Upon completion of the third year, a Buncombe County high school student who has been accepted by an accredited college (state or regional association) for study during what would have been the fourth year may, upon satisfactory completion of the first year of college, have his college credit equated with high school graduation requirements by and subject to the approval of the principal of his former high school for the purpose of obtaining a high school diploma.
Principals must advise the student that upon completion of the program, he will be allowed to participate in the high school graduation exercise; however, recognition for honors, class ranking, participation in senior activities, and all other rights and privileges will not be afforded.

Prior to graduation, all credit earned at the college or university must be reported to the high school by the college or university.

5. Early Graduation

Graduation prior to that of one’s class may be permitted on the basis of criteria approved by the board upon recommendation by the superintendent.

6. Mid-year completion

Under certain circumstances, a Buncombe County high school student during the senior year of enrollment may qualify for consideration as a mid-year completer. In order to qualify, the student must have met all credits required for graduation, as outlined within Policy #3460.

A Mid-Year Completion Statement of Intent must be signed by the student; parent or legal guardian; and principal.

Students meeting the requirements of the mid-year completion will be allowed to participate in a system-wide high school graduation exercise held at mid-year. As graduates of the Buncombe County School System, mid-year completers forfeit senior student privileges relevant to second semester school sponsored activities.

Buncombe County School System is under no obligation to reschedule students beyond the initial computer placement to accommodate a request for mid-year completion.

7. Graduation Certificates

Graduation certificates will be awarded to eligible students in accordance with the standards set forth in State Board policy.

8. State Graduation Credit Requirements

Students enter 9th grade
2009-2012= 21 Credits
2012-2013= 22 Credits

The principal may exempt a student from local graduation requirements as long as
the student has met all state graduation requirements. The recommendation must follow the procedures established by the Minimum Credit High School Diploma Program.

9. Alternative School Requirements

The Buncombe County Board of Education has adopted the state minimum requirements as the cumulative number required for graduation for Community High School, Buncombe County Middle College or other approved alternative programs. In addition, students must meet local and state graduation requirements.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -174.11, -276, -288, -407.5; State Board of Education Policies GCS-C-003, GCS-N-004, -010

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530), Children of Military Families (policy 4050)

Replaces Board Policy 610

**History of Policy 610**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adopted: August 6, 1992</th>
<th>Revised: May 8, 2003</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revised: August 5, 1993</td>
<td>Revised: December 1, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised: December 9, 1993</td>
<td>Revised: March 5, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised: August 4, 1994</td>
<td>Revised: May 6, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised: May 4, 2000</td>
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NCSBA wording and revisions replacing Policy 610 were adopted: January 9, 2014