

STATE COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Clear and compelling evidence shows that the level of the courses students take in high school is one of the best predictors of their success in college and the workplace. This is particularly true in mathematics: Data show a strong correlation between taking higher-level mathematics courses in high school and achieving success in college and employment in high-growth, high-performance jobs. Rigorous course-taking matters for all students, but it is particularly important for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Taking a challenging high school curriculum — including but not limited to content typically taught in Algebra II — cuts in half the gap in college completion rates between white students and black and Latino students. The *number* of courses students are required to take has been on the rise for the past quarter century, but until recently, few states specified *which* courses students are required to take and set their graduation expectations at the appropriate level to ensure that graduates are prepared for success in college and the workplace.

Achieve’s research suggests that for high school graduates to be prepared for success in postsecondary settings, they need to take four years of challenging mathematics — including content at least through Algebra II or its equivalent — and four years of rigorous English aligned with college- and career-ready standards.

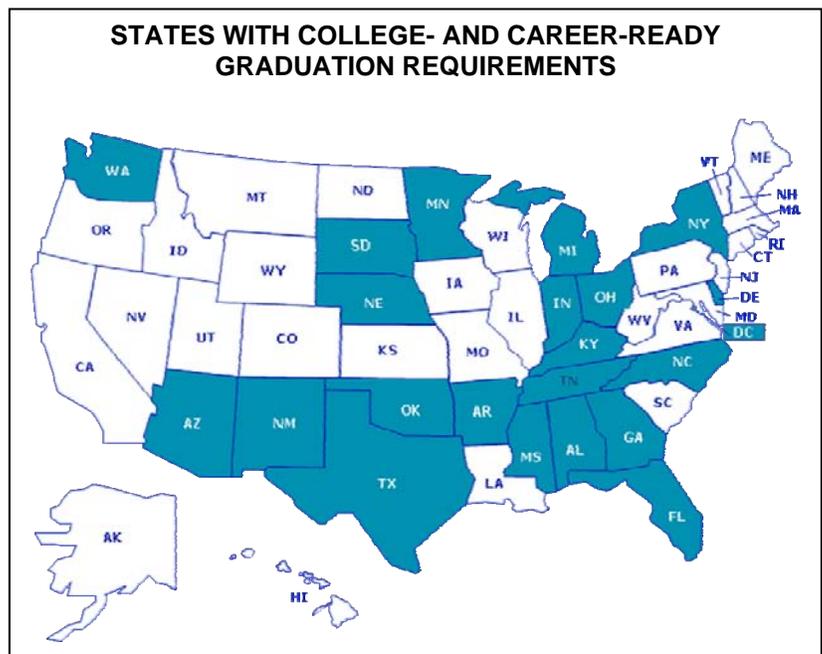
Twenty-One States Require All Students to Complete a College- and Career-Ready Curriculum

At the time of the Summit three years ago, only three states — *Arkansas, South Dakota and Texas*— had set their requirements at a level that would ensure that all graduates were prepared for success in college and the workplace. Today, 21 states — *Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Washington* — and the *District of Columbia*, accounting for over half of students in the U.S., have elevated their high school diploma requirements to the college- and career-ready level.

States raising their course requirements to the level recommended by ADP have taken one of two approaches:

- Eight states and the District of Columbia have set *mandatory* course requirements without opt-out provisions.
- Thirteen states require students to automatically enroll in the “*default*” college- and career-ready curriculum but allow them to opt out of the requirements — typically mathematics requirements — if their parents sign a waiver.

Both approaches are designed to do away with the type of tracking that has long existed in American high schools and continues to leave many students unprepared for the world they enter after high school.





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STATE DIPLOMA	YEAR NEW REQUIREMENTS PASSED	1 ST IMPACTED EXPECTED GRADUATING CLASS	REQUIREMENT	# OF REQUIRED CREDITS	CHANGE IN TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS
ALABAMA FIRST CHOICE DIPLOMA	2008	2013	Default	24	0
ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2007	2013	Default	22	+2
ARKANSAS SMART CORE	2004	2010	Default	22	0
DELAWARE HIGH SCHOODIPLOMA	2006	2011 (2013: For Lang Added)	Mandatory	24	+2
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2007	2011	Mandatory	24	+0.5
FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2010	2015	Mandatory	24	0
GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2007	2012	Mandatory	23	+1
INDIANA CORE 40	2005	2011	Default	20	0
KENTUCKY DIPLOMA	2006	2012	Mandatory	22	0
MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM	2006	2011 (2016: For Lang Added)	Default	18	+18
MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2006	2015	Mandatory	21.5	0
MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2006	2012	Default	24	+4
NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOLL DIPLOMA	2009	2015	Mandatory	20	0
NEW MEXICO DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE	2007	2013	Default	24	+1
NEW YORK REGENTS DIPLOMA	2005	2010	Mandatory	22	0
NORTH CAROLINA FUTURE-READY CORE	2007	2013	Default	21	+1
OHIO CORE	2007	2014	Default	20	0
OKLAHOMA COLLEGE-PREP & WORK-READY CURRICULUM	2005	2010	Default	23	0
SOUTH DAKOTA ADVANCED HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2005	2010	Default	22	0
TENNESSEE READY CORE	2008	2013	Mandatory	22	+2
TEXAS RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM	2003/2006*	2008/2011	Default	26	+4
WASHINGTON CORE 24	2008	2013/2016**	Default	24	+5

**The Texas RHSP was first established as the default diploma requirement for all students in 2003 – impacting the class of 2008 – and included three math credits through Algebra II. In 2006 – impacting the class of 2011 – a fourth year of math was added to RHSP.*

*** The full Washington Core 24 requirements will be in place in 2016, but the Algebra II requirement will be phased in for the class of 2013.*



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	ALABAMA	ARIZONA	ARKANSAS	DELAWARE	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
English	4 • English 9-12	4 • Including 0.5 incorporating the principles of speech and debate	4.5 • English 9-12 • 0.5 Oral Communication	4	4
Mathematics	4 • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II with Trigonometry • 1 beyond Algebra II	4 • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II or its equivalent • fourth course covering significant math content	4 • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II or their equivalents • 1 beyond Algebra II	4 • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II	4 • Algebra I (by ninth grade) • Geometry • Algebra II
Science	4 • 1 Biology • 1 Physical Science • 2 approved science electives	3 • Aligned with Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards	3 • 3 lab-based physical sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Applied Biology / Chemistry, Principles of Technology	3 • 3 lab sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science or another integrated science	4 • 3 lab sciences
Social Studies	4 • 1 World History to 1500 • 1 U.S. History to 1877 • 1 U.S. History from 1877-Present • 1 American Government/Economics	3 • 1 American History, including AZ History • 1 World History/Geography • 0.5 American Government including AZ Government • 0.5 Economics	3 • 1 American History • 1 World History • 1 Civics / US Government	3 • Including History, Geography, Civics and Economics	4 • World History 1 • World History 2 • US History • US Government & DC History
Electives	6.5 • 2 Foreign Language • 0.5 Arts Education • 0.5 Computer Applications • 3.5 from Foreign Languages, Arts, PE, Wellness Ed, CTE and Driver Ed	8 • 1 Fine Arts <u>OR</u> Career/Tech • 7 electives	6.5 • 0.5 Fine Arts • 6 "Career Focus"	8.5 • 2 Foreign Language • 3 "Career-Academic Pathway" courses • 3.5 electives	6.5 • 2 World Language • 0.5 Art • 0.5 Music • 2 CTE or College-level courses • 1.5 electives
Other	• 1.5 PE/Health		• 1 PE/Health & Safety	• 1.5 PE/Health	• 1.5 PE/Health • 100 hours of community service • Theses in 11 th and 12 th grades
Total Required	24	22	22	24	24



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	FLORIDA	GEORGIA	INDIANA	KENTUCKY	MICHIGAN
English	4	4	4	4	4
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 American Literature & Composition 1 9th grade Literature & Composition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including literature, speech & composition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including reading, writing, speaking, listening, observing, inquiry, conventions, analysis, and using technology as a communication tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 9-12
Mathematics	4	4	3	3	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics 1 Mathematics 2 Mathematics 3 or their equivalents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Students may also take Integrated Math I-III Math or Physics required in junior or senior year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Students must be engaged in math all four years of high school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II
Science	3	4	3	3	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biology 1 Chemistry or Physics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biology 1 Physical Science or Physics 1 Chemistry, Earth Systems, Environmental Science or an AP/IB] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biology 1 Chemistry, Physics, or Integrated Chemistry-Physics Math or Physics required in junior or senior year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 lab-based courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biology 1 Chemistry or Physics
Social Studies	3	3	3	3	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 U.S. History 1 World History 0.5 Economics 0.5 U.S. Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 U.S. History 1 World History 0.5 American Government / Civics 0.5 Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 U.S. History 1 World History / Civilization or Geography 0.5 U.S. Government 0.5 Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including U.S. History, Geography, Economics Government / Civics, and Culture/Societies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 U.S. History and Geography 1 World History and Geography 0.5 Civics 0.5 Economics
Electives	10	7	5.5	8	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Fine or Performing Arts 8 electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 from Career/Tech, Fine Arts, Modern Languages/Latin 4 electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.5 from Fine Arts, Career/Tech and World Languages 3 "Career-Academic Sequence" recommended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Visual or Performing Arts 7 electives, four within students' academic or career interests, based on students' Individualized Learning Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Foreign Language 1 Visual Arts
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 PE (with health) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 PE/Health Online learning experience
Total Required	24	23	20	22	18



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	MINNESOTA	MISSISSIPPI	NEBRASKA	NEW MEXICO
English	4	4	4 Districts are required to adopt standards that are the same as, equal to, or more rigorous than the state academic content standards in language arts	4 • Major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature
Mathematics	3 • Geometry • Algebra II • Probability / Statistics • Algebra I in 8 th grade	4 • Algebra I • Two courses above Algebra I	3 Districts are required to adopt standards that are the same as, equal to, or more rigorous than the state academic content standards in mathematics, which include content typically found in an Algebra II course	4 • Including one course equal to or higher than Algebra II
Science	3 • 1 Biology • 1 Chemistry or Physics	4 • At least one lab-based course	3 Districts will be required to adopt standards that are the same as, equal to, or more rigorous than the state academic content standards in science, including biological, earth/space and physical science concepts with corresponding science inquiry skills and laboratory experience	3 • At least two lab-based courses
Social Studies	3.5 • 3 encompassing U.S. History, Geography, World History and Government / Citizenship • 0.5 Economics	4 • 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • 0.5 Geography • 0.5 U.S. Government • 0.5 Economics • 0.5 Mississippi Studies	3 Districts will be required to adopt standards that are the same as, equal to, or more rigorous than the state academic content standards in social studies, with civics/government, geography, U.S. and world history and economic concepts.	3.5 • 3 including U.S. History and Geography, World History and Geography, Government and Economics • 0.5 New Mexico History
Electives	8 • 1 Arts • 7 electives	7.5 • 1 Fine Arts • 1 Computer Discovery <u>OR</u> 0.5 Keyboarding and 0.5 Computer Applications • 5.5 electives	7 • 7 electives	8.5 • 1 Foreign Language <u>OR</u> Career Cluster or Work Readiness • 7.5 electives
Other		• 0.5 PE/Health		• 1 PE • At least 1 credit in AP, honors, dual credit or distance learning
Total Required	21.5	24	20	24



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	NEW YORK	NORTH CAROLINA	OHIO	OKLAHOMA
English	4	4	4	4
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I-IV 		
Mathematics	3	4	4	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students must pass course and end-of-course test in "Integrated Algebra" that combines Algebra I and II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Students may also take Integrated Math I-III A fourth year of math aligned with student's post high school plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including Algebra II or its equivalent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Algebra 1 Geometry 1 Algebra II
Science	3	3	3	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Physical Science 1 Life Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biology 1 Physical Science 1 Earth/Environmental Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Physical Science 1 Biology An additional advanced lab-based course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biology 1 Chemistry or Physics An additional lab-based course
Social Studies	4	3	3	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 U.S. History 0.5 Government Participation 0.5 Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 World History 1 US History 1 Civics and Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 American History 0.5. American Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 U.S. History 0.5 Oklahoma History 0.5 U.S Government
Electives	5.5	6	5	10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Foreign Language (or demonstrated proficiency) 1. Fine Arts 3.5 electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 electives (at least two of which must be any combination of Career and Technical Education, Arts or Second Language) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 from Foreign Language, Fine Art, Business, Career-Tech Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Technology, Agricultural Education, or other academic courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Foreign Language <u>OR</u> Computer Technology 1 Fine Arts <u>OR</u> Speech 1 Career Tech <u>OR</u> academic course 6 electives
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.5 PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 PE/Health 	
Total Required	22	21	20	23



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	SOUTH DAKOTA	TENNESSEE	TEXAS	WASHINGTON
	4	4	4.5	4
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 Writing and Communications • 1.5 Literature • 0.5 American Literature • 0.5 Speech 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 Speech 	
	3	4	4	3
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Algebra • 1 Geometry • 1 Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Algebra • 1 Geometry • 1 Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Algebra • 1 Geometry • 1 Algebra II • 1 math course must be taken in senior year
	3	3	4	3
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Biology • 1 Chemistry or Physics • An additional lab-based course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Biology • 1 Chemistry or Physics • An additional lab-based course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Biology • 2 in integrated Physics & Chemistry, Chemistry, Physics or Principles of Technology I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 lab-based courses • 1 Biology, Chemistry or Physics
	3.5	3	4	3
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 U.S. History • 1 0.5 U.S. Government • 0.5 Geography • 0.5 World History • 0.5 Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including U.S. History, World History / World Geography, Economics and Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 World History • World Geography • 1 U.S. History: Post-Reconstruction • 0.5 U.S. Government • 0.5 Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 U.S. History • 1 World history
	8	6	5.5	9
Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 from Foreign Languages, Career Tech, Computer Studies or additional math or science courses • 1 Fine Arts • 5 electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 CTE in same program area <u>OR</u> 2 Foreign Language and 1 Fine Arts • 3 electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Foreign Language • 1 Fine Arts • 1 Technology Applications • 3.5 electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Arts • 7 chosen from Career and Technical Education, World Language and other electives
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 PE/Health • 0.5 Personal Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Fitness/Health
Total Required	22	22	26	24