

Table 153.—State requirements for high school graduation, in Carnegie units: 2001

State	All courses	Subject areas									First graduating class to which these requirements apply	Minimum competency test is required to graduate	Notes
		English/language arts	Social studies	Mathematics	Science	Physical education/health	Arts/vocation	Technology	Electives	Other courses			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Alabama	24	4	4	4	4	1.5	0.5	0.5	5.5	—	2000	Yes	Social studies requirement consists of 1 unit of world history/geography, 2 units of U.S. history/geography, .5 units of economics and .5 units of government. Math requirement includes algebra I and geometry. Science includes 1 unit of biology and 1 unit of physical science. Physical education requirement consists of 1 unit of PE and .5 units of health. 6 levels of diploma offered. Numbers given are for basic academic program.
Alaska	21	4	3	2	2	1	0	0	9	—	1978	Yes (class of 2004)	PE requirement includes health or PE.
Arizona	20	4	2.5	2	2	0	1	0	8.5	—	1996	Yes (class of 2002)	English requirement includes .5 credits of the principles of speech and debate. Social studies requirement consists of 1 unit of world history/geography and 1.5 units of U.S./Arizona history and constitutions.
Arkansas	21	4	3	3	3	1	0.5	0	6	.5 (oral communication)	2004	No	Information is for College Preparatory diploma. 4th unit of mathematics for students seeking unconditional college admission will be required in 2004.
California	13	3	3	2	2	2	1	0	0	—	1989	Yes (class of 2004)	Social studies requirement consists of 1 unit of U.S. history/geography; 1 unit of world history, culture and geography; .5 units of American government and .5 units of economics. Science includes biological and physical sciences. Foreign language or American Sign Language may be substituted for visual/performing art credit.
Colorado ¹	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No	—
Connecticut	20	4	3	3	2	1	1	0	6	—	2004	Yes	Social studies requirement includes .5 units of civics and American government. By September 1, 2002, each local and regional board of education must specify basic skills required for graduation for the graduating class of 2006 and thereafter. Plans must include criteria for assessing student competencies. The results of the 10th grade Connecticut Academic Performance Test cannot be used as the sole basis for the graduation criteria but must be included as one alternative.
Delaware	22	4	3	3	3	1.5	0	1	3.5	3 (career pathway)	2000	Yes	PE requirement includes .5 units of health and 1 unit in PE. Level of diploma (basic, standard, or distinguished) partially determined by students' score on Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP).
District of Columbia	23.5	4	3.5	3	3	1.5	2	0	4.5	2 (foreign language)	1995	No	Social studies requirement consists of 1 unit of U.S. history, 1 unit of world history, .5 units of U.S. government, .5 units of world geography and .5 units of D.C. history/government. Math requirement includes algebra. Science requirement includes 1 unit of laboratory science. Students must complete 100 hours of community service in order to graduate.
Florida	24	4	3	3	3	1.5	1	0	8.5	—	2003	Yes (class of 2003)	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of American history, 1 unit of world history, .5 units of economics and .5 units of American government. Two science units must have a laboratory component. Math requirement includes successful completion of algebra I. The PE requirement includes .5 units of life management skills and 1 unit of PE. Students must achieve a 2.0 GPA to graduate.
Georgia ^{2,3}	22	4	3	4	3	1	0	0	4	3 (2 units of foreign language; plus 1 unit of the following: computer technology, fine arts, technology/career preparatory, or 1 additional unit of foreign language)	2001	Yes	College Preparatory Plus Diploma requires 2 more academic electives.

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Hawaii	22	4	4	3	3	1.5	0	0	6	.5 (guidance)	1997	No	Social studies requires 1 unit of U.S. history and government, 1 unit of world history and culture, .5 unit of world geography, .5 unit of modern history of Hawaii, and 1 unit of social studies elective. PE requirement includes .5 units of health and 1 unit in PE.
Idaho	21	4.5	2.5	2	2	0.5	0	0	8.5	1 (humanities)	2001	No	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of U.S. history, 1 unit of government and .5 units of economics. Science requirement includes 1 unit of laboratory science.
Illinois	16	3	2	2	1	0.5	0	0	7.5	1 (music, art, foreign language, American sign language, or vocational education)	1988	Yes	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of U.S. history or a combination of U.S. history and American government. Physical education must be provided daily, and PE credit assignments are to be determined locally. Students must take .5 unit or equivalent of health education. Local school district must provide the following: 9 weeks, 50 minutes a day, of consumer education; conservation of natural resources; driver and safety education with 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind the wheel. Elective requirements are determined locally, but must fulfill 16 total credit minimum.
Indiana	20	4	2	2	2	1	0	0	8	1 (language arts, science, mathematics, social studies, or technology competency)	2004	Yes	1 unit of English/language arts may be from business studies, technology, family and consumer sciences, technology education, or vocational-technical courses. PE requirement includes health and PE. Students who successfully complete a Level III foreign language course may have 1 unit of the language arts requirement waived.
Iowa ¹	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No	—
Kansas	21	4	3	2	2	1	0	0	9	.5 (Kansas history; taken between 7th and 12th grades)	2001	No	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of U.S. history and .5 units of U.S. government. Science includes 1 unit of laboratory course. PE requirement may include .5 units of health. Kansas also requires .5 units of Kansas history taken between the 7th and 12th grades.
Kentucky	22	4	3	3	3	1	1	0	7	—	2002	No	Social studies includes world civilizations, world geography, U.S. history, government, and economics. Mathematics includes algebra I, geometry and one elective. Science includes life science, physical science, and earth and space science. PE requirement includes .5 unit of health and .5 unit of PE. A local board of education may substitute an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary or higher level course for a required course.
Louisiana	23	4	3	3	3	2	0	0	8	—	2003	Yes	Social studies requirement consists of 1 unit of American history, 1 unit of world history or geography or civilization, .5 units of civics, and .5 units of free enterprise. Math includes a maximum of 2 entry level courses. Science requirement consists of 1 unit of biology I, 1 unit of physical science and 1 unit from any other course not already taken from physical science. PE includes .5 units of health and 1.5 units in PE.
Maine	16	4	2	2	2	1.5	1	0	3.5	—	1989	No	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of American history, and .5 unit of Maine studies (if not taken between grades 6–8). Science requirement includes 1 unit of laboratory study. PE includes .5 units of health and 1 unit in PE. Student must pass computer proficiency standards.

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Maryland	21	4	3	3	3	1	1	1	3	2 (foreign language or advanced technology)	1997	Yes (class of 2007)	Social studies requirement consists of 1 unit of U.S. history, 1 unit of world history, and 1 unit of government. Math requirement includes 1 unit of algebra and 1 unit of geometry. Science requirement includes laboratory experience. PE requirement includes .5 unit of health and .5 unit of PE.
Massachusetts ¹	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes (class of 2003)	American history and civics and PE required.
Michigan ¹	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No	Students must complete one course in government/civics. Although not required for graduation, state law requires health and physical education to be provided for all students.
Minnesota	24	5	4	3	2	3	0	0	3	4 (2 units of inquiry, 2 units of resource management)	(*)	Yes	Social studies requirement includes U.S. history, U.S. citizenship, diverse perspectives, and human geography. Science requirement includes biology, chemistry, earth and space systems, physics, and environmental systems.
Mississippi	20	4	3	3	3	0.5	1	1	4.5	—	2002	Yes (class of 2002)	Social studies requirement consists of 1 unit of world history, 1 unit of U.S. history, .5 units of U.S. government, and .5 units of Mississippi studies. Math requirement includes algebra I and geometry. Science must include biology I. There is no PE requirement, only .5 units of health.
Missouri	22	3	2	2	2	1	2	0	10	—	1988	No	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of American history and .5 units of government. Arts education includes 1 unit of fine arts and 1 unit of practical arts (vocational/technical skills).
Montana	20	4	2	2	2	1	2	0	7	—	1993	No	In accordance with the policies of the local board of trustees, students may be graduated from high school with less than four years enrollment. Arts education includes 1 unit of fine arts and 1 unit of practical arts (vocational/technical skills).
Nebraska	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1991	No	Nebraska requires a minimum of 200 high school credit hours (at least 80% of which must be taken in language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, PE/health, visual/performing arts, and foreign language).
Nevada ⁴	22.5	4	2	3	2	2.5	1	0.5	7.5	—	2003	Yes	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of American government and 1 unit of American history. PE requirement includes .5 units of health and 2 units of PE. Computer literacy requirement may be waived by demonstration of competency. Data are for standard diploma.
New Hampshire	19.75	4	2	2	2	1.25	0.5	0.5	7	.5 (business/economic education)	1989	No	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of U.S. and New Hampshire history and government. Science requirement is 1 unit of physical science and 1 unit of biological science. PE requirement includes .25 units of health and 1 unit of PE. Computer education requirement may be met through examination or course prior to high school.
New Jersey	22	4	3	3	3	0.75	2	0	6.25	2 (foreign language)	2005	Yes (class of 2004)	—
New Mexico	23	4	3	3	2	1	0	0	9	1 (communication skills or foreign language)	1990	Yes	Social studies includes U.S. history/geography, world history/geography, and government/ economics. Science requirement includes 1 lab component. With the approval of the local school board, participation on an athletic team or in an athletic sport during the school day may count toward fulfillment of the physical education required unit.

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New York	22	4	4	3	3	2.5	1	0	3.5	1 (foreign language)	2005	Yes	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of U.S. history and government, .5 units of government and .5 units of economics. Students may meet the learning standards in technology, either through a course in technology education or through an integrated course combining technology with mathematics and/or science. A commencement-level course in technology education may be used as the third unit of credit in science or mathematics, but not both. Data are for Regents diploma. Advanced Regents diploma available.
North Carolina ²	20	4	3	4	3	1	(³)	0	3	2 (foreign language)	2004	Yes (class of 2005)	4th mathematics credit required for 9th graders in the College/University Prep course of study entering high school in 2002–03. An Occupational Course of study with different requirements is available starting in 2000–01 for students with Individualized Education Plans. Students must demonstrate computer proficiency through state testing.
North Dakota ¹	17	4	3	2	2	1	0	0	5	—	N/A	No	Data are state minimums, but actual requirements are determined locally. N.D. Department of Education recommends 20 credits in order to graduate.
Ohio	21	4	3	3	3	1	0	0	7	—	2004	Yes (class of 2005)	Social studies requirement includes .5 units of U.S. history and .5 units of U.S. government. Science requirement includes 1 unit of biology and 1 unit of physical science. PE requirement consists of .5 units of PE and .5 units of health. Starting 9/15/01 one elective unit or 2 half-units must include business/technology, fine arts, or foreign language.
Oklahoma	23	4	3	3	3	0	2	0	8	—	2003	Yes	English/language arts requirement includes 1 unit of grammar/composition. Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of U.S. history, .5 units of Oklahoma history, a minimum of .5 units of U.S. government. Math requirement includes 1 unit of algebra I. Science requirement includes 1 unit of biology I. State strongly encourages students to complete 2 units of a foreign language.
Oregon	22	3	3	2	2	2	1	0	9	—	2001	No	English/language arts requirement includes 1 unit of writing composition. Arts/vocation requirement may be met by earning 1 unit in any one or a combination of applied arts, fine arts or foreign language.
Pennsylvania ⁵	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	Yes (class of 2003)	Beginning in 2002–03, in order to graduate, students shall demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing and mathematics on either state or local assessments in grade 11 or 12.
Rhode Island ²	18	4	2	3	2	0	0.5	0.5	4	2 (foreign language)	1990	No	Students must take 100 minutes per week of PE/health.
South Carolina ²	24	4	3	4	3	1	0	1	7	1 (foreign language)	2001	Yes	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of U.S. history, .5 units of U.S. government and .5 units of economics. PE requirement may be met through participation in JROTC program. For students in a Tech Prep Program, 1 unit must be earned in occupation education instead of a foreign language. Demonstration of computer literacy before graduation also required.
South Dakota	22	4	3	2	2	0	1	0.5	8.5	1 (additional unit of either mathematics or science)	2004	No	English/language arts requirement includes 1.5 units of writing, 1.5 units of literature, .5 units of American literature and .5 units of speech. Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of U.S. history, .5 units of U.S. government and .5 units of geography.
Tennessee	20	4	3	3	3	1	0	0	6	—	1998	Yes	Science requirement includes 1 unit of life science and 1 unit of physical science. All science courses must incorporate lab experiences. One full year of computer education required at some time during high school career, no credit value assigned.

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Texas	22	4	3	3	2	2	0	1	5.5	.5 (speech), 1 (World History Studies, Geography Studies, or any science course approved by the State Board of Education)	2001	Yes	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit of world history or world geography, 1 unit of U.S. history, .5 units of U.S. government, and .5 units of economics. Math requirement includes algebra I. Science requirement must include 1 unit from biology, chemistry, or physics. PE requirement includes .5 units of health and 1.5 units of PE.
Utah	24	3	3	2	2	2	1.5	1	9.5	—	1997	Yes (class of 2005)	Required elective areas are divided into college entry or applied technology/job entry clusters. Information technology requirement optional. Library media skills integrated into subject areas.
Vermont	20	4	3	3	3	1.5	1	0	4.5	—	2002	No	Beginning in 2005 local school districts will have the option of fulfilling current Carnegie requirements with field of knowledge assessment. Field of knowledge assessment is part of Vermont's system of standards, which includes arts, language, and literature, history and social sciences, and science, mathematics, and technology.
Virginia	22	4	3	3	3	2	1	0	6	—	2002	Yes (class of 2004)	Data are for Standard Diploma. Beginning in 2004, Standard of Learning tests must be passed in 5 subjects areas.
Washington	19	3	2.5	2	2	2	1	0	5.5	1 (occupational education)	2008	Yes (class of 2008)	Social studies requirement consists of 1 unit of U.S. history/government, .5 units of Washington state history/government, and 1 unit of world history/geography. Science requires 1 unit of laboratory science. Each student shall complete a culminating project for graduation.
West Virginia	24	4	3	3	3	2	1	0	4	4 (career majors)	2003	No	Math requirement includes algebra I and 1 higher math. Science includes coordinated and thematic science and 1 higher science. PE requirement includes 1 unit of health and 1 unit of PE. Work-based learning experience (determined by local school district) required.
Wisconsin	13	4	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	—	2004	Yes (class of 2004)	PE consists of 1.5 units of PE and .5 units of health. State strongly encourages school boards to require additional 8.5 elective units. School boards may also require community service as a graduation criterion.
Wyoming	13	4	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	—	2003	Yes (class of 2003)	Social studies requirement includes history, American government and economic systems and institutions. Exit exam covers principles of the Constitutions of the U.S. and Wyoming.

—Not available or not applicable.

¹ Graduation requirements are determined locally.

² Data for College Preparatory Diploma.

³ Career Preparatory Diploma also available.

⁴ Graduation requirements are currently being phased in by local school districts. However, as of yet, no statewide deadline exists dictating when this should occur.

⁵ State minimum credit requirements have been phased out in Pennsylvania. Each school district (including charter schools) shall specify requirements for graduation in a strategic plan requiring state approval. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics on either state or local assessments aligned with state guidelines.

NOTE: Local school districts frequently have other graduation requirements in addition to state requirements. English/language arts—can include English, Reading, Literature, Creative Writing, etc. Mathematics—can include Basic Math, Algebra I and II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Statistics, etc. Social studies—can include World History, U.S. History, Geography, Economics, Government, etc. Science—can include Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, Earth Science, etc. Arts/vocation—can include Fine Arts, Practical Arts, Vocational, or Career Preparatory credits. Technology—can include Computer Literacy, Computer Technology, Technology Competency, etc.

SOURCE: State Boards of Education; and Education Commission of the States, *Clearinghouse Notes*, "High School Graduation Requirements" November 1996 and November 1998; Education Commission of the States, *Clearinghouse Notes*, "Choice of Schools: State Actions" June 1999. (This table was prepared June 2001.)