

**HIGH SCHOOL  
DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE OPTIONS**

# ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

MINIMUM ACADEMIC CORE REQUIREMENTS FOR

## ***ADVANCED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT***

<u>GRADE 9</u>	<u>GRADE 10</u>	<u>GRADE 11</u>	<u>GRADE 12</u>
Eng, Gr 9 H	Eng, Gr 10 H	Eng, Gr 11 H	Eng, Gr 12 H
World Hist.	US History I	US History II	US Govt./ Economics
Biology H	Physical Science	Chemistry	Physics or Anatomy/ Physiology
Geometry w/Data Analysis	Algebra II w/ Statistics	PreCalculus or Mathematical Modeling or Other ALSDE app. course	PreCalculus or Mathematical Modeling or Other ALSDE app. course

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Foreign Language—2 Units in the same language (*Recommended 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade*)

Health—1 Unit (*Recommended 10<sup>th</sup> grade*)

\*Physical Education—1 Unit (*Recommended 9<sup>th</sup> grade*)

\*Career Preparedness (*Recommended in 9<sup>th</sup> grade*)

Fine Arts –1 Unit (must be acquired through a music and/or visual arts elective. (*Recommended 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade*))

Career Tech –1 Unit (*Recommended 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade*)

*\*Beginning in Fall 2020 all 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take LET I and II (Leadership Education Training) as part of the Freshman Leadership Academy. These courses fulfill the Physical Education and Career Preparedness course requirements.*

### **UNIT SUMMARY:**

Total Academic Units Required:	23 Units
Total Elective Units Required:	7 Units
<b>Total All Units Required:</b>	<b>30 Units</b>
Total Units Available:	32 Units

*Note: Academy students working toward an Advanced Academic Endorsement are subject to other requirements.*

## **SPECIAL NOTICE CONCERNING GRADE REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS SEEKING ALL ADVANCED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENTS**

- Students must successfully pass all core academic courses (English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign language) with a grade of “C” or better for the unit to count toward advanced credit.
- Also, students must pass with a “C” or better in order to proceed to the next course in the advanced academic sequence in a particular subject area. (Excludes dual enrollment coursework.)
- Students who score below a “C” have two options.

### Option 1:

The student may re-take the course under the course substitution rule. In this case, the course may be repeated. If the student scores a “C” or better, this course will count toward advanced credit. The substituted course, if passing but below a “C” will be converted to elective credit.

### Option 2:

The student may choose to have the course count for credit toward “The Alabama High School Diploma.” In this case, students should consider carefully their final diploma choice selections. It is possible that it will be necessary for students (with parent permission) to change their diploma endorsement option.

- If advanced students earn 2 “C” in math courses, a mandatory meeting that includes the student, parents, school counselor, and school administrator will be held to discuss whether it is the best interest of the student to continue on the Advanced Endorsement program.

### **ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER (ALC)**

The ALC is not a regular school. Alternative Schools exist as an alternative to expulsion when students have made poor decisions that would have otherwise resulted in their complete and total removal from school. Alternative Schools are not required by law to provide an exact duplication of the services offered at the home school. A school district which offers such an opportunity is one that has made a conscious decision to help children who would otherwise have no educational opportunity. As such, a student’s long term assignment to ALC may prevent the student from earning one or more of the endorsements available to other students.

# ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

## MINIMUM CORE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

<u>GRADE 9</u>	<u>GRADE 10</u>	<u>GRADE 11</u>	<u>GRADE 12</u>
English Gr 9	English Gr 10	English Gr 11	English Gr 12
World Hist.	US History I	US History II	Govt./Econ
Biology	Physical Science	Earth and Space	Environmental Sci.
Geometry w/Data Analysis	Algebra 1 w/Probability	Algebra II w/Statistics	Precalculus or Math. Modeling or Career Math

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Health—1 Unit (*Recommended 10<sup>th</sup> grade*)

\*Physical Education—1 Unit (*Recommended 9<sup>th</sup> grade*)

\*Career Preparedness (*Recommended in 9<sup>th</sup> grade*)

\*\*Fine Arts, Career Technical Education (CTE), and/or foreign language—3 Units  
(*Recommended 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade*)

*\*Beginning in Fall 2020 all 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take LET I (Leadership Education Training) and LET II as part of the Freshman Leadership Academy. These courses fulfill the Physical Education and Career Preparedness course requirements.*

*\*\* Any combination of courses*

### UNIT SUMMARY:

Total Academic Units Required:	22 Units
Total Elective Units Required:	8 Units
<b>Total All Units Required:</b>	<b>30 Units</b>
Total Units Available:	32 Units

# ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

## MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### *ESSENTIAL/ LIFE SKILLS PATHWAY*

<u>GRADE 9</u>	<u>GRADE 10</u>	<u>GRADE 11</u>	<u>GRADE 12</u>
<i>Approved courses in the following subject areas:</i>			
English	English	English	English
Math	Math	Math	Math
History	History	History	History
Science	Science	Science	Science

#### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Health—1 Unit (*Recommended 10<sup>th</sup> grade*)

\*Physical Education—1 Unit (*Recommended 9<sup>th</sup> grade*)

\*Career Preparedness (*Recommended in 9<sup>th</sup> grade*)

Career Technical Education (CTE)—2 Units (*Recommended 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade*)

Workforce Essentials (ACCESS)—1 Unit (*Recommended 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade*)

Cooperative Education Seminar/Work Based Experience—3 Units

*\*Beginning in Fall 2020 all 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take LET I and II (Leadership Education Training) as part of the Freshman Leadership Academy. These courses fulfill the Physical Education and Career Preparedness course requirements.*

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

Transitions Services

#### **UNIT SUMMARY:**

Required Units:	25 Units
Elective Units:	5 Units
<b>Total Units:</b>	<b>30 Units</b>
Total Units Available	32 Units

**Note:** *This diploma option is available ONLY to students with an Individualized Education Plan. Certain requirements for this Diploma Pathway may be changed or waived as directed by the IEP Team. The Essential/Life Skills Diploma DOES NOT meet the general academic requirements for acceptance to post-secondary institutions, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) or the military.*

# **ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

## MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### ***ALTERNATE ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS PATHWAY***

<b>GRADE 9</b>	<b>GRADE 10</b>	<b>GRADE 11</b>	<b>GRADE 12</b>
AAS:EngLA-9	AAS:EngLA-10	AAS:EngLA-11	AAS:EngLA-12
AAS:Math-9	AAS:Math-10	AAS:Math-11	AAS:Math-12
AAS:Sci-9	AAS:Sci-10	AAS:Sci-11	AAS:Sci-12
AAS:SoSt-9	AAS:SoSt-10	AAS:SoSt-11	AAS:SoSt-12

#### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

PE or Adaptive PE—1 Unit

AAS Life Skills—3 Units

AAS Pre-Vocational, AAS Vocational, AAS Community Based Instruction, and/or AAS Elective Course; or Electives—3 Units

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

Transitions Services

#### **UNIT SUMMARY:**

Required Units:	22 Units
Elective Units:	8 Units
<b>Total Units:</b>	<b>30 Units</b>
Total Units Available	32 Units

*Note: This diploma option is available ONLY to students with an Individualized Education Plan. Certain requirements for this Diploma Pathway may be changed or waived as directed by the IEP Team. The Alternate Achievement Standards Pathway DOES NOT meet the general academic requirements for acceptance to post-secondary institutions, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) or the military.*

# SUMMARY OF DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE OPTIONS

- |    |   |                               |
|----|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement<br><i>Must meet <u>Advanced Academic Endorsement</u> core academic requirements.</i> | All Students                  |
| 2. | Alabama High School Diploma<br><i>Must meet <u>Alabama High School Diploma</u> core academic requirements.</i>                                      | All Students                  |
| 3. | Essentials/Life Skills Pathway  | Special Program Students Only |
| 4. | Alternate Achievement Standards Pathway   | Special Program Students Only |

STUDENTS MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN SENIOR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES UNLESS THESE STANDARDS HAVE BEEN MET IN FULL!

## COURSE SUBSTITUTION

A course substitution, as defined by the ALSDE, is when a student/school system enrolls a student in a course in lieu of the traditional/required Alabama High School Graduation course, either equivalent or substituted:

- Equivalent – the course to be substituted includes at least a 90% match in course standards (to the traditional/required course).
- Substitution – the course is approved as an “appropriate” replacement, but is not an equivalent as defined above.
- The ALSDE has a list of equivalent and substitute courses. Locally developed CTE and Core Academic courses must be approved via the ALSDE.
- Dual Enrollment – in the event a student is enrolled in a dual enrollment course that satisfies the corresponding Alabama High School Graduation requirements (per the ALSDE Course Equivalent/ Substitution List), these courses will be considered “substitute” courses (i.e., English Composition I = English 11).

## **GRADE FORGIVENESS**

A student may retake a course (same course – same ALSDE code) in an attempt to obtain a higher and/or passing grade for the purposes of class rank or diploma option (i.e., Advanced).

- A student's previous and/or failing grade (D or F) is NOT to be removed from the student's permanent record. However, for the purposes of GPA and/or class rank, the higher of the two grades will be used for these calculations.
- In addition, a student may only be awarded graduation credit for a course once – Alabama Administrative Code does not allow credit to be awarded for repeated courses. Therefore, on the transcript, both grades will show, but the lower of the two will not be for credit and the lower of the two will **not** be calculated for GPA/class rank.
- All final grades in all courses attempted must be placed on a student's transcript.
- In the case of dual enrollment courses, the "grade forgiveness" policy would still be in affect – the same course must be retaken (for GPA or Class Rank purposes). In the event the course is not retaken, but the corresponding Alabama High School Graduation course is taken, the dual enrollment course (and the corresponding grade) would be treated as an elective credit (if credit is awarded).
- Dual enrollment classes that do not specifically satisfy an Alabama High School Graduation requirement would be treated as electives.

## **ACADEMY, CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION, AND CERTIFICATION ENDORSEMENT OPTIONS**

With new academy options being developed periodically, the Pike County School System continues to provide progressive, challenging opportunities for advanced and career-oriented education. Pike County is dedicated to teaching practical job skills and promoting real world knowledge and experience. The goal is that Pike County students are prepared for both college and career through academic and industry related courses of study as well as career instruction/certification.

Various academy options include dual enrollment classes through partnerships with colleges and universities. The Troy-Pike Center for Technology offers courses that allow students to earn endorsements and/or certifications. If you are interested in exploring any of these options, please contact your local school guidance counselor who can provide you with an updated list of all the available options.



# PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM COMMUNITY SERVICE ENDORSEMENT

The Pike County School System Community Service Endorsement is offered to encourage Pike County students to make meaningful connections and enrich the lives of others by performing service for their community without receiving any external reward or financial benefit. Community service is defined as volunteer service above and beyond normal or routine service at an event that benefits a community or its institutions. The awarding of this endorsement involves students volunteering service to non-profit agencies, the public sector, and educational institutions. Approval from a designated school official/administrator and parent/guardian is required prior to each project selected by the student.

In order to receive the Pike County Community Service Endorsement, the following requirements must be met:

- 60 community service hours earned in grades 9-12.
- At least 30 of the 60 hours must be served in the larger community outside of the school.
- The student must have parent/guardian permission and counselor approval before engaging in each service activity.
- An adult in a supervisory position must verify service hours by signing the log sheet. Parents, friends and relatives may not verify community service hours.
- There can be no financial payment for community service.
- No credit will be given for work with a profit-making organization.
- No credit will be awarded for court-ordered service.
- Class time may not be used for community service.
- Volunteering to work for family or a family business is not acceptable as community service.
- Athletic participation is not acceptable as community service.
- Band, choir, and JROTC performances are not acceptable as community service.
- Service club meetings and conferences (e.g. Key Club, SGA) will not count toward community service; only service itself will be counted.
- No more than eight hours per day may be awarded per service activity (ex. volunteering to work at camps that extend beyond one day)
- Unverified community service hours will not be counted.
- Students are expected to report community service accurately and honestly. Community service hours will be checked randomly, and any student who misrepresents hours or signatures will forfeit this endorsement.

The counseling department will accept community service completed throughout the summer months. In order to receive this endorsement, the requirements must be met by seniors and approved by the counselor by the end of the first semester of the student's graduating year. The Community Service Endorsement may be required in certain programs. Please see your guidance counselor for more information.

# VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN, AND HONOR GRADUATES

As Directed by Board Policy 5.23

The following criteria are established by the Pike County Board of Education for determining students eligible for valedictorian, salutatorian, and honor graduates in the high schools within the school system.

1. The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be selected from students pursuing the Advanced Academic Endorsement Diploma Options. The student must meet all requirements of the Advanced Academic Endorsement Diploma Option.
2. The valedictorian and the salutatorian of the senior class must have been enrolled in the same school for four (4) consecutive semesters prior to the second term of their senior year (excluding summer sessions). In the senior year, final grade point averages will be calculated at the end of the third nine weeks of the senior year to determine valedictorian and salutatorian.
3. Any non credit course shall not be used in calculating rankings. Letter grades for office and teacher aides will be reported. No numerical grades will be assigned to aides. However, aides will earn no credit or weight for the class.
4. If letter grades are present on a transfer student's transcript, the student must have the respective school(s) attended submit the grades in numerical form. If school officials of the school attended by the student cannot or will not convert the letter grades to numerical grades, the letter grades will be transposed to numerical grades as follows:

A+=99	B+=89	C+=79	D+=69	F=59 and below
A =95	B =85	C =75	D =65	
A- =90	B- =80	C- =70	D- =60	

5. The valedictorian of the senior class of each high school shall be the student who obtains the highest numeric, weighted grade point average.
6. The salutatorian of the senior class of each high school shall be the student who obtains the second highest numeric, weighted grade point average.
7. Final grade point averages for valedictorian and salutatorian will be rounded to five (5) places after the decimal.
8. The top fifteen grade point averages will be calculated by hand to insure accuracy and will be submitted to the Valedictorian/Salutatorian/Honor Graduate Committee to verify.
9. Should two students have the exact same grade point average, they will share the designation of valedictorian or salutatorian.

## **WEIGHTING OF COURSES/CLASS RANKING**

1. For numerical GPA calculations, classes will be weighted using the following scale:
  - Class of 2021—Only core classes (and all dual enrollment classes) will be used to determine the Top 10.
  - Class of 2022—Only core classes (and all dual enrollment classes) will be used to determine Top 10 **AND** a minimum number of 3.0 dual enrollment credit hours will be required to be considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian.
  - Class of 2023—A minimum number of 6.0 dual enrollment credit hours will be required to be considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian
  - Class of 2024—A minimum number of 9.0 dual enrollment credit hours will be required to be considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian
2. For standard GPA calculations, every 1.0 numeric value is equivalent to 0.1 GPA point value. For numerical GPA calculations, 10 points will be added to dual enrollment courses and 1 point will be added to Honors classes and Foreign Language courses.

## **HONOR GRADUATES**

1. Honor graduates will be selected from those students who are pursuing one of the Advanced Academic Endorsement Diploma Options. Honor graduates shall be the ten (10) students with the 10 highest weighted, numerical grade point averages of those on the Advanced Academic Endorsement Diploma Option.
2. Honor graduates must meet all requirements of the Advanced Academic Endorsement Diploma Option.
3. Transfer students must be enrolled in the school/cohort for four (4) concurrent terms prior to the date of graduation in order to be considered for Valedictorian, Salutatorian, or Top Ten Honor graduate.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

1. The Valedictorian/Salutatorian Committee will be comprised of the school principal, counselor, and a faculty department chairperson (to serve on a rotating basis). The committee will verify transcripts and give final approval for valedictorian, salutatorian, and honor graduates to be announced once the committee has completed their work. The principal is the only person who may release ranking information.
2. The school principal and counselor will insure all student grades are accurate and posted to the school's data management system and that all data fields are properly configured to produce accurate transcript labels.
3. Any extraordinary situation or circumstance that may arise will be resolved by the school principal in consultation with the Superintendent.

4. Students enrolled in Academy Courses for dual enrollment may earn more than 32 credits. In these cases, if dual enrollment courses are matched with ALSDE course codes, these courses will be displayed on the high school transcript, be weighted accordingly, and count toward class ranking

## PROMOTIONAL CRITERIA

### GRADES SEVEN (7<sup>TH</sup>) AND EIGHT (8<sup>TH</sup>)

Students in grades 7 and 8 must meet the following criteria in order to advance to the next grade.

- Pass all core academic courses: English, mathematics, social studies, and science each year.
- Pass six of eight courses scheduled during the school year.

### GRADES NINE (9<sup>TH</sup>) THROUGH TWELVE (12<sup>TH</sup>)

Students in grades 9 through 12 must meet the following criteria in order to advance to the next grade. Promotion from grade level to grade level may occur only at the end of a semester.

- Pass all core academic courses: English, mathematics, social studies, and science each year.
- Exit ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) grade                      Pass    7 units
- Exit tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) grade                      Pass    15 units
- Exit eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) grade                      Pass    22 units
- Exit twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grade\*                      Pass    30 units

*\*No student may exit 12<sup>th</sup> grade, participate in commencement, or otherwise be considered a graduate or certificate holder from the Pike County School System **except** upon completion of one of the previously described Diploma or Certificate of Completion Options.*

### CLASS RANKING

For students in grades 7 through 11, only grades from core subjects and dual enrollment core subjects (English, Math, History, and Science) will be averaged for the purpose of determining 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Overall GPA. No electives are will be calculated. (9<sup>th</sup> grade STEM is considered to be a science course—not an elective.

# COMPUTER LITERACY

All students must demonstrate minimum computer literacy skills prior to graduation. Students in middle school will take the *Computer Science Discoveries* course and high school students will take the *Exploring Computer Science* course. In addition, core area teachers will document Digital Literacy Standards taught in their classes and submit the documentation to the Technology Coordinator at the end of each semester.