

2203 ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

2203.1 The course work set forth in subsections 2203.3 shall be required of students who enrolled in ninth (9th) grade in school year 2007-2008 and thereafter in order to be certified as eligible to receive a high school diploma.

2203.2 At the beginning of the ninth (9th) grade, students shall develop a graduation plan pacing the courses they will take to complete high school. This shall be done with the assistance of the school counselor or other school official designated by the local education agency (LEA).

2203.3 (a) A total of twenty-four (24) Carnegie Units in corresponding subjects and required volunteer community service hours shall have been satisfactorily completed for graduation.

(b) The following Carnegie Units in the following subjects shall be required:

COURSES	UNIT(S)
English	4.0
Mathematics; must include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II at a minimum	4.0
Science; must include three (3) lab sciences	4.0
Social Studies; must include World History 1 and 2, United States History; United States Government, and District of Columbia History	4.0
World Language	2.0
Art	0.5
Music	0.5
Physical Education/Health	1.5
Electives	3.5
Total	24.0

(c) At least two (2) of the twenty four (24) Carnegie Units for graduation must include a College Level or Career Preparatory (CLCP) course approved by the LEA and successfully completed by the student. The course may fulfill subject matter or elective unit requirements as deemed appropriate by the LEA. CLCP courses approved by the LEA may include courses at other institutions.

(d) All students must enroll in Algebra I no later than tenth (10th) grade commencing with the 2016-2017 school year, unless the school is approved for a waiver pursuant to subsection 2203.7.

(e) For all students entering the ninth (9th) grade beginning school year 2009-2010, one (1) of the three (3) lab science units, required by paragraph (a) of this subsection, shall be a course in Biology.

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- (f) In addition to the twenty-four (24) Carnegie Units, one hundred (100) hours of volunteer community service shall be satisfactorily completed. The specific volunteer community service projects shall be established by the LEA.
- (g) One and one half (1.5) Carnegie Units in health and physical education shall not be required for the evening program high school diploma.

2203.4 An LEA may establish specialized or career-focused programs or courses of study, which lead to the high school diploma in accordance with subsection 2203.3. These courses of study can include academic, performing arts, science and mathematics, and career or vocational education focuses or other areas of concentration. The programs or courses of study may require additional coursework.

2203.5 Electives taken to fulfill the requirements of subsection 2203.4 shall be required to be taken in courses established by the LEA for each area of concentration in order to receive certification in the area of concentration.

2203.6 Each student who completes the requirements for specialized or career focused courses of study established under subsection 2203.4 shall receive appropriate recognition on the student's diploma.

2203.7 Beginning with School Year 2016-2017:

- (a) The District of Columbia Public Schools (“DCPS”) or the Public Charter School Board (“PCSB”) may waive the Carnegie Unit requirement set forth in subsection 2203.3 for a school seeking to award competency-based unit(s), as defined in this chapter, accordingly:
 - (1) A school that seeks a waiver from the Carnegie Unit requirement to award competency-based unit(s) shall submit an application to either the DCPS or PCSB. If a charter school is part of an LEA, the application must be submitted to the PCSB through the LEA;
 - (2) Applications for a waiver to award competency-based unit(s) shall be in the format established by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) and contain the information required by OSSE; and
 - (3) The DCPS or PCSB, respectively, shall review the school’s application in accordance with the standards and requirements established by OSSE. If the school’s application meets the standards and requirements established by OSSE, the DCPS or

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PCSB, respectively shall approve the school's application for a waiver to award competency-based unit(s);

- (b) [RESERVED]
- (c) OSSE shall make publicly available aggregated evidence of annual implementation of subsections 2203.7(a) in a summative report no later than three years after initial implementation, and annually thereafter, to share best practices and lessons learned from implementation.

2203.8 Beginning with School Year 2018-2019:

(a) A local education agency (LEA) may waive the Carnegie Unit requirement, as set forth in subsection 2203.3, and instead award a Credit Recovery Unit to a student that has completed a required course but received a failing grade and did not earn the respective full or partial Carnegie Unit, in accordance with the following:

(1) A Credit Recovery Unit shall only be awarded for:

(A) A course required to be satisfactorily completed for graduation, as set forth in 2203.3(b);

(B) A course that is aligned to the District's statewide content standards, or when such standards do not exist, equivalent learning outcomes as the underlying course; and

(C) Grading policies consistent with the underlying course.

(2) Prior to awarding a Credit Recovery Unit, the LEA shall issue a policy that governs the delivery of credit recovery courses that includes:

(A) General requirements for student eligibility, enrollment and attendance in credit recovery courses;

(B) A process for student referral to credit recovery course;

(C) A process to determine student learning needs upon commencing credit recovery course;

(D) The method for the following:

(i) Collecting student attendance and enrollment;

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- (ii) Recording that credit was earned through credit recovery on student transcripts; and
 - (iii) Notifying parent(s) or guardian(s) of referral to credit recovery course and a copy of the LEA's policy.
 - (E) A list of credit recovery course offerings, along with the timing (during school day, after school, night) and method for delivery of the course; and
 - (F) The vendor(s) providing credit recovery courses, if applicable.
 - (5) The LEA's credit recovery policy shall be updated at least annually and posted in a conspicuous location on its website and submitted to the Office of the State Superintendent ("OSSE"). OSSE will review the policy for compliance with this Chapter and may delegate such review of public charter school policies to the Public Charter School Board.
- (b) Each LEA shall submit an annual compliance report to OSSE.
- (1) The annual compliance report for each school shall be in the format established by OSSE and contain the information required by OSSE, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - (A) The name of the credit recovery courses offered and the related underlying courses, if different;
 - (B) Number of students that failed the underlying Carnegie Unit course;
 - (C) Number of students enrolled in credit recovery for the underlying course; and
 - (D) Number of students awarded the credit recovery unit through the credit recovery course.
 - (2) OSSE shall issue guidance related to this reporting requirement annually.

2203.9 [RESERVED]

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2203.10. A student with special needs who does not achieve a diploma, as set forth in subsection 2203.3 shall be eligible to receive an Individual Educational Program (IEP) Certificate of Completion. The decision to pursue a program leading to an IEP Certificate of Completion shall be made by the IEP team including the parent(s) and where possible, the student. The decision shall be made no earlier than the ninth (9th) grade and shall be attached in writing to the student's IEP. An LEA shall comply with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.*) (IDEA) and District law with regard to appropriate transition assessments.

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2203.11. Graduation Requirements for Previous Years: The following coursework shall be required of students who enrolled in ninth (9th) grade for the first time in 1982-1983 or a prior school year in order to be certified as eligible to receive a high school diploma:

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- (a) A total of seventeen and a half (17.5) Carnegie Units;
- (b) The Carnegie Units shall include:
 - (1) Four (4) Units in English;
 - (2) One (1) in United States History;
 - (3) One half (0.5) Unit in United States Government;
 - (4) One (1) Unit in Mathematics;
 - (5) One (1) Unit in Science;
 - (6) One and one half (1.5) Units in Health/Physical Education; and
 - (7) Eight and one half (8.5) electives; and
- (c) One and one half (1.5) Carnegie Units in health and physical education shall not be required for the evening program high school diploma.

2203.12. The following coursework shall be required of students entering ninth (9th) grade for the first time in any of the school years between and including school year 1983-1984 and school year 1992-1993 in order to be certified as eligible to receive a high school diploma.

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- (a) A total of twenty and a half (20.5) Carnegie Units;
- (b) The Carnegie Units shall include:
 - (1) Four (4) in English;

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- (2) One (1) in Foreign Language;
 - (3) One half (0.5) in DC History-Government;
 - (4) One (1) in US History;
 - (5) One half (0.5) in US Government;
 - (6) Two (2) in Mathematics;
 - (7) Two (2) in Science;
 - (8) One and one half (1.5) in Health/Physical Education;
 - (9) One (1) in Life Skills Seminar and seven (7) Electives; and
- (c) One and one half (1.5) Carnegie Units in health and physical education shall not be required for the evening program high school diploma.

2203.13 The following coursework shall be required of students entering ninth (9th) grade for the first time in any of the school years between and including 1993-1994 and school year 2006-2007 in order to be certified as eligible to receive a high school diploma:

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- (a) A total of twenty-three and a half (23.5) Carnegie Units shall have been completed.
- (b) The following Carnegie Units in the corresponding subjects shall be required:

COURSES	UNITS
Art	0.5
Career/Vocational Education	1.0
Electives	4.5
English	4.0
Foreign Languages	2.0
Health & Physical Education	1.5
Mathematics (including elementary Algebra or its equivalent)	3.0
Music	0.5
Science (including one (1) year of lab science)	3.0
Social Studies to include D.C. History, World Geography and US Government (each 0.5), US History and World History (each 1)	3.5
Total	23.5

- (c) One and one half (1.5) Carnegie Units in health and physical education shall not be required for the evening program high school diploma; and
- (d) One hundred (100) hours of community service shall be required for graduation.

Amend Chapter 22 (Graduation) of Title 5 (Education), Subtitle A (Office of the State Superintendent of Education) by adding Section 2299 (DEFINITIONS) to read as follows:

2299 DEFINITIONS

2299.1 When used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the ascribed meanings:

“Carnegie Unit” - one hundred and twenty (120) hours of classroom instruction over the course of an academic year.

“Competency-based Unit” - a unit equivalent to a Carnegie Unit that is earned toward graduation for successful completion of an approved competency-based learning course or course series per subsection 2203.7.

~~**“Credit Recovery Unit”** -- a unit equivalent to a Carnegie Unit that is earned toward graduation for successful completion of a credit recovery course per subsection 2203.7.~~

“Local Education Agency” - pursuant to section 9101 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, approved January 8, 2002 (115 Stat. 1956; 20 U.S.C. § 7801(26)(A)), a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a state for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a state, or of or for a combination of school districts or counties that is recognized in a state as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools.

“Office of the State Superintendent of Education” or “OSSE” - the District of Columbia state level education agency established by Section 302(a) of the Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007, effective June 12, 2007 (D.C. Law 17-9; D.C. Official Code § 38-2601 (2012 Repl.)).

“School” - means a school within the District of Columbia Public School system or a public charter school in the District of Columbia.

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