

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Education of the Allendale Public Schools is dedicated to preparing its students for post secondary higher education and the work place, and realizes that students as future employees must be able to compete in a global economy. To meet this goal, the Board has established the minimal requirements for a student to meet in order to receive a regular high school diploma.

The Allendale Public Schools' high school program contains certain required and elective courses. A minimum of 30 units of credit, and not less than twelve (12) trimesters of attendance in grades 9-12 are needed for graduation, except for students who transfer from another public school district in this state, or from a public school district in another state.

The Superintendent shall cause the graduation requirements to be published in the Student Handbook and in such other locations or media as he/she determines appropriate, including requirements for transfer students. The previously published requirements continue in effect for those students graduating through the class of 2010.

Beginning with students entering the eighth grade during the 2006-2007 school year (e.g., the graduating class of 2011), the following units of credit are required: Beginning with students entering the eighth grade during the 2006-2007 school year (e.g., the graduating class of 2011), the following units of credit are required:

- English/Language Arts 4 units of credit.
- Social Studies 3 units of credit, which must include civics.
- Science 3 units of credit, which must include at least one credit of Biology and one credit of Chemistry or Physics.
- Mathematics 4 units of credit, which must include at least algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, or an integrated course sequence which includes 3 credits. An additional one unit of credit in mathematics such as trigonometry, statistics, accounting, pre-calculus, applied math, business math or a re-take of algebra II, which must be taken during the senior year.
- Physical Education/Health 1 unit of credit.
- Visual, Performing or Applied Arts 1 unit of credit.
- At least one online course or learning experience.

Beginning with students entering third grade during the 2006-2007 school year (e.g., the graduating class of 2016), in order to receive a high school diploma a student must meet all of the above requirements plus 2 units of credit earned in high school in a language other than English, or equivalent learning experiences earned in grades K-12.

GRANTING CREDIT AND "TESTING OUT"

"Credit" is not a measure of the amount of time a student has studied a subject (e.g., semester, trimester, etc.). Instead, for purposes of this policy, credit shall be awarded where a student is able to successfully demonstrate mastery of subject area content expectations. This may be done in a variety of ways or through a variety of learning experiences, including career and vocational education programs, co-teaching, etc. Demonstration of mastery and the earning of credit will be determined in accordance with guidelines developed by the Superintendent.

In some situations a pupil may desire to earn credit by "testing out" of a particular subject. A pupil enrolled in high school, but not enrolled in a particular course, may be granted credit in the course by demonstrating a reasonable level of mastery by attaining a C+ or above on the final year end exam of the course and by demonstrating mastery through the basic assessment process utilized in the course, which may consist of portfolio, project, paper, examination, or presentations. Credit earned will be on a "credit" or "no credit" basis, and will be counted toward graduation requirements. The Superintendent will establish guidelines for earning credit by testing out.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

An Educational Development Plan (EDP) is an interest based plan which identifies the career and vocational interests of the student. It assists the student in identifying the course or courses of study necessary to achieve the student's post-secondary goals, and will assist in developing an educational plan to be pursued throughout the student's secondary educational career. It is the policy of the Allendale Board of Education that each student will be provided the opportunity to prepare an EDP in seventh grade and must complete such plan no later than the end of their eighth grade year. The Superintendent shall establish guidelines for developing the EDP.

PERSONAL CURRICULUM

The Board of Education of the Allendale Public Schools recognizes that not all students will have career goals which require the same curricular experiences, or may have begun their high school career in a different state or a private school. Similarly, some students with disabilities may have differing educational needs and abilities, yet still be able, with appropriate accommodations and supports, to complete the requirements for a high school diploma. In recognizing these differences, the Board will permit students to modify the above graduation requirements to meet their particular career goals and learning needs by way of a Personal Curriculum, as permitted by state law. The Personal Curriculum may be requested by a parent, legal guardian, or the pupil him/herself if emancipated or of the age of majority. If requested, the Personal Curriculum must incorporate as much of the Michigan Merit Curriculum as is practicable for the pupil, must establish measurable goals and a method for evaluation of whether the pupil is achieving those goals, and must be consistent with the pupil's Educational Development Plan (EDP) and, in the case of a student with a disability, must be consistent with the student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP). The Superintendent shall establish guidelines for requesting, devising, and granting of Personal Curricula, consistent with state law.