

20. The school district requires each student, in order to receive a high school diploma, to have met the requirements established by its local board of education and by the State Board of Education. {MS Code 37-16-7} (SB Policy 3800)
- 20.1 Each student receiving a standard high school diploma has earned the minimum number of Carnegie units as specified in Appendix A. (See Appendix A.) (SB Policies 2902 and 2903) Students receiving a standard diploma may select from three graduation pathways as specified by the local school district's graduation requirements.
- Entering ninth graders in 2005-2006 and thereafter (seniors of school year 2008-2009 and later) are required to have a minimum of 21 Carnegie units as specified in Appendix A-1.
 - Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009 and thereafter (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) are required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified in Appendix A-2, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of Appendix A-2 requirements. This student would be required to complete the graduation requirements specified in A-1.
 - Entering ninth graders in 2010-2011 and thereafter (seniors of school year 2013-2014 and later) who chose the Career Pathway Option are required to earn the minimum graduation requirements specified in Appendix A-3. (MS Code 37-16-17)
 - Beginning in school year 2011-2012 all eighth grade students are required to have an Individualized Career and Academic Plan (iCAP) prior to exiting the eighth grade.
- 20.2 Each student receiving a standard diploma has achieved a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations. {MS Code-37-16-7} (SB Policy 3800)
- 20.3 Each student who has completed the secondary curriculum for special education may be issued a special diploma or certificate of completion, which states: "This student has successfully completed an Individualized Education Program." {MS Code 37-16-11(1)}
- 20.4 The student who fails to meet the graduation requirements is not permitted to participate in the graduation exercises.
- 20.5 Each student with disabilities receiving a Mississippi Occupational Diploma has successfully completed all minimum requirements established by the State Board of Education. {MS Code 37-16-11(2)} (See Appendix G.)

Note: Carnegie units will be awarded in the eighth grade for the following courses: Algebra I, Pre-algebra, Transition to Algebra, Computer Discovery, Geometry, ICT II (Information & Communication Technology), First Year Foreign Language, and Second Year Foreign Language provided course content is the same as the high school course.

Note: In compliance with MS Code 37-16-17, a quality high school career pathway program and career track curricula will be provided for students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree beginning with students entering the 9th grade in 2010-2011. Criteria and curriculum development for the career program option will begin with school year 2010-2011. Pilot options will be offered for the 2011-2012 school year and full implementation of the career program option will begin in the 2012-2013 school year. The goal for students pursuing the career track is to graduate from high school with a standard diploma and credit toward a community college certification in a career-technical field.