

**Regulation  
Graduation Requirements**

**Descriptor Code: IHF(6)(R)**

**PURPOSE.** This regulation specifies graduation requirements for students enrolled in McIntosh County Academy High School utilizing the strategic waiver authority granted to this district by the State Department of Education.

**CURRICULUM:** The McIntosh County Board of Education (“the Board”) shall provide secondary school curriculum and instructional and support services that reflect the high school graduation and state assessment requirements and assist all students in developing their unique potential to function in society.

**CREDIT REQUIREMENTS.**

- To be eligible for graduation with a secondary school credential as defined in the State Board of Education (SBOE) Rule 160-4-2-.48, High School Graduation Requirements for Students Enrolling in the Ninth Grade for the First Time in the 2008-09 School Year and Subsequent Years, students must successfully complete selected courses specified in the SBOE rule and satisfy additional requirements specified in this policy.
- Students who enroll from another state must meet the graduation requirements for the graduating class they enter.
- The Board shall make available to all students the required areas of study. A course shall count only once for satisfying any unit of credit requirement for graduation. See the following chart:

<b>Courses</b>	<b>State Required</b>	<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025 and Beyond</b>
English/Language Arts	4	4	4	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	4	4	4
Science	4	4	4	4	4
Social Studies	3	4	4	4	4
Selected Pathway	3	3	4	4	4
+ CTAE Courses					
+ Foreign Language					
+ Fine Arts					
Health	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Physical Education	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Electives	4	4	5	5	5
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

- Core courses as required by the state will be taken in the appropriate sequence.
- MCA will provide a course listing by subject area that lists all courses that meet the graduation criteria by area.
- Every student **MUST** complete at least one pathway in order to participate in the graduation ceremony.
- Every senior will participate in an interview with a resume prior to being allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.
- Students must complete all four academic years. Students who complete their 26 credits prior to the last semester should consider taking college courses through the dual-enrollment program. Waivers to graduate early will be limited to those who are accepted into college or the military and leave school to immediately attend classes at the college level or to attend military service.

**ADVISOR/ADVISEE:** MCA will hold advisor/advisee sessions every 4 ½ weeks with progress reports in order to provide students with proper mentoring and counseling pertaining to their progress towards earning appropriate credits to graduate.

**Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Graders:** MCA will coordinate directly with MCMS to provide all rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders with the opportunity to meet, along with their parents/guardians, during the month of January of each school to select high school courses for the next school year. By February of that same year, MCA will provide tentative schedules for all students, subject to drop/add opportunities.

**NON-BLOCK SCHOOLS.** Students who transfer from non-block scheduled high schools to McIntosh County must meet the requirements listed below for the number of credits needed to graduate. Students must also meet the core course requirements of McIntosh County Board of Education.

- Three years on a block schedule will require 26 units for graduation.
- Two years on a block schedule will require 24 units for graduation.
- One year on a block schedule will require 24 units for graduation.

**GRADUATION CEREMONY.** To be eligible for participation in graduation ceremonies, students must have completed all requirements for earning a high school diploma. No other students will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremonies without the expressed permission of the superintendent of schools.

#### **COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS.**

McIntosh County Schools is dedicated to preparing our students for college and/or career readiness. Therefore, all high school students must complete additional local requirements in order to graduate from MCA consistent with this intent.

## **COURSE CREDIT**

- Unit credit shall be awarded only for courses that include concepts and skills based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence for grades 9-12 or those approved by the SBOE.
- Unit credit shall be awarded only for high school courses taken in the middle schools that are on the approved list of such courses provided by the SBOE.
- The Individualized Education Program (IEP) shall specify whether core courses taken as part of an IEP shall receive core unit credit.
- Completion of diploma requirements does not necessarily qualify students for the HOPE Scholarship Program.

**CREDIT REPAIR/RECOVERY.** The superintendent or his designee will provide guidance regarding specific requirements for earning credit using alternative means for the purpose of recovery and/or repairing credit. This information will be published annually and posted on the website under the student handbook tab.

**WAIVERS.** The superintendent of schools or his designee may waive the additional three local credit requirements upon written request from the principal of the respective high school provided that the student has completed all state requirements for graduation.

**AUTHORITY:** This regulation is provided by the Superintendent of Schools as authorized by McIntosh County School Board Policy IHF(6): Graduation Requirements – Entering Fall 2008-09 and thereafter, dated August 8, 2016.

Approved by: Dr. James G. Pulos, Superintendent of Schools, McIntosh County, Georgia, on August 19, 2021.