



# Earning an Ohio High School Diploma

## Class of 2020

As a student who entered grade 9 between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017, you have multiple pathways to earn a high school diploma so that you can move on to your next steps in education or a career.

- You must complete and earn a state minimum of 20 credits in specific subjects. Additionally, you must receive instruction in economics and financial literacy and complete at least two semesters of fine arts. Your district may have more graduation requirements. Your school counselor has this information.
- You must demonstrate what you have learned. There are three pathways in Ohio law.

### 1. Ohio's State Tests

Earn 18 out of 35 points on seven end-of-course state tests. You can earn up to five points on each test. You need a minimum of four points in math, four points in English language arts and six points across science and social studies.

### 2. Industry-recognized credential and score on workforce readiness test

Earn an industry-recognized credential or a group of credentials totaling 12 points and earn the required score on the WorkKeys test. Ohio pays for you to take the test one time. Some districts offer the Senior Only program through which you can earn credentials in one school year.

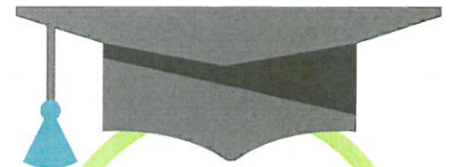
### 3. College and career readiness tests

Earn remediation-free scores\* in math and English language arts on the ACT or SAT. Your district chooses either the ACT or SAT. You will take a one-time statewide spring test in grade 11 for free.

\*Ohio's university presidents set these scores, which are subject to change.

- If you do not meet any of the above three pathways, Ohio law provides you two additional options to earn a high school diploma. The reverse side of this fact sheet explains them.

Find more details about graduation at [education.ohio.gov/graduation](http://education.ohio.gov/graduation) and locate the section for your graduating class.



Talk to your school counselor early in the school year about your path to graduation and your future success.

# Additional Graduation Options Available for the Class of 2020

Students who entered grade 9 after July 1, 2014, are the first to earn diplomas under the new graduation requirements. In addition to satisfying the high school curriculum requirements, students in Ohio must meet one of [three existing pathways](#) to earn a high school diploma.

To support the transition to new requirements, the General Assembly approved temporary graduation options for students in the class of 2018.

**Recent legislation extended additional graduation options to the classes of 2019 and 2020, as provided below.**

**Please note, state law modified the criteria available for the class of 2020 and not all of the original criteria are available to students in the class of 2020.**

The Department expects most students will meet one of the three existing pathways, and districts should continue to work with students, as appropriate, to meet these requirements. These options provide an opportunity for students who do not otherwise meet one of the three existing pathways to graduation to earn a diploma.

The two additional graduation options for the class of 2020 are:

## Option 1

Students entering grade 9 between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017, are eligible to utilize the modified graduation options below.

Students must take and pass courses that constitute the curriculum requirements and take all seven end-of-course exams. If the student receives a score of "1" or "2" on any math or English language arts test, the student must retake the test at least once.

Additionally, you must meet **at least two** of the below requirements:

- Earn a GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale in all courses completed **during the 11th and 12th grades** (must complete at least four full-year – or equivalent – courses in each year);
- Complete a capstone project during 12th grade that meets criteria defined by Ohio Department of Education guidance and evaluation processes (**guidance available by May 31, 2019**);
- During 12th grade, complete a work or community service experience totaling 120 hours, as defined by the Ohio Department of Education and Governor's Office for Workforce Transformation (**guidance available by May 31, 2019**);
- Earn three or more [College Credit Plus](#) credits at any time during high school;
- Earn credit for an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) course and earn an AP exam score of 3 or higher or IB exam score of 4 or higher at any time during high school;
- Earn a WorkKeys exam score of 3 on each of three test sections;
- Earn a State Board-approved [industry-recognized credential](#) or credentials that equal at least three points;
- [Meet OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal requirements](#).

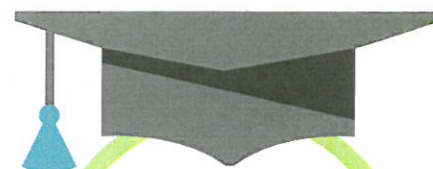
## QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about graduation requirements, call (614) 466-1317 or send an email to [gradrequirements@education.ohio.gov](mailto:gradrequirements@education.ohio.gov).

## Option 2

Students must take and pass courses that constitute the curriculum requirements and take all seven end-of-course exams. Students must finish a career-technical program that includes at least four courses in a single career pathway and complete **at least one** of the options below:

- Earn a total score of Proficient or better based on all career-technical exams or test modules;
- Earn an industry-recognized credential or credentials that equal 12 points;
- Complete a workplace experience totaling 250 hours with evidence of positive evaluations.



Talk to your school counselor early in the school year about your path to graduation and your future success.