



Chicago Public Schools

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Your high school education will open the door to countless possibilities in post-secondary education and the workforce. You will learn academics as well as marketable, practical skills. Your core courses will emphasize the fundamental subject areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science. Other courses available for you to take include World Language, Art, Music, Drafting, Physical Education/Health and ROTC. You will also have an opportunity to experience and explore a program of career development in preparation for the numerous career, education and training choices available to you. Please work with your high school counselor to ensure that all required courses are completed prior to graduation.

You are encouraged to strive for high levels of achievement, which will pave the way for continued success throughout your high school years. We wish you successful completion of all high school graduation requirements. Best of luck!

REQUIRED COURSES	DESCRIPTION	UNITS REQUIRED
Credit Bearing Requirements		
English	English I, English II, English III, English IV.	4 credits
Mathematics	Algebra, Geometry, Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry. (Students successfully completing Algebra and/or Geometry prior to entering high school will follow an appropriate three-year math sequence.)	3 credits
Science	Biology and 2 years of Laboratory Science, which must include Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Environmental Science, or Physics.	3 credits
Social Science	World Studies, United States History, and one other Social Science course.	3 credits
World Language	Two years of the same world language.	2 credits
Fine Arts	One year of Music and one year of Art or Drafting.	2 credits
Physical Education	One year of Physical Education I/Health or ROTC I/Health and Physical Education II/Drivers Education or ROTC II/Drivers Education in 9th and 10th grades.	2 credits
Career Education/ROTC/ Advanced Academic Option	CTE programs, advanced academic/fine arts options or ROTC III, ROTC IV.	2 credits
Electives	Selection of an additional three courses not already listed above.	3 credits
Total Credits Required	Students must earn a minimum of 24 credits as described above to earn a diploma from the Chicago Public Schools.	
Non-Credit Bearing Requirements		
Service Learning	Three approved classroom-integrated service-learning projects that amount to a minimum of forty hours. Twenty hours must be completed by the end of tenth grade.	
Consumer Education	Complete a course integrating consumer education curriculum.	
Public Law 195	Demonstrate knowledge of U.S. and Illinois constitutions as part of subject-area curricula and/or Constitution test.	
PSAE	Public Act 93857 requires students to take the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) as a condition for receiving a regular high school diploma.	



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ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS — If you are an English Language Learner (ELL), you will learn English through English as a Second Language (ESL) course offerings that are aligned to academic standards in the core courses. Please note that ESL I, II, III and Transitional English classes satisfy the four years of English required for graduation. Your English language proficiency level will determine your placement in the ESL sequence. If you are enrolled in a Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) program, you will also receive native language instruction in the other subject areas according to your English language proficiency level.

STUDENTS WITH IEPs — If you are receiving special education services, your Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may specify any unique circumstances regarding grading, promotion, or graduation criteria. This decision is determined by your IEP team, inclusive of you, your parents, and your teachers.

Here is a sample of what your schedule might look like in high school. Please note that this is just a general example and your actual schedule may look different than the one shown here. Individual schools have the flexibility to make schedule adjustments to better serve its students and accommodate for various programs.

SAMPLE GENERAL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SCHEDULE					
Subject Area	Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year	Credits Earned
English	English I	English II	English III	English IV	4
Mathematics	Algebra	Geometry	Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry		3
Science	Biology	Lab Science	Lab Science		3
Social Science	World Studies	United States History		Third Social Science Course	3
World Language		World Language Year I	World Language Year II		2
Fine Arts	Art or Music		Music or Art		2
Career Education			Career Education or ROTC	Career Education or ROTC	2
Physical Education	Physical Education I Health or ROTC/Health	Physical Education II/Drivers Education or ROTC II/Drivers Education			2
Electives				Electives (3)	3