

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

It is the policy of the Board to acknowledge each student’s successful completion of the District’s instructional program by the awarding of a diploma.

The Board will award a high school diploma to every student enrolled in this District who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board and the State of Ohio or who properly completes the goals and objectives specified in his/her individualized educational program (IEP) including any exemption from specific state or local requirements.

Students who successfully complete all required course work, as set forth below, but who have not successfully completed all required portions of the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT)(Classes of 2017 and earlier), may return at subsequent, regularly scheduled OGT testing times to retake deficient areas. Prior to attaining age 23, they may also return on a part-time or full-time basis to take additional high school coursework to assist them to pass any deficient portion of the OGT. Upon the successful completion of all portions of the OGT, the student will be eligible to be awarded a high school diploma from Findlay High School. (Classes 2017 and earlier)

For graduating classes beginning with 2019, in addition to meeting the Ohio Core Requirements as stated below, students must meet new state end of course requirements to earn 18 points in seven course subjects (Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, American History, American Government, English I and English II) or earn a “Remediation Free” score in mathematics and English on a nationally recognized college admission exam, such as ACT or SAT, or earn a minimum of 12 points by receiving State Board of Education approved, industry- recognized credential or a group of credentials in a single career field and earn the required score on WorkKeys, a work-readiness test. In addition students must receive instruction in economics and financial literacy and complete at least two semesters of fine arts.

Minimum Unit Requirements Graduating classes beginning with 2020 the state has developed additional pathways to graduate from an Ohio high school. Students and parents should talk with counselors and/or regularly view the ODE website throughout their high school years to make sure they stay on track for graduation.

Course requirements for graduation as determined by the State of Ohio and the Findlay City School District Board of Education include a minimum of twenty-one (21.0) credits, including:

Ohio Core Unit Requirements (1)

English/Language Arts	4.0 credits
Communications	1.0 credits (2)
● Communications	0.5 credits
● Information/Emerging Technologies	0.5 credits
Mathematics	4.0 credits (3)
Science	3.0 credits (4)
*Social Studies	3.0 credits (5)
● World History	0.5 credits
● American History	1.5 credits
● Government5 credits
● Economics)5 credits
Health	0.5 credits
Physical Education	0.5 credits (6)
Electives	<u>5.0 credits (7)</u>
TOTAL	21.0 credits

NOTES:

- (1) The Ohio Core unit requirements are required of all students beginning with the graduating class of 2014.
- (2) Communications is a local requirement (i.e. not enacted as part of the Ohio Core) established for all District graduates.
- (3) The Math requirement includes one unit of Algebra II or its equivalent. Students on a Success Plan may be exempted from taking Algebra II.
- (4) All three required units of science must include inquiry-based lab experience. The three units must include one unit each in physical science and biology, and one unit advanced study in one or more of the following sciences: chemistry, physics, or other physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science. Students on a Success Plan may be exempted from advanced study in science.
- (5) The required social studies units must include World History, American history and American government. The study of economics and financial literacy will be integrated into at least one social studies course required for graduation, (Economics) or taken as a separate course.
- (6) PE Waiver – see “Other Requirements and Guidelines” section below #7.
- (7) Electives may include any one or a combination of the following: foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agriculture, or additional English, language arts, math, science, or social studies courses not otherwise required under the Ohio Core. All students must complete two semesters, or the equivalent of fine arts in any grades seven through twelve. Courses meeting the criteria of fine arts include music, theater, dance, and visual arts. Students following a career-technical pathway are exempt from the fine arts requirement.

Ohio Core Opt-Out – Students may opt out of the Ohio Core under the following conditions:

- (1) The student must complete two years of high school, after which the student’s parent must sign a statement consenting to opt out of the Ohio Core’s unit requirements;
- (2) The student and parent must fulfill any local procedural requirements to ensure that the school has obtained informed consent;
- (3) The student, parent and high school must develop a career plan for the student;
- (4) The student receives counseling and support related to his/her career plans;
- (5) The student must successfully complete at least the Minimum Unit Requirements listed above, as well as all state testing requirements.

NOTE: The opt-out provision is available only to the graduating Classes of 2014 through 2019, unless new law extends it.

Other Requirements and Guidelines:

- 1) The student must successfully complete all state testing requirements for graduation.
- 2) Credit will be awarded for each semester in which a student received a passing grade. For example, if a student enrolls in a full year (one credit) course, fails the first semester but passes the second semester, he/she will receive a half credit.
- 3) Findlay City Schools may permit students in the seventh and eighth grades to take advanced work for high school credit toward the graduation requirements if it is both:
 - (a) taught by a person who possesses a license/certificate issued under State law that is valid for teaching high schools; and
 - (b) approved by the Superintendent as meeting the high school's curriculum requirements.

- 4) Students may re-take a course, but the student will not receive double credit for the course. Only the higher grade will be counted toward the student's G.P.A.
- 5) Failure of any course, especially English, may affect the student's achievement of graduation requirements. Issuance of timely and periodic warnings to students in danger of not fulfilling graduation requirements is expected of all teachers. Counselors and/or principals will work collaboratively with students and their parents/guardians to create a plan for those who are in need of credit recovery, in danger of not meeting graduation requirements, or are on attendance watch.
- 6) At the time of graduation, each student must have fulfilled all academic and financial obligations.
- 7) Physical Education Waiver: Upon written request within one calendar year following the completion of the season (as defined by the end of season banquet date), a student may be exempted from **the graduation requirement of two required high school quarter-credit physical education courses** by participating on one of the high school's interscholastic athletic teams, **marching band, show choirs (VIP and/or FFE) cheerleading squad, and/or JROTC**. To qualify for this physical education waiver, all of the following requirements must be met:
 - a. The **waived activity** must include at least eighty (80) hours per season of practice and/or contests or average 10 hours per week of practice and/or contests to meet established time requirements. These hours do NOT include **in class time**, travel to and from competitions, summer camps, pre-season or post-season events.
 - b. The student athlete must complete **at least two** full seasons of FHS interscholastic sports, **marching band, show choirs (VIP and/or FFE) cheerleading squad, or JROTC**, to earn a waiver: tryouts, regular season, tournament, and award banquets. Any student removed from a **waived activity** and not completing the entire season for any reason (e.g. training rules violation, eligibility issues, attendance, **shows, competitions**, etc.) will not receive **credit towards** the waiver. Student sustaining an injury will be held to requirements consistent with the current FHS physical education medical policy. The principal and athletic trainer will review individual injury situations on a case-by-case basis. The principal and the student's coach will review other situations on a case-by-case basis.
 - c. **Students who are eligible for a waiver are encouraged to** complete at least one quarter-credit of physical education (e.g. summer physical education or a semester PE class during the year).
 - d. The student will be required to complete one-half unit, consisting of at least sixty (60) hours of instruction in another course of **study to take the place of the waived PE credit requirement**.
 - e. A student who participates with a team, **marching band, show choir, cheerleading squad, or JROTC**, but is not eligible for competitions, will not receive a waiver of the physical education requirement (**i.e. student athletic trainer aides, wrestlerette, manager, statistician, instrumentalists, etc.**).
 - f. The waiver of **(2)** quarter-credit physical education courses from this policy's graduation requirements must be approved by the principal or designee. Proof or verification of satisfactory participation may be required.
 - g. A student may earn a waiver of no more than **(2)** quarter-credit physical education courses through this program.
 - h. Any approved waiver of the physical education graduation requirement will not apply to the student's overall GPA.

- i. Upon written request a student may be exempt from the graduation requirement of two required high school quarter credit physical education courses by participating on one of the high school's interscholastic athletic teams, marching band, cheerleading squad, and/or JROTC. To qualify for this physical education waiver, the waiver must be completed by the student and parent and submitted to the high school principal no later than within 1 calendar year of the completion of the season as defined by the end of the year banquet.

Alternative Condition for Graduation

As an alternative to the requirement that a student successfully complete all of Ohio's required graduation tests in order to be eligible for a high school diploma, a student who has successfully completed all but one of the tests may be awarded a diploma, if all alternative conditions for graduation are met, per state statute (O.R.C. 3313.615 and Procedure 8.22a).

Accelerated Graduation

The Findlay City Schools Board of Education believes that four years of high school are valuable and important for most students. However, the Board acknowledges that some students seek to pursue personal education goals that include graduation from high school at an earlier date than their designated class. If a student desires to graduate from Findlay High School early, the following procedure is required:

- 1) A letter of request to graduate early must be submitted by the student at least one semester prior to the desired graduation date. Exceptions to this deadline must be approved by the high school principal. The reasons for this request must be included.
- 2) A letter from the student's parents indicating their approval and permitting the scheduling of necessary course for early graduation.
- 3) A statement from a guidance counselor stating that the requirements for graduation can be realistically achieved by the desired date of graduation.
- 4) The student must meet all state and local graduation requirements.
- 5) Normally, changes in a student's schedule to accommodate accelerated graduation will occur only at the start of each semester.
- 6) Requests for accelerated graduation will be considered by a committee consisting of the principal, counselor, parent or legal guardian, and the student.
- 7) A student who completes the requirements for accelerated high school graduation will participate in the graduation ceremonies with the class graduating in the year in which he or she completes the district's requirements for high school graduation.

Graduation Requirements Met

Except as provided for under IDEA, once a diploma has been issued eligibility to attend school has ended.

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