



## Graduation Requirements - Class of 2023 and Beyond

### Guidebook for Parents and Students

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### Changes to State Testing Requirements

*Ohio Revised Code section 3301.0712*

Ohio law recently changed the state testing requirements for students in the classes of 2023 and beyond. State tests are an essential component for measuring student learning and ensuring every Ohio student receives a high-quality education. As a foundational component of Ohio's graduation requirements, Ohio's State Tests give students the opportunity to show what they know and are able to do and help ensure every student who graduates from an Ohio high school is prepared for success.

For students who enter grade 9 on or after July 1, 2019, state testing laws require districts to administer end-of-course tests to all students at the completion of the associated course. The required end-of-course tests include algebra I, geometry, English language arts II, biology, American government and American history.

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### Graduation Planning

*Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.617*

[HCSD Board Policy IKFC](#)

Districts and schools should work with students and their caregivers to develop plans showing the options the students will pursue as a part of their high school experiences and pathways to graduation. These choices will empower students to select the courses and experiences that are right for them.

In accordance with Ohio law, each student, beginning in grade 9 and continuing through high school graduation, is required to develop and maintain a graduation plan. Hilliard students will complete their plan during the 9th grade Future Ready course.

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### Summary of Graduation Requirements

*Ohio Revised Code section 3313.618*

Students in the classes of 2023 and beyond (those who entered grade 9 on or after July 1, 2019) must meet the new requirements. Ohio's new graduation requirements consist of three key components:

1. **Course Completion:** Students will satisfy Ohio's curriculum requirements and any additional local requirements. Students will complete the state minimum 20 units, with specific units required in each content area. Hilliard requires 21.5 credits to graduate.
2. **Competency:** Demonstration Students will demonstrate competency in the foundational areas of English language arts and mathematics or through alternative demonstrations, which include College Credit Plus, career-focused activities or military enlistment.
3. **Readiness Demonstration:** Students will demonstrate readiness for their post-high school paths by earning two seals that allow them to demonstrate important foundational and well-rounded academic and technical knowledge, professional skills, social and emotional competencies, and leadership and reasoning skills.

## Course Completion

Ohio law outlines the course requirements all students must complete to earn a diploma. Ohio students must earn a minimum of 20 units in specific subject areas. Hilliard has requirements that exceed the state minimums outlined below.

General Course Requirements	State Minimum
English Language Arts	4 units
Mathematics	4 units - Must include one unit of algebra II or the equivalent
Science	3 units - Must include one unit of physical science, life science, and advanced study
Social Studies	3 units - Must include American History, American Government, and World History
Health	½ unit
PE	½ unit
Electives	5 units - Must include a combination of world language, fine arts, business, career-technical, family and consumer science, technology, or additional core courses not otherwise required
HCS D Requirements	½ Future Ready ½ Financial Literacy (also a state requirement) ½ The Capstone Experience

## Demonstrating Competency

*Ohio Revised Code section 3313.618(B)(1)*

Students must earn a "competency" **score of 684 on both** the English II and algebra I end-of-course tests. Students not earning competency scores on the first attempt must be offered appropriate remediation and supports and retake the test at least once. In lieu of attaining competency scores on the state tests, students can use alternative ways to demonstrate competency.

If a student does not meet the competency score on the Algebra I and/or English language arts II test, they must retake the test at least once before pursuing other competency options for graduation purposes. [ORC 3313.618(B)(1)] *Once a student has retaken a test they can use the competency alternatives even if scores are not returned yet.*

State law [ORC 3313.618(B)(1)] requires districts to offer remedial support to any student who fails to attain competency scores on one or both of the tests. These remedial supports are locally defined. These supports include but are not limited to: Response to Intervention, Workshop courses, Personal Success Network, Credit Recovery, Mental Health Support.

## Competency Alternatives

1. College Credit Plus – Earn college credit in a non-remedial math or English course (for the subject area not passed) to demonstrate competency.
  
2. Career Experience and Technical Skill – Complete two demonstrations to show competency, at least one of which must be a foundational option.
  - Foundational: a. Earn a score of proficient or higher on three or more WebXams in a single career pathway; b. Earn a 12-point approved industry-recognized credential or group of credentials totaling 12 points in a single career field; c. Complete a pre-apprenticeship in the student’s chosen career field or, for students ages 18 and older, show evidence of acceptance into an apprenticeship program after high school.
  
  - Supporting: a. Complete a 250-hour work-based learning experience with evidence of positive evaluations; b. Earn the workforce readiness score on WorkKeys; or c. Earn the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal.
  
3. Military Readiness – Competency can be achieved by meeting the requirements to enlist in the military, which can be demonstrated by a contract with the military to enlist upon graduation (see the Military Enlistment Seal guidelines in this document for more information about enlistment).
  
4. ACT/SAT Remediation Free Score - Students can demonstrate competency for subject area not passed by earning the following scores on the ACT or SAT:

SUBJECT	ACT	SAT
<b>English Language Arts</b> *To demonstrate competency in English II, a student must be remediation-free in <b>BOTH</b> English and reading on the ACT.	English subscore of 18 (or higher)	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) 480 (or higher)
	Reading subscore of 22 (or higher)	
<b>Mathematics</b>	Mathematics subscore of 22 (or higher)	Mathematics 530 (or higher)

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## Demonstrating Readiness - Seals

State law created 12 diploma seals for students to demonstrate academic, technical and professional readiness for careers, college, the military or self-sustaining professions. Each seal allows students to demonstrate knowledge and skills essential for future success in their chosen post-high school paths.

Students will demonstrate readiness by earning at least two diploma seals, **one of which must be state defined**. Seals help students develop an array of critical skills that are valuable to them as they transition to the next steps after high school. Schools should consider encouraging students to pursue seals that meet their individual interests and skills. Graduation planning will be an important step in supporting students in earning their seals.

**Detailed information about the seals and their corresponding HCSD programs/courses can be found in the Program of Studies. ([Document linked here.](#))**

The seals will be affixed to the student's diploma and transcript.

### Middle School Students and Seals

Middle School students who take high school level courses that meet the requirements of the Seals can use that credit to show demonstration and earn a seal. This includes high school credit courses and/or CCP.

For locally defined seals, course work and credit earned during middle school can be used for earning seals, but all community service hours, student engagement hours/clubs/activities, or other project work must be completed during high school.

Ohio Means Jobs Seal - Students cannot begin earning the Ohio Means Jobs Seal until high school.

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## The Capstone Experience

The Capstone experience is an opportunity for students to challenge themselves outside the traditional curriculum. An exploration of a career path, an occasion to serve a community, a chance to develop and/or explore a particular skill, a preparation for a specific event – a capstone encourages self-discovery and responsibility. The Capstone graduation requirement will be fulfilled in cooperation with the building capstone coach. The capstone coach role is to oversee and advise each student from the planning process through the final presentation of learning. The capstone is a self-paced learning experience similar to an independent study course. The capstone coach serves as the teacher in charge of the course, but there is no physical class time that a student participates in during the school year. Frequent check-ins, both online and in-person, are required of each student as they complete their capstone experience.

When selecting or declaring their intentions for the capstone requirement, students will be advised to begin with a broad idea of how they can benefit themselves and/or the world around them. A student wishing to attend **college** may design an experience to benefit their college application or a program they will complete during college. Students with a future **career** interest may want to explore that career or create an experience that could contribute to a resume down the road. If the college or career path isn't quite as clear, students can choose to create an experience centered around their **interests** so long as the final product benefits themselves, their school, their community, or beyond.

**\*Students may use The Capstone Experience to earn graduation seals such as the OhioMeansJob Seal, Community Service Seal, and/or Honors Diploma Seal(s).**

**The Capstone Experience would be added to a student's schedule during the 11th grade year. Only students who fail to complete the course by the end of 11th grade would be scheduled during 12th grade.**

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## **SchoolLinks - College and Career Readiness Platform with Graduation Tracking**

All students in grades 6-12 will use SchoolLinks as a college and career readiness tool. Students in grade 9 will complete their graduation plan in SchoolLinks, and it will be tracked within the platform each year of high school.

*More information provided soon.*

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