

# CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

|                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>POLICY</b>                  | <b>CMS/NEPN Code:</b> |
| <b>GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS</b> | <b>IKF</b>            |

Students who graduate from Charlotte-Mecklenburg high schools should be prepared to be productive members of society and to pursue educational or employment opportunities. A student must successfully complete all North Carolina and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) graduation requirements to graduate from high school and receive a diploma. Graduation requirements adopted by the North Carolina Board of Education are incorporated into the CMS graduation requirements set forth below.

**I. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in 2009/2010 and later school years**

**A. Courses of Study**

Beginning with students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in the 2009/2010 school year (the graduating class of 2013), a student must satisfy the requirements of one of the two Courses of Study in order to receive a diploma from CMS. CMS Courses of Study are:

1. Future Ready Core Plus
2. Occupational

**B. General Course and Credit Requirements**

Specific course and credit requirements for each course of study and graduating class are set forth in Exhibit IKF-E, which accompanies this policy. General requirements are as follows:

| <b>Students Entering the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade in 2009/2010 and beyond</b><br>(Classes of 2013 and beyond) |  |                     |
|---|--|---------------------|
|   | <b>Courses of Study/ Credit Requirements</b> |                     |
| <b>Courses</b>  | <b>Future Ready Core Plus</b>                | <b>Occupational</b> |
| English   | 4  | 4                   |
| Mathematics   | 4  | 3                   |
| Science   | 3  | 2                   |
| Social Studies  | 3  | 2                   |
| Additional Science or Social Studies  | 1  | 0                   |
| Health/PE   | 1  | 1                   |
| Occupational  | 0  | 8                   |
| Concentration Electives   | 4  | 4 (CTE)             |
| Additional Electives  | 4  | 0                   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>24</b>                                    | <b>24</b>           |

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**Page 1 of 5**

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**Previous CMS Policy #: 5127**

**Cross Reference: IKA, ICAA, IKAB, IKAD, IKC, IKD, IKE, IKE-R, IKF-R, IKFA**

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## II. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade prior to 2009/2010 school year

### A. Courses of Study

Beginning with students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in 2000/2001 through the 2008/2009 school years (the graduating classes of 2004 - 2012), a student must satisfy the requirements of one of the five North Carolina Courses of Study in order to receive a diploma from CMS. NC Courses of Study are:

1. Career Preparation
2. College Tech Preparation
3. College/University Preparation
4. Dual (meets both College Tech and College/University Preparation)
5. Occupational

### B. General Course and Credit Requirements

Specific course requirements vary for different graduating classes. Course of Study and credit requirements for each graduating class are set forth in Exhibit IKF-E. General requirements for particular graduating classes are as follows:

| Students Entering the 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade from<br>2000/2001 through 2008/2009 School Years<br>(Classes of 2004 through 2012) |                                       |                   |                   |           |              |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Courses  | Courses of Study/ Credit Requirements |                   |                   |           |              |
|  | Career Prep                           | College Tech/Prep | College Univ/Prep | Dual      | Occupational |
| English  | 4                                     | 4                 | 4                 | 4         | 4            |
| Mathematics  | 4                                     | 4                 | 4                 | 4         | 3            |
| Science  | 3                                     | 3                 | 3                 | 3         | 2            |
| Social Studies   | 3                                     | 3                 | 3                 | 3         | 2            |
| Additional Science or SS   | 1                                     | 1                 | 1                 | 1         | 0            |
| Second Language  | 0                                     | 0                 | 2                 | 2         | 0            |
| Health/PE  | 1                                     | 1                 | 1                 | 1         | 1            |
| Career/Technical   | 4                                     | 4                 | 0                 | 4         | 4            |
| Occupational   | 0                                     | 0                 | 0                 | 0         | 10           |
| Electives  | 8                                     | 8                 | 10                | 6         | 2            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>28</b>                             | <b>28</b>         | <b>28</b>         | <b>28</b> | <b>28</b>    |

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Page 2 of 5

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|---|-------------------------------------|

## III. OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### A. Required Competency Tests

As required by the NC Board of Education, in addition to meeting the course and credit requirements set forth above, students must also:

1. (Applicable to students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 1994/1995 through the 2005/2006 school years) pass the North Carolina Competency Test,<sup>1</sup> and
2. Demonstrate proficiency on the North Carolina Online Test of Computer Skills.

### B. Certificate of Achievement

Students who complete all CMS graduation requirements but who do not pass one of the competency tests required by the state of North Carolina will not receive a diploma. These students shall receive Certificates of Achievement. Certificates of Achievement shall also be issued to students in the Occupational Course of Study who have completed all graduation requirements except the hours of competitive paid employment required by the state of North Carolina. Students who receive Certificates of Achievement shall be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.

### C. Graduation Project

Except for students in the Occupational Course of Study, students must complete a graduation project in which they demonstrate competencies in research, oral, written, and technical communications skills. The project must be done as part of the overall high school curriculum in certain courses, which shall be specified by the Superintendent. Beginning with students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in 2006 (the graduating class of 2010), the project must be comprised of four components: a research paper, product, presentation, and portfolio. For the Classes of 2010 and earlier (students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time during and prior to 2006), the Graduation Project is a local, CMS requirement.<sup>2</sup> Effective with students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in the 2007 school year (the graduating class of 2011), the Graduation Project will be a North Carolina graduation requirement and will be evaluated using rubrics developed by the Department of Public

<sup>1</sup> Effective with students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2006/2007 school year, the NC Competency Test was replaced by the EOC Exit Standards described in Section III, D.

<sup>2</sup>The "Graduation Project" was formerly called the "Senior Exit Project," and was part of the local high school curriculum for many years.

**Date of Adoption: 9/12/67**

**Page 3 of 5**

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Instruction according to policies adopted by the State Board of Education.<sup>3</sup>

## **D. High School Exit Standards – EOC Requirements**

Except for students in the Occupational Course of Study, in addition to the above requirements, beginning with students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2006 (the graduating class of 2010), students must also satisfy proficiency standards adopted by the State Board of Education in May 2005. In order to meet these standards, students must score at Level III or IV on the North Carolina End of Course (EOC) tests in English I, U.S. History, Biology, Civics and Economics, and Algebra I. The standards also include retesting and review procedures for students who score below Level III on any of these tests. The Superintendent is directed to include details of the retesting and review procedures in Regulation IKE-R.

## **E. Determination of Applicable Graduation Requirements and Graduating Class**

For purposes of determining graduation requirements, each student is assigned to a graduating class when the student first enters ninth grade. In order to graduate from high school, the student must meet the CMS graduation requirements in effect for that particular class. This provision applies to a student who graduates before or after the graduating class to which the student was assigned upon entering ninth grade. This provision is subject to the exceptions set forth in paragraph F, below.

## **F. Exemptions from Local Graduation Requirements**

As set forth in Regulation IKF-R, upon notice to the Board of Education, in certain limited circumstances the Superintendent may exempt a student from local graduation course requirements. In addition, the Superintendent may exempt certain students who transfer into CMS in the eleventh or twelfth grades from local graduation credit requirements if the students are unable to meet CMS requirements. In all such cases, students must satisfy North

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<sup>3</sup> In May 2005, as part of its high school exit standards, the State Board of Education adopted a state graduation project requirement, which replaced the CMS Senior Exit Project. The North Carolina Graduation Project was originally applicable to students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in 2006 (graduating in June 2010). On April 2, 2009, the State Board approved a one-year delay of this requirement, making it a state graduation requirement for students first entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2007. In light of this action, CMS decided to continue the local graduation project requirement for the Class of 2010 (students first entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2006). Should the State Board of Education further delay implementation of the Graduation Project, it will continue to be a local graduation requirement until such time as it is a North Carolina graduation requirement.

**Date of Adoption: 9/12/67**

**Page 4 of 5**

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Carolina graduation requirements. The Superintendent shall develop detailed rules to administer this provision in the regulations accompanying this policy.

## **IV. AWARDING OF CREDITS FOR GRADUATION**

### **A. Unit of Credit**

In grades nine through twelve, one unit of credit is allowed for the satisfactory completion of a course that meets the requirements of policies adopted by the State Board of Education. Effective with the 2007/2008 school year, middle school students will be awarded graduation credits for successful completion of high school math and foreign language courses taken while in middle school. Details of the specific requirements and procedures for the awarding of these credits are set forth in Regulation IKF-R.

### **B. End of Course Tests**

A student enrolled in a course for which North Carolina has developed an EOC or VoCats test is required to take the applicable test. Credit for the class will be awarded based upon satisfactory completion of all course requirements, of which the EOC or VoCats test score is only one factor. The proportion of the final course grade that is attributable to the EOC test score is determined by following the rules set forth in IKAA-R.

### **C. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Tests**

A student enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) course is required to take the AP or IB examination for that course. Credit for the class will be awarded based upon satisfactory completion of all course requirements.

**Date of Adoption: 9/12/67**

**Page 5 of 5**

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