

DRAFT—For Discussion Purposes only

Guiding Principles of a 24-Credit Graduation Requirement

Pathways to Post-secondary

- All students should earn certain foundational high school course credits to meet the intent of Basic Education, which is “to provide all students with the opportunity to become responsible and respectful global citizens, to contribute to their economic well-being and that of their families and communities, to explore and understand different perspectives, and to enjoy productive and satisfying lives.”
- To fulfill the intent of Basic Education in the 21st century, all students need Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills; 3 credits of math and 3 credits of science are foundational high school courses credits.
- High school electives are an important part of students’ Basic Education, allowing choice in course-taking, providing the opportunity to explore a range of fields of knowledge, and allowing the opportunity to pursue certain post-secondary pathways.
- Every student should have a High School and Beyond Plan by 9th grade or earlier, upon which all course-taking decisions will be based; a student’s High School and Beyond Plan may evolve during high school to reflect the student’s changing interests and goals.
- All students should be preparing for their life after high school; each student’s High School and Beyond Plan should identify a post-secondary pathway.
- Post-secondary pathways are locally determined but should include, at least, the opportunity to:
 - Attend a skills center or pursue a Career and Technical Education program of study
 - Pursue a certificate or degree in a professional/technical program
 - Pursue a 4-year degree via a college, university, or college transfer program