

**Title of Regulation:**

**Regulation No.:**

**R43-234**

**DEFINED PROGRAM, GRADES 9-12  
AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Effective Date:**

**06/28/13**

**Constitutional and Statutory Provisions:**

Section(s):

59-5-60	General powers of [State] Board.
59-18-110	Objectives
59-29-10, <u>et seq.</u>	Short title
59-29-200	Pupil-teacher ratios
59-33-30	Establishment by State Board of Education of program of specialized education for handicapped children; rules and regulations
59-53-1810	Federal act accepted; State Board of Education designated as State Board of Vocational Training

Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976.

20 U.S.C. 1232(g)	Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
20 U.S.C. 6301, <u>et seq.</u>	Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

U.S. Code of Laws

**State Board Regulation:**

Defined Program, Grades 9-12 and Graduation Requirements.

Each school district board of trustees must ensure quality schooling by providing a rigorous, relevant curriculum for all students.

Each school district must offer a standards-based academic curriculum organized around a career cluster system that provides students with individualized education choices.

**I. Requirements for Earning a South Carolina High School Diploma**

A. The student must earn a total of twenty-four units of credit as follows:

Unit Requirements

English language arts	4.0
mathematics	4.0
science	3.0
U.S. History and Constitution	1.0
economics	0.5
U.S. Government	0.5
other social studies	1.0
physical education or Junior ROTC	1.0
computer science (including keyboarding)	1.0
foreign language or career and technology education	1.0
electives	7.0

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24.0 total

B. The student must pass a classroom examination on the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist papers, and American institutions and ideals. This instruction must be given for a period of at least one year or its equivalent, either within the required course U.S. History and Constitution or within another course. (For specific regulations regarding the end-of-course test for U.S. History and Constitution, see R 43-262.4, End-of-Course Tests.)

C. The student must pass a high school credit course in science in which an end-of-course examination is administered.

D. The student must be enrolled for a minimum of one semester immediately preceding his or her graduation, except in case of a bona fide change of residence. Units earned in a summer school program do not satisfy this requirement.

E. The student must pass both parts of the South Carolina high school exit examination in addition to earning the required number of prescribed units. (For specific regulations regarding the exit examination, see R 43-262, Assessment Program.)

## II. Provisions for Schools in the Awarding of High School Credit

A. A school may award and accept credit in units of one-fourth, one-half, and a whole.

B. A school may award one unit of credit for an academic standards-based course that requires a minimum of 120 hours of instruction. A school may award one-half unit of credit for an academic standards-based course requiring a minimum of 60 hours of instruction and one-fourth unit of credit for an academic standards-based course requiring a minimum of 30 hours of instruction.

C. A school may award credit for courses that have been approved by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) in a proficiency-based system. A proficiency-based course may also be offered for one-fourth and one-half unit if the system specifies these units. Each school district that seeks to implement a proficiency-based system must submit a plan to the SCDE that provides procedures for establishing and developing a proficiency-based system including the method for determining proficiency. The SCDE must approve the district-submitted plan prior to the district's use of the proficiency-based system. Districts are accountable for making sure that the academic standards and the individual learning needs of the students are addressed.

D. A school may award credit for those gateway courses that are a part of the End-of-Course Examination Program only if a student takes the course approved by the school in which he or she is enrolled and meets all the stipulated requirements of the End-of-Course Examination Program. (For specific regulations regarding end-of-course tests, see R 43-262.4, End-of-Course Tests.)

E. A school may award credit only for courses in summer programs-either district-wide or school-site programs-that meet all the regulatory requirements for courses offered for students in grades nine through twelve. A district-wide summer school program may meet the administrative certification requirement by employing a district supervisor as well as a lead teacher for each school site.

F. A school may award credit for a course that is approved by the district-whether that school offers the particular course or not-if the student receives prior approval.

G. A school may award credit toward the high school diploma for a course that the student takes in an approved adult education program if the course is granted approval by the local superintendent or his or her designee.

H. A school may award credit for locally designed courses under the following conditions:

1. Locally designed subject-area courses must be aligned with the state academic standards for the particular subject area and must be approved by the local board of trustees and the State Superintendent of Education.

2. Locally designed elective courses must be approved by the local board of trustees. No more than two units may be awarded to a student for released-time classes in religious instruction.

3. Locally designed CATE courses funded with state or federal CATE monies must be approved by the SCDE's Office of Career and Technology Education.

I. A school may award the PE credit for a diploma if the PE course meets all statutory requirements including the personal fitness and wellness component and the lifetime fitness component.

J. A school may award the one-half unit of credit carried by the course Keyboarding for half of the required computer science unit.

K. A school may award credit for the American Sign Language course as the required unit in a foreign language.

L. A school may award credit for a college course that students in grades nine through twelve take under the district's dual credit arrangement.

### III. Dual Credit Arrangement

A. District boards of trustees may establish a policy allowing students to take college courses for units of credit toward the high school diploma. The district policy may allow for courses to be offered by an institution of higher education through a cooperative agreement.

B. A three-semester-hour college course transfers as one unit of credit.

C. Tuition costs and any other fees are the responsibility of the individual student or his or her parent(s) or legal guardian unless otherwise specified in local school district policy.

D. Students enrolled in a South Carolina public school may take only courses that are applicable to baccalaureate degrees or to associate degrees offered by institutions accredited by the New England Association of Colleges and Schools, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or the Northwest Association of Colleges and Schools.

### IV. Transfer Students

A transfer student is one who enrolls in a South Carolina public school after having been enrolled in another school in this state or in a school in another state. Credits that he or she earned at the former school may be accepted and applied toward the South Carolina high school diploma. (For specific regulations see R 43-273, Transfers and Withdrawals.)

## V. Instructional Program

School districts must organize high school curricula around a minimum of three clusters of study and cluster majors. Such curricula must be designed to provide a well-rounded education that fosters artistic creativity, critical thinking, and self-discipline through the teaching of academic content and skills that students will use in postsecondary study and in the workplace. Students must declare an area of academic focus, also known as a career major, within a cluster of study before the end of the second semester of their tenth-grade year.

A. Schools must offer specific courses in the subject areas listed below. Courses designated with an asterisk are recommended, not required.

English language arts:

English 1, 2, 3, 4

Mathematics:

Algebra 1, Mathematics for the Technologies 1, 2, 3, 4\*

Algebra 2, Geometry

Pre-calculus, Calculus

Discrete Mathematics\*, Probability and Statistics

Science:

Physical Science

Earth Science\*

Biology 1, Biology 2\*, Applied Biology 1, 2\*

Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2\*, Chemistry for the Technologies

Physics, Physics for the Technologies 1, 2\*

Social Studies:

U.S. History and Constitution

U.S. Government

Economics

World History and World Geography

B. Career Clusters

School districts must use the sixteen clusters for reporting purposes but may modify these clusters (for example, Arts and Humanities in place of Arts, Audio-Video Technology, and Communications). The sixteen state clusters are the same as the sixteen federal clusters:

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

Architecture and Construction

Arts, Audio-Video Technology, and Communications

Business, Management, and Administration

Education and Training

Finance

Government and Public Administration

Health Science

Hospitality and Tourism

Human Services/Family and Consumer Sciences

Information Technology  
Law, Public Safety, and Security  
Manufacturing  
Marketing, Sales, and Service  
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics  
Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

C. Schools must also offer instruction in each of the following areas:

1. Advanced Placement: Schools whose organizational structure includes grades eleven and twelve must offer Advanced Placement courses. (For specific regulations regarding the Advanced Placement program, see R 43-258.1, Advanced Placement.)

2. Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs: Schools must provide age-appropriate instruction regarding the dangers in the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Instruction must emphasize the negative effects that the use of such substances can have on the total community.

3. Career and technology education: Schools must offer CATE courses. Students who plan to complete a CATE program must earn at least four units in an approved sequence of CATE courses leading to a career goal.

4. Driver education: Schools must provide a complete program of driver education, including classroom and behind-the-wheel phases, each semester on an elective basis for eligible students. (For specific regulations regarding driver education, see R 43-242, Driver Training.)

5. Environmental studies: Schools must include environmental studies as a part of their instructional program.

6. Financial literacy: Schools must include financial literacy as a part of the instructional program.

7. Foreign language (modern and classical languages): Schools must offer levels 1 and 2 of at least one modern or classical language. Most state four-year colleges/universities require at least two units of the same modern or classical language for admission.

8. Health education: Schools must have a program of instruction in comprehensive health education. (For specific requirements regarding health education, see R 43-238, Health Education Requirement.)

9. Physical education: Schools must offer a physical education course that meets statutory requirements.

10. Visual and performing arts: Schools must offer courses in the visual and performing arts.

VI. Other Program Requirements

A. Guidance Program

All schools encompassing any combination of grades nine through twelve are required to provide a comprehensive guidance program that is based on grade-specific standards. The standards must address the academic, personal and social, and the career domains. Specifically, students must be provided guidance and career awareness programs and activities that assist them in developing and fulfilling their

individual graduation plans and prepare them for a seamless transition to relevant employment, further training, or postsecondary study.

#### B. Library Media Program

Library media programs and technology resources must be available and accessible to all students and staff and must be appropriate for the accomplishment of the strategies and goals in each school renewal or district strategic plan.

#### C. Length of School Day

1. The instructional day for secondary students must be at least 6 hours, excluding lunch, or the equivalent weekly.

2. Homeroom will not count as part of the instructional day. When no homeroom period is utilized, the administrative time that is used to determine attendance, make announcements, or complete other tasks normally accomplished during homeroom period will not be considered as part of the instructional day.

3. Schools may exercise options and vary the number of minutes in the instructional week, provided that such variation meets statutory requirements and is approved by the local board of trustees.

#### D. Class Size

1. The teacher load must not exceed the maximum of 150 students daily. Class size must not exceed the maximum of 35 students.

2. The above-stated maximums do not apply in the following circumstances:

a. A maximum of 40 students per period with a total teaching load of 240 students daily is permitted for physical education teachers. If physical education and health are taught on alternate days to the same class, the 40-student maximum and 240-student totals are also permitted for health. When health is taught as a separate subject, the teaching load is a maximum of 35 students per period and a total of 150 students per day.

b. Music teachers may teach a maximum of 240 pupils daily. No class may exceed 40 students in membership. However, when band, chorus, or orchestra require rehearsals of the entire membership, any number of students is acceptable if adequate space is available.

c. When a teacher's daily schedule includes a combination of subjects, the maximum daily teaching load will be calculated on the basis of 30 students per academic class and 40 students for each music or physical education class. (Example, 3 classes of math of 30 each = 90 + 2 classes of physical education of 40 each = 80. In this example, the teacher is not overloaded but teaches maximum allowable.)

d. Maximum teacher load requirements and individual class size limits are the same for mini-courses as for any other classes.

## E. Additional Regulatory Requirements

1. Due to federal requirements, all students must take a science course for which an assessment is given.
2. For state accountability purposes, every student must take an end-of-course examination in biology.
3. State Board regulations that contain instructional program requirements are accessible on the SCDE Web site on the “State Board of Education Regulations Table of Contents” page.

## VII. Reporting Requirements

### A. High School Completers

1. Each school issuing the state high school diploma must submit to the State Superintendent of Education on or before May 1 the following data on its previous year’s completers:

(a) the number of the school’s completers who entered the freshman class of a postsecondary institution-either in South Carolina or out of state-and on whom such an institution has sent the school a first-term transcript or summary grade report,

(b) a breakdown of all postsecondary courses that this group of completers passed during their term,

(c) a breakdown of all postsecondary courses that this group failed during their first term,

(d) a breakdown of all postsecondary courses for which this group received a grade of “no credit” during their first term, and

(e) the number of the school’s completers who did not enter a postsecondary institution but who instead chose a postsecondary alternative such as employment or military service or for whom no information is available.

2. Each school must use the official form to submit the required data on its previous year’s completers.

### B. Career and Technology Education Completers

Each district must survey all its high school graduates who are identified as career and technology education completers to determine their placement status with regard to employment, postsecondary education, and military service. A career and technology education completer is a student with an assigned Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code who has earned at least four units of credit in CATE courses leading to a career goal.

The district must conduct the survey ten months after graduation each year and must submit the results annually to the SCDE for the purpose of federal and state accountability requirements.

### C. Student Records

1. Each school must have an appropriate means of reporting academic achievement to parents.

2. Each school district must maintain accurate student data according to the pupil accounting system prescribed by the SCDE .

3. Each school district must file a record of all dropouts that specifies for every student the name of the school in which he or she was enrolled and gives the following information on the student: his or her name, grade, race, sex, date of birth, free/reduced meals status, English proficiency status, and migrant status.

4. Each district superintendent must verify the accuracy of the student enrollment, attendance, membership by category, and dropout reports submitted to the SCDE's Office of Finance.

5. Each school must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act regarding student records (20 U.S.C. Section 1232(g)).

#### D. Course Records for Students

1. Each district superintendent must verify the accuracy of course records for students.

2. The name and code number of every course that each student takes must be entered into the student data collection system active master scheduler at the time the student takes the course. Courses may not be added to the student's course history (transcript) without first being entered into the scheduler.

3. Courses offered in nontraditional settings such as online courses, courses offered in conjunction with a college or technical college (i.e., dual credit), and courses offered by the school through the district, state, or another type of provider must be included in the active master scheduler.

#### VIII. Emergency Closings

Full school days missed because of weather or other unforeseen circumstances must be made up. Three days within a school calendar must be designated as makeup days. A plan to make up days by lengthening the school day by more than one hour must be approved by the SCDE . Early dismissal days must be reported to and approved by the director of the Office of Federal and State Accountability .