# Florida's Guide to Public High School Graduation

## For Students Entering 9th Grade

## in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17



## Hillsborough County Public Schools
### 2016-2017

# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

If you are a high school student or the parent of a high school student in Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS), this guide is for you. It is designed to explain Florida's high school graduation programs. The guide also provides information to help students and their families as they plan and prepare for postsecondary goals, including information on acceleration options and advanced coursework.

HCPS students may choose from one of three options to earn a standard diploma. They are:

- 24-credit program
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) program
- International Baccalaureate (IB)

All of these graduation paths include opportunities to take rigorous academic courses designed to prepare students for their future academic and career choices. All students, regardless of graduation program, must earn a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and achieve passing scores on the required state assessments in order to graduate with a standard diploma (refer to graduation requirements charts).

## Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities

In addition to the 24-credit and the ACCEL 18-credit options, there are two other standard diploma options available only to students with disabilities: academic and employment option and access points option. Refer to graduation requirements charts for more information.

## Diploma Designations

Students who select the 24 credit program may also earn the scholar designation and/or the merit designation on their standard high school diploma. Refer to graduation requirements charts for specific requirements.

## Seal of Biliteracy Program

The Seal of Biliteracy is the attainment of a high level of competency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in one or more world languages in addition to English, which will be noted on a high school graduate's diploma and transcripts as either a Gold Seal of Biliteracy (highest level of competency) or a Silver Seal of Biliteracy (second-highest level of competency), awarded by the Commissioner of Education to high school graduates meeting the requirements.

Requirements for earning the Seal of Biliteracy:

(a)     Earning four world language course credits in the same world language with a cumulative 3.0 grade point average or higher on a 4.0 scale,

(b)     Achieving a qualifying score on a world language assessment, or

(c)     Satisfying alternative requirements as determined by the State Board of Education

# ACCELERATION PROGRAMS AND ADVANCED COURSEWORK

Studies show that students who complete a solid academic program in high school, including advanced courses, are more likely to be successful in college. Students in all graduation programs are encouraged to take advantage of advanced course offerings and acceleration programs, such as dual enrollment, early admission, the Advanced Placement Program, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and Hillsborough Virtual School. These programs are available to all qualified students, no matter which graduation program they choose. For more information, contact your child's school counselor.

## ADULT EDUCATION

Many school districts let high school students take courses through their adult education program. Credits earned may be applied to requirements for high school graduation, subject to the local school board's policies. See your school counselor for more information.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM

The College Board's AP Program is a nationwide program consisting of more than 30 college-level courses and exams offered at participating high schools. Subjects range from art to statistics. Students who earn a qualifying grade of three or above on an AP exam may earn college credit, or AP credit, or both, depending on the college or university. Students in Florida's public secondary schools enrolled in AP courses do not have to pay to take the exams. For information, visit www.collegeboard.org

## CREDIT ACCELERATION PROGRAM (CAP)

CAP allows a secondary student to earn high school credit if the student earns a specified score on the corresponding standardized EOC assessment, AP exam, and/or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam. For more information, contact the school counselor.

## DUAL ENROLLMENT AND EARLY ADMISSION

These programs allow eligible high school students to enroll in postsecondary courses. They earn credit toward high school graduation and, at the same time, earn credit toward a college degree or technical certificate. All 28 Florida colleges and some of the state universities participate in dual enrollment. Students are permitted to take dual enrollment courses on a part-time basis during school hours, after school, or during the summer term. Dual enrollment students do not have to pay registration, matriculation, or laboratory fees. In addition, textbooks for dual enrollment are provided to students free of charge. Dual enrollment courses will be weighted the same as courses taught through other acceleration mechanisms. Students should be aware that grades received through dual enrollment at Florida colleges and universities become part of the permanent postsecondary record. State universities will not admit a student who has less than a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Students must have prior approval from their school before enrolling in any off campus dual enrollment course. The steps to apply for dual enrollment and early admission at Hillsborough Community College (HCC) and the University of South Florida (USF) are posted on the colleges' respective websites: www.hccfl.edu/dualenrollment or www.honors.usf.edu (click on prospective students)

Note: Since the Florida College System is the primary agency for dual enrollment, only courses not offered at the student's local state or community college will be approved for dual enrollment at USF.

It is the student's responsibility to submit all of the required paperwork before the deadline published on the HCC and USF websites. Additional information can be found in the HCPS Student Handbook and Student Progression Plan.

## HILLSBOROUGH VIRTUAL SCHOOL (HVS)

HVS offers full-time enrollment and co-enrollment for HCPS students. For more information visit: www.sdhc.k12.fl.us
(search HVS)

## INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION

Industry Certification provides students who take a concentrated career and technical education program with an opportunity to earn a guaranteed number of college credits in the Florida College System. A list of Industry Certification programs aligned to Associate in Applied Science (AAS)/Associate in Science (AS) degrees can be viewed at:
www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/artic_indcert2aas.asp

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA PROGRAM

The IB Diploma Program is a rigorous pre-university course of study leading to internationally standardized tests. The program's comprehensive two-year curriculum allows its graduates to fulfill requirements of many different nations' education systems. Students completing IB courses and exams from six subject groups are eligible for college credit. The award of credit is based on scores achieved on IB exams. Students can earn up to 30 postsecondary semester credits by participating in this program at the high school level. Approximately 56 Florida high schools offer an IB Diploma Program. Students in Florida's public secondary schools enrolled in IB courses do not have to pay to take the exams. For information, visit www.ibo.org.

# Hillsborough County Public Schools
## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
### STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE IN THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

| | 24 CREDIT PROGRAM STANDARD DIPLOMA | SCHOLAR DESIGNATION (In Addition to 24 Credit Standard Diploma Requirements) |
|---|---|---|
| **English** | **4 required** English I, II, II, IV | |
| **Mathematics** | **4 required** Including [1]Algebra I or its equivalent and [2]Geometry <br> • Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra I and Geometry). | 1 credit in Algebra II <br> 1 credit in Statistics or equally rigorous mathematics course |
| **Science** | **3 required** Including [3]Biology I and two credits in equally rigorous science courses <br> Two credits must have a laboratory component. <br> • An industry certification that leads to college credit substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I). <br> • An identified rigorous Computer Science course with a related industry certification substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I). | Pass Biology I End of Course (EOC) exam✓ <br> 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics <br> 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics |
| **Social Studies** | **3 required** World History, [4]United States History, United States Government (.50 credit), and Economics with Financial Literacy (.50 credit) | Pass United States History EOC ✓ |
| **Fine Arts** | **1 required** In Fine or Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or approved Practical Arts course | |
| **Physical Education** | **1 required** HOPE | |
| **World Language** | Not required for graduation, but at least two credits in the same language are required for admission into four year colleges and universities. | Two credits in the same world language |
| **Electives** | **8 required** Elective credit details for Bright Futures Scholarships, go to www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org. | |
| **Online/Virtual Course** | At least one course within the 24 credits required must be completed through online learning. | |
| **Minimum Graduation Credit Requirement** | **24 credits** | **24 Credits** One credit must be in Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, or International Baccalaureate. |
| **ACCEL OPTION (18 CREDIT)** | Three elective credits instead of eight; Physical Education is not required; Online/Virtual Course not required. <br> All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per Florida Statutes). | |
| **Merit Designation** | In addition to 24-credit standard diploma requirements, students pursuing merit designation must attain one or more industry certifications from the state approved list. | |
| **Seal of Biliteracy** | The attainment of a high level of competency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more world languages in addition to English. | |
| **Assessment** | Must pass Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) assessment (or earn concordant ACT or SAT score) and [1]Algebra 1 (EOC) exam (or earn PERT comparative score). | |
| **GPA** | 2.0 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted state GPA) | |
| **GPA Bonus Points** | .04 Points per .50 honors credit (final grade must be C or above) <br> .08 Points for dual enrollment and AP per .50 credit (final grade must be C or above) | |

**Graduation requirements for students with disabilities:** In addition to the 24-credit and the ACCEL 18-credit options above; there are two other standard diploma options available only to students with disabilities: academic and employment option and access points option. Both require the 24 credits listed in the chart and both allow students to substitute a career and technical (CTE) course with related content for one credit in ELA IV, mathematics, science, and social studies (excluding Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, and United States History). Students who choose the academic and employment option must earn at least .50 credit via paid employment (counts as .50 elective credit). Students with significant cognitive disabilities may earn credits via access courses and assessed via an alternate assessment. See "Standard Diploma for Students with Disabilities served Through Access Points and Alternately Assessed" for additional information. Certain students may earn a special diploma.

Students <u>enrolled</u> in [1]Algebra 1, [2]Geometry, Algebra II, [3]Biology, and/or [4]United States History must take the respective EOC exam, and it will constitute 30% of the student's final grade. Special Note: Thirty percent not applicable if enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry, and/or Algebra II in the 2014-2015 school year.

✓ A student is exempt from Biology I or United States History assessment if enrolled in AP, IB, or AICE Biology I or United States History course and takes the respective AP, IB, or AICE assessment and earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

# Hillsborough County Public Schools
# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
## STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE IN THE 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

| | 24 CREDIT PROGRAM<br>STANDARD DIPLOMA | SCHOLAR DESIGNATION<br>(In Addition to the 24 Credit Standard Diploma Requirements) |
|---|---|---|
| **English** | **4 required**　　English I, II, III, IV | |
| **Mathematics** | **4 required**<br>Including [1]Algebra I or its equivalent and [2]Geometry<br>• Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra I and Geometry). | 1 credit in Algebra II must pass End of Course (EOC) exam<br>1 credit in Statistics or equally rigorous mathematics course<br>Pass Geometry EOC |
| **Science** | **3 required**<br>Including [3]Biology I and two credits in equally rigorous science courses<br>Two credits must have a laboratory component.<br>• An industry certification that leads to college credit substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I).<br>• An identified rigorous Computer Science course with a related industry certification substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I). | Pass Biology I EOC ✓<br>1 credit in Chemistry or Physics<br>1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics |
| **Social Studies** | **3 required**<br>World History, [4]United States History, United States Government (.50 credit), and Economics with Financial Literacy (.50 credit) | Pass United States History EOC ✓ |
| **Fine Arts** | **1 required**<br>In Fine or Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or approved Practical Arts course | |
| **Physical Education** | **1 required**　　HOPE | |
| **World Language** | Not required for graduation, but at least two credits in the same language are required for admission into four year colleges and universities. | Two credits in the same world language |
| **Electives** | **8 required**<br>Elective credit details for Bright Futures Scholarships, go to www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org. | |
| **Online/Virtual Course** | At least one course within the 24 credits required must be completed through online learning. | |
| **Minimum Graduation Credit Requirement** | **24 credits** | **24 Credits**<br>One credit must be in Advanced Placement, AICE, dual enrollment, or International Baccalaureate. |
| **ACCEL OPTION (18 CREDIT)** | Three elective credits instead of eight; Physical Education is not required; Online/Virtual Course not required.<br>All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per Florida Statutes). | |
| **Merit Designation** | In addition to the 24 credit standard diploma requirements, students pursuing merit designation must attain one or more industry certifications from the state approved list. | |
| **Seal of Biliteracy** | The attainment of a high level of competency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more world languages in addition to English. | |
| **Assessment** | Must pass Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) assessment (or earn concordant ACT or SAT score) and [1]Algebra I EOC exam (or earn PERT comparative score). | |
| **GPA** | 2.0 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted state GPA) | |
| **GPA Bonus Points** | .04 Points per .50 honors credit (final grade must be C or above)<br>.08 Points for Dual Enrollment and AP per .50 credit (final grade must be C or above) | |

**Graduation requirements for students with disabilities:** In addition to the 24-credit and the ACCEL 18-credit options above; there are two other standard diploma options available only to students with disabilities: academic and employment option and access points option. Both require the 24 credits listed in the chart and both allow students to substitute a career and technical (CTE) course with related content for one credit in ELA IV, mathematics, science, and social studies (excluding Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, and United States History). Students who choose the academic and employment option must earn at least .50 credit via paid employment (counts as .50 elective credit). Students with significant cognitive disabilities may earn credits via access courses and assessed via an alternate assessment. See "Standard Diploma for Students with Disabilities served Through Access Points and Alternately Assessed" for additional information.

Students underlined enrolled in [1]Algebra I, [2]Geometry, Algebra II, [3]Biology, and/or [4]United States History must take the respective EOC exam, and it will constitute 30% of the student's final grade. Special Note: Thirty percent not applicable if enrolled in Algebra I, Geometry, and/or Algebra II in the 2014-2015 school year.

✓ A student is exempt from Biology I or United States History assessment if enrolled in AP, IB, or AICE Biology I or United States History course and takes the respective AP, IB, or AICE assessment and earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

| | Hillsborough County Public Schools<br>**24 CREDIT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SERVED THROUGH ACCESS POINTS AND ON ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT STANDARD DIPLOMA** |
|---|---|
| | **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**<br>**AVAILABLE ONLY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** |
| **English** | **4 required**    Access English I, II, III, IV<br>• An applied Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that has content related to English Language Arts may substitute for Access English IV. |
| **Mathematics** | **4 required**<br>Including Access Algebra IA and Access Algebra IB or Access Algebra I, and Access Geometry<br>• An applied CTE course that has content related to mathematics may substitute for one mathematics credit, with the exception of Access Algebra IA, Access Algebra IB, Access Algebra I and Access Geometry.<br>Students may be eligible to waive the Access Algebra I End of Course (EOC) exam and the Access Geometry EOC. ✶ |
| **Science** | **3 required**<br>Including Access Biology I<br>• At least two courses must have a laboratory component.<br>• An applied CTE course that has content related to science, and industry certification, or an identified computer science course with a related industry certification may substitute for up to one science credit, with the exception of Access of Biology I.<br>Students may be eligible to waive the Access Biology EOC. ✶ |
| **Social Studies** | **3 required**<br>Access World History, Access United States History, Access United States Government (.50 credit), and Access Economics with Financial Literacy (.50 credit)<br>• An applied CTE course that has content related to social studies may substitute for up to one social studies credit with the exception of Access United States History.<br>Students may be eligible to waive the Access United States History EOC. ✶ |
| **Fine Arts** | **1 required**<br>In Fine or Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or approved Practical Arts course |
| **Physical Education** | **1 required**    Access HOPE |
| **Electives** | **8 required** |
| **Online/Virtual Course** | At least one course within the 24 credits required must be completed through online learning.  Some online learning opportunities are available and additional opportunities through FLDOE are forthcoming.  The IEP team can determine that an online course is not appropriate. |
| **Minimum Graduation Credit Requirement** | **24 credits** |
| **Assessment** | • A score of at least four (4) on the Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA) in reading and math must be attained, until replaced by the grade 10 English Language Arts alternate assessment and the EOC for Access Algebra I, unless assessment results are waived in accordance with Section 1008.22(3), F.S., must be approved by the parents and is subject to verification for appropriateness by an independent reviewer selected by the parents as provided for in Section 1003.572, F.S. ✶<br>• For those students whose performance on standardized assessments are waived by the IEP team as approved by the parent, the development of a graduation portfolio of quantifiable evidence of achievement is required.<br>• The portfolio must include a listing of courses the student has taken, grades received, student work samples and other materials that demonstrate growth, improvement, and mastery of required course standards, Multi-media portfolios that contain electronic evidence of progress, including videos and audio recordings, are permissible. Community based instruction, MOCPs, work experience, internships, community service, and postsecondary credit, if any, must be documented in the portfolio. |
| **GPA** | 2.0 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted state GPA) |

✶ End of Course (EOC) Exams for Access Courses will be administered during the 2015-2016 school year and thereafter. The Florida Standards Alternate Assessments will also be administered as appropriate.

• *All other standard diploma options are available to Students with Disabilities.*
• *Available for all cohorts as of the 2014-2015 school year and thereafter as specified in Senate Bill 850.*

# POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN CHOOSING A GRADUATION PROGRAM

The right graduation program for a particular student is the one that best fits the abilities, interests, and goals of that individual student. Families should consider the educational benefits of each program and choose the one that will best prepare the student for his/her postsecondary education or career plan. Here are some things that students and families should consider:

- ✓ What is the student's postsecondary education and/or career goal?

- ✓ Are three electives enough, or is the student interested in taking additional courses to explore his/her interests?

- ✓ Can the student meet admissions requirements for postsecondary education institutions of his/her choice by choosing the ACCEL program?

- ✓ Is the student going to compete for scholarships that require certain academic core courses, community service experiences, demonstrated leadership skills, or participation in extracurricular activities?

- ✓ Is the student planning to play college level sports and if so will the student meet the NCAA course eligibility requirements?

- ✓ Students who plan to apply to an out-of-state or private in-state college or university and who are interested in the ACCEL program should contact those institutions as early as possible for specific admissions requirements.

- ✓ Students who choose the ACCEL program may still qualify for acceleration programs and for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship if they meet the eligibility and/or admissions requirements for those programs and scholarships.

Families and students are encouraged to contact the school counselor or college and career counselor at the student's school for more information about graduation programs, financial aid opportunities, accelerated programs, and college or career plans. Students and parents are also encouraged to continue to discuss their plans with the school counselor on a regular basis during the middle school and high school years. Students need to be interested and involved in their academic progress and in planning for their future in order to ensure that they will be prepared to achieve their postsecondary goals.

# RESOURCES

**Hillsborough County Public Schools Official Website:** www.sdhc.k12.fl.us
Numerous helpful resources are posted on the district website including: graduation requirement charts (in English and Spanish), links to individual school websites, Student Handbook, Student Progression Plan, etc.

**mySPOT**
mySPOT, the (S)tudent (P)arent (O)nline (T)oolkit is a web based, central location for useful HCPS resources. Edbsy, myPaymentPlus, and the annual school calendar are just some of the links you'll find when connected to the mySPOT portal. If you are an Edsby user, your username and password will also log you in to mySPOT. If you do not have an account, registration is simple. Visit https://myspot.sdhc.k12.fl.us/public/login/

**Edsby Online Gradebook**
Communication is the key to ensure a student's success and Edsby provides the perfect way to facilitate that communication. Edbsy, the district's online gradebook, keeps parents engaged by connecting them to teachers, classroom assignments and grades. Visit www.sdhc.edsby.com/

**State University System and Florida College System Admission Requirements**
For more information on Florida public universities, visit www.flbog.org
For more information on Florida colleges, visit www.fldoe.org/fcs

**College Admissions Tests**
ACT: www.actstudent.org                    SAT: www.collegeboard.org

**Florida Bright Futures Scholarships**
The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship is a lottery-funded scholarship program for Florida high school graduates who enroll in a degree program, certificate program, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution. For more information, visit www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/

**FloridaShines**
FloridaShines is Florida's student hub of innovative educational services, including high school academic progress evaluations, Bright Futures status, and MyCareerShines. MyCareerShines is a comprehensive education and career planning system that helps students discover options and opportunities for their future and gain access to information and tools to help them achieve their goals. Visit: www.floridashines.org

**Florida End of Course (EOC) Assessments**
Computer-based, criterion-referenced assessments for specific high school level courses. For information about what is on the assessments, taking the assessments, and frequently asked questions and answers, visit www.fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/.

**Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)**
OSFA administers state-funded and some federally funded grants and scholarship programs to assist students with the costs of postsecondary education. For information, visit www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org or call toll-free (888) 827-2004.

**Federal Student Aid**
Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov for free information from the U.S. Department of Education on preparing for and funding education beyond high school.

**Talented 20 Program**
Students in the top 20 percent of their graduating class have guaranteed admission, within space and fiscal limitations, into one of Florida's 12 state universities. Please note that while eligible students are guaranteed admission, they may not necessarily be admitted to the campus of choice. These students are given priority for the awarding of funds from the Florida Student Assistance Grant Program although this program provides no scholarships. For more information, visit: www.fldoe.org/Talented20/