

Academic Advisement

Students Entering Grade 9 Prior to 2023-2024

What Students and Parents Need to Know

What options lead to a standard diploma?

Successful completion of one of the following options:

- 26 credits (Sarasota County Schools- two additional electives)
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL)

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway (See section [s.]

[1003.4282](#), Florida Statutes [F.S.]

What are the state assessment requirements?

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) or a concordant score
- Algebra 1 end-of-course (EOC) or a comparative score

A waiver of assessment results is granted by the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) team for students with disabilities. Additionally, students who have been enrolled in an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program for less than two years may meet the requirement for grade 10 ELA by satisfactorily demonstrating grade level expectations of formative assessments.

Refer to [Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments](#) for concordant and comparative scores.

Students enrolled in the following courses must participate in the corresponding EOC assessment, which constitutes 30 percent of the final course grade*:

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Biology
- U.S. History

*Special note: Thirty percent not applicable if not enrolled in the course but passed the EOC (Credit Acceleration Program [CAP]). (See s. [1008.22](#), F.S.)

What is the difference between the 18-credit ACCEL option and the 24-credit option?

- 3 elective credits instead of 8
- Physical Education is not required

What is the difference between the CTE Pathway option and the 24-credit option?

- At least 18 credits are required
- 4 elective credits instead of 8
 - 2 credits in CTE courses, must result in a program completion and industry certification
 - 1.5 credits in work-based learning programs; Physical Education is not required
- Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, CTE or Practical Arts is not required

24-Credit Standard Diploma Requirements

Available To All Students, Including Students With Disabilities

4 Credits ELA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA 1, 2, 3, 4 • ELA honors, Advanced Placement (AP), AICE, IB and dual enrollment may satisfy this requirement
4 Credits Mathematics*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of which must be Algebra 1 and one of which must be Geometry • Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra 1 and Geometry) ** • An identified computer science*** credit may substitute for up to one mathematics credit (except for Algebra 1 and Geometry)
3 Credits Science*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of which must be Biology, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses • Two of the three required course credits must have a laboratory component • Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology)** • An identified computer science*** credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology)
3 Credits Social Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 credit in World History • 1 credit in U.S. History • 0.5 credit in U.S. Government • 0.5 credit in Economics
1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, Career and Technical Education, or Practical Arts*
1 Credit Physical Education*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include the integration of health
8 Elective Credits
Students must earn a 2.0 unweighted grade-point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale for all cohort years and pass statewide, standardized assessments.

*Eligible courses are specified in the Florida Course Code Directory.

**Industry certifications for which there is a statewide college credit articulation agreement approved by the State Board of Education may substitute for mathematics and science credit.

***A computer science credit may not be used to substitute for both a mathematics and science credit.

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Scholar Diploma Designation

In addition to the requirements of s. [1003.4282](#), F.S., a student must satisfy the following requirements:

- Earn 1 credit in Algebra 2 or an equally rigorous course
- Pass the Geometry EOC
- Earn 1 credit in Statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course
- Pass the Biology 1 EOC++
- Earn 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics
- Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics
- Pass the U.S. History EOC++
- Earn 2 credits in the same World Language
- Earn at least 1 credit in an AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course

**Special note: A student is exempt from the Biology 1 or U.S. History EOC assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB, or AICE Biology 1 or U.S. History course; takes the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment; and earns the minimum college credit.

Industry Scholar Diploma Designation

- Meet standard high school diploma requirements
- Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)

What is CAP?

The CAP allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes an AP examination, a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include:

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Biology
- U.S. History

What are the additional graduation options for students with disabilities?

Students, in collaboration with parents and the IEP team, may choose two additional standard diploma options available only to students with disabilities. Both allow students to substitute a CTE course with related content for one credit in ELA 4, mathematics, science and social studies (excluding Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1 and U.S. History). The two options are as follows:

- Students with a most significant cognitive disability may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.
- Students enrolled in the academic and employment option must earn at least 0.5 credit via paid employment in addition to meeting the standard diploma graduation requirements.

State University System

Admission into Florida's [State University System](#) (SUS) institutions is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous course of study in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first-time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements (credit earned by industry certification does not count for SUS admission):

- High school graduation with a standard diploma, a minimum of a 2.5 GPA and admission test scores meeting minimum college-ready test scores per Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 6.008
- 16 credits of approved college preparatory academic courses per BOG Regulation 6.002
- 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 4 Mathematics (Algebra 1 level and higher)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language or other equivalents)
- 2 approved electives

Florida College System

The 28 colleges of the [Florida College System](#) serve more than 650,000 students. Colleges offer affordable and stackable workforce credentials including certificate programs, associate in science degrees and associate in arts degrees, which transfer to a bachelor's degree program. All colleges also offer workforce bachelor's degree programs in areas of high demand. All Florida College System institutions have open-door admissions for students who earned a standard high school diploma or an equivalent diploma, or earned college credit.

Career and Technical Colleges and Centers

Florida also offers students 49 accredited career and technical colleges or centers throughout the state, which provide the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. Programs are flexible for students and provide industry-specific education and training for a wide variety of occupations.

[Career, Adult and Technical Education District Postsecondary Institutions](#)

Where is information on financial aid located?

The Florida Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships.

[Office of Student Financial Assistance](#)

For more detailed information on Graduation Requirements visit the Florida Department of Education's webpage at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/sss/graduation-requirements/>.