



# Chicago Public Schools

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Your high school education will open the door to countless possibilities in post-secondary education and the workforce. You will learn academics as well as marketable, practical skills. Your core courses will emphasize the fundamental subject areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science. Other courses available for you to take include World Language, Art, Music, Drafting, Physical Education/Health and ROTC. You will also have an opportunity to experience and explore a program of career development in preparation for the numerous career, education and training choices available to you. Please work with your high school counselor to ensure that all required courses are completed prior to graduation.

You are encouraged to strive for high levels of achievement, which will pave the way for continued success throughout your high school years. We wish you successful completion of all high school graduation requirements. Best of luck!

| REQUIRED COURSES   | DESCRIPTION   | UNITS REQUIRED |
|--|---|----------------|
| <b>Credit Bearing Requirements</b>                         |   |                |
| <b>English</b>   | English I, English II, English III, English IV.   | 4 credits      |
| <b>Mathematics</b>   | Algebra, Geometry, Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry. (Students successfully completing Algebra and/or Geometry prior to entering high school will follow an appropriate three-year math sequence.) | 3 credits      |
| <b>Science</b>   | Biology and 2 years of Laboratory Science, which must include Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Environmental Science, or Physics.  | 3 credits      |
| <b>Social Science</b>                                      | World Studies, United States History, and one other Social Science course.  | 3 credits      |
| <b>World Language</b>                                      | Two years of the same world language.   | 2 credits      |
| <b>Fine Arts</b>   | One year of Music and one year of Art or Drafting.  | 2 credits      |
| <b>Physical Education</b>                                  | One year of Physical Education I/Health or ROTC I/Health and Physical Education II/Drivers Education or ROTC II/Drivers Education in 9th and 10th grades.                                       | 2 credits      |
| <b>Career Education/ROTC/<br/>Advanced Academic Option</b> | CTE programs, advanced academic/fine arts options or ROTC III, ROTC IV.   | 2 credits      |
| <b>Electives</b>   | Selection of an additional three courses not already listed above.  | 3 credits      |
| <b>Total Credits Required</b>                              | Students must earn a minimum of 24 credits as described above to earn a diploma from the Chicago Public Schools.  |                |
| <b>Non-Credit Bearing Requirements</b>                     |   |                |
| <b>Service Learning</b>                                    | Forty hours of approved Service-Learning activities including at least one classroom-based project. Twenty hours must be completed by the end of tenth grade.                                   |                |
| <b>Consumer Education</b>                                  | Complete a course integrating consumer education curriculum.  |                |
| <b>Public Law 195</b>                                      | Demonstrate knowledge of U.S. and Illinois constitutions as part of subject-area curricula and/or Constitution test.  |                |
| <b>PSAE</b>  | Public Act 93857 requires students to take the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) as a condition for receiving a regular high school diploma.   |                |



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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS** — If you are an English Language Learner (ELL), you will learn English through English as a Second Language (ESL) course offerings that are aligned to academic standards in the core courses. Please note that ESL I, II, III and Transitional English classes satisfy the four years of English required for graduation. Your English language proficiency level will determine your placement in the ESL sequence. If you are enrolled in a Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) program, you will also receive native language instruction in the other subject areas according to your English language proficiency level.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS** — If you are receiving special education services, your curriculum may be modified based upon your Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in consultation with your parents and teachers.

Here is a sample of what your schedule might look like in high school. Please note that this is just a general example and your actual schedule may look different than the one shown here. Individual schools have the flexibility to make schedule adjustments to better serve its students and accommodate for various programs.

| <b>SAMPLE GENERAL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SCHEDULE</b> |   |   |                                   |                             |                |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Subject Area                                      | Freshman Year                                 | Sophomore Year  | Junior Year                       | Senior Year                 | Credits Earned |
| <b>English</b>                                    | English I                                     | English II  | English III                       | English IV                  | 4              |
| <b>Mathematics</b>                                | Algebra                                       | Geometry  | Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry |                             | 3              |
| <b>Science</b>                                    | Biology                                       | Lab Science   | Lab Science                       |                             | 3              |
| <b>Social Science</b>                             | World Studies                                 | United States History   |                                   | Third Social Science Course | 3              |
| <b>World Language</b>                             |   | World Language Year I   | World Language Year II            |                             | 2              |
| <b>Fine Arts</b>                                  | Art or Music                                  |   | Music or Art                      |                             | 2              |
| <b>Career Education</b>                           |   |   | Career Education or ROTC          | Career Education or ROTC    | 2              |
| <b>Physical Education</b>                         | Physical Education I<br>Health or ROTC/Health | Physical Education II/Drivers Education<br>or ROTC II/Drivers Education |                                   |                             | 2              |
| <b>Electives</b>                                  |   |   |                                   | Electives (3)               | 3              |