

## Georgia's New Graduation Requirements

In September 2007, the State Board of Education passed a new set of graduation requirements that will assure Georgia's high school students graduate college and work ready.

The rule was revised in conjunction with the implementation of the new Georgia Performance Standards in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies as well as electives. The new curriculum and the new graduation requirements will help students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college and the workplace.

All students will be required to complete a total of 23 units for graduation. All students will take:

- 4 units of English
- 4 units of Science
- 4 units of Mathematics
- 3 units of Social Studies
- At least 3 units required from: Foreign Language\* **and/or** CTAE **and/or** Fine Arts for all students
- At least 4 additional electives
- 1 health/physical education course

*\* Students planning to enter or transfer into a University System of Georgia institution must take two units of the same foreign language.*



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## When will the changes go into effect?

The new requirements will go into effect for students enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time in the 2008-2009 school year.

## What are the major changes in the new rule?

Georgia's "tiered" diploma system has been eliminated. Currently, there are four tiers, each with different requirements: College Preparatory, College Preparatory with Distinction, Technology/Career and Technology/Career with Distinction. The new rule has one common set of requirements for all students with various options for meeting those requirements, including advanced courses such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, post-secondary options and career-oriented courses offered under our Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs. It is important that all students – regardless of their post-secondary plans – have a rigorous core of classes.

## Under the new rule, will local school districts be allowed to make decisions regarding graduation requirements?

Yes. The State Board of Education establishes minimum requirements for graduation. Local school districts can establish additional graduation requirements beyond those set by the State Board of Education.



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