

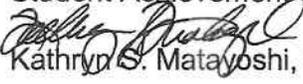


STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 21, 2011

TO: The Honorable Cheryl Kauhane Lupenui, Chairperson
Student Achievement Committee

FROM: 
Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION ON
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4540
"HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND
COMMENCEMENT POLICY"**

1. **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Education (Board) approve the proposed amendments to Board Policy 4540, "High School Graduation Requirements and Commencement Policy" as specified in Attachment A.

2. **RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE**

Upon Board approval.

3. **RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE**

Upon Board approval.

4. **DISCUSSION**

a) Conditions Leading to the Recommendation

The Department of Education (DOE) is committed to the vision of the public school graduate who will:

- Realize their individual goals and aspirations;
- Possess the attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary to contribute positively and competes in a global society;
- Exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and
- Pursue post-secondary education and/or careers.

The recommendation aligns to DOE Strategic Plan Goal 1, "Assure All Students Graduate College- and Career-Ready Through Effective Use of Standard-Based Education." It also supports the implementation of the Common Core State Standards that are:

- aligned with college and work expectations;
- include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order skills;
- built upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- informed by top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and
- evidence and/or research-based.

The diploma strives to eliminate the gaps in proficiency through a rigorous course of study that includes:

- (1) four credits of language arts (including ELA 1 and 2, expository writing or CCSS proficiency-based equivalents);
- (2) three credits of science (including 2 laboratory sciences or new standards proficiency-based equivalents);
- (3) three credits of mathematics (including Alg. 1 and Geometry or an equivalent 2-year integrated course sequence or CCSS proficiency-based equivalents); and
- (4) three credits of Social Studies (including World History, U.S. History, Modern History of Hawaii, or new standards proficiency-based equivalents).

b) Previous Action of the Board on the same or similar matter

On March 6, 2008, the Board of Education amended the BOE Policy 4540, High School Graduation Requirements and Commencement Policy for class of 2013 and beyond.

On April 7, 2011, the Board of Education amended the BOE Policy 4540, High School Graduation Requirements and Commencement Policy for class of 2018.

This recommendation will make further amendments to the graduation requirements for the class of 2018.

c) Other policies affected

None.

d) Arguments in support of the recommendation

First, students will need more knowledge and communication skills to be prepared for the changing global economy based on proficiency determined by college and career standards. The diploma requirements reflect the

implementation and expectations of the Common Core State Standards and the standards being developed for Science and Social Studies. The decrease in the number of credits and core content course credits required for graduation will allow for flexibility in course options and opportunities to demonstrate proficiency. In addition, the department is proposing that the opportunity for "proficiency equivalent" coursework credit be stated explicitly in the policy, to allow continued and robust development of alternatives.

Second, a Memorandum of Agreement signed on October 6, 2009 between the Governor of the State of Hawaii and The Department of Education and The University of Hawaii requires a rigorous high school diploma signifying career and college readiness by 2018. For this reason, the Office of the Governor and the University of Hawaii continue to be involved.

Third, the recommendation is aligned to the DOE's Race To The Top proposal submitted in June 2010 which states "In July 2010, the BOE is scheduled to adopt its "college- and career-ready" high school diploma. . .for students entering high school in 2014. HIDOE and its partners have been working with BOE members and others to help encourage this adoption. Students earning the BOE diploma will. . .be prepared for workforce or college without the need for remediation."

e) Arguments against the recommendation

While graduation requirements ensure rigor and alignment to internationally benchmarked common core standards, it will also require resources to be aligned to support students in the attainment of this diploma. While existing funds and personnel will be used to support students, additional funding and allocation of resources may be needed to provide students every opportunity to achieve this diploma.

Public perception may include lessening credits as meaning lessening expectations. Increased credits do not ensure rigor. Teachers will use the rigorous criteria for course completion and proficiency to determine instruction. These will ensure that students are prepared for college and career.

f) Findings and conclusions of the Board committee

To be determined.

g) Other agencies or departments of the State involved in the action

The Office of School Facilities and Support Services will be involved in the renovation of Science laboratory classrooms.

The Office of the Governor and the University of Hawaii continue to be involved.

- h) Possible reaction of the public, professional organizations, unions, DOE staff and/or others to the recommendation

Business organizations express support for a more rigorous high school diploma which better prepares students for the work force.

Institutes of Higher Education express support for a diploma which requires students to complete course work more closely aligned to the requirements of entry level college course work. Specifically, these institutions support rigorous high school course work in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

There may be negative public reaction from parents and the community to the rigorous requirements of the diploma.

There may be negative reactions from the union due to less credit and possible implications to staffing. Reactions will be garnered through the consult and confer process.

- i) Education implications

Students will possess the attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary to contribute positively and to compete in a global society.

Students will possess competencies aligned to internationally benchmarked common core standards and assessments.

Leaders at the state, complex and school levels will need to develop structures to support student learning and multiple opportunities for demonstrating proficiency.

Leaders at the state, complex and school levels will need to develop systems to develop teacher learning through professional development and data/collaborative teams.

Teachers will need to make adjustments in instruction and assessment practices to meet new requirements and expectations of the new CCSS/new standards.

Counselors will need to assist students in course planning that aligns with their post secondary goals and monitor their progress.

- j) Personnel implications

Change in Social Studies credit requirement from 4.0 to 3.0 credits may negatively impact the number of Social Studies teachers.

Change in elective credit requirement from 5.0 to 7.0 credits may positively impact the number of elective teachers.

k) Financial implications

Other programs (i.e. on-line learning) which will support this proposal are presently being expanded. There are no additional direct cost implications for these types of support programs which are specifically linked to this proposed policy change as the department currently has budgeted for on-line expansion.

Professional Development (PD) for teachers to support successful student learning in rigorous courses will always be needed as curricular changes occur (i.e. Common Core). Present PD resources will be aligned to meet teacher support needs. Additional resources may be required to fully support relevant professional development activities.

5. **OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

None.

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Attachments

c: Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support

Note: This version of Board Policy 4540, High School Graduation Requirements and Commencement, shall take effect School Year 2006-2007, and shall apply to students beginning with the incoming ninth grade class.

4540

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND COMMENCEMENT POLICY

A. Requirements for High School Graduation. The purpose of high school graduation requirements is to establish rigorous standards of learning that will enable all public school students to meet the vision of a Hawaii public school graduate. All Hawaii public school graduates will:

- Realize their individual goals and aspirations;
- Possess the attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary to contribute positively and compete in a global society;
- Exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and
- Pursue post-secondary education and/or careers without need for remediation.

Students who demonstrate proficiency in the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards and General Learner Outcomes in the required courses shall receive a high school diploma. Students who meet additional requirements established by the Board of Education shall receive a Board of Education Recognition Diploma. Proficiency shall be determined in accordance with established Department of Education procedures.

The minimum course and credit requirements to receive a high school graduation diploma and the minimum course and credit requirements to receive a Board of Education Recognition Diploma are:

| Course Requirements | High School Diploma | Board of Education Recognition Diploma |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| English * | 4.0 credits | 4.0 credits |
| Social Studies ** | 4.0 credits | 4.0 credits |
| Mathematics | 3.0 credits | 3.0 credits |
| Science | 3.0 credits | 3.0 credits |
| World Language | 2.0 credits in one of the specified courses | 2.0 credits in one of the specified courses |
| Fine Arts | | |
| Career and Technical Education | | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Senior Project | Not required | 1.0 credit |
| Physical Education *** | 1.0 credit | 1.0 credit |
| Health | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit |
| Personal/Transition Plan | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit |
| Electives | 6.0 credits | 6.0 credits |
| | | |
| Total | 24.0 credits | 25.0 credits |

* English shall include English Language Arts 1 (1.0 credit) and English Language Arts 2 (1.0 credit).

** Social Studies shall include Modern History of Hawaii (0.5 credit) and Participation in a Democracy (0.5 credit).

*** Physical Education shall include required Physical Education (0.5 credit) and a required Physical Education elective (0.5 credit).

A Board of Education Recognition Diploma shall be issued to students who meet the course and credit requirements and attain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.

High school diplomas may be granted to 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds who have qualified for graduation through adult schools.

The graduation requirements for students with disabilities shall be determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

B. Commencement Exercises. Commencement exercises may be scheduled any time after the last day of school for seniors. The last day of school for seniors shall be set by the Department of Education. Students shall be permitted to participate in commencement exercises if they: (1) meet the requirements for a diploma or a certificate; (2) have fulfilled their financial obligations; and (3) meet other conditions, established by the Department of Education, which meet the standards of clarity, reasonableness, and justifiability.

Former Code No. 5127

Approved: 5/47

Amended: 1/59, 6/59, 6/60, 9/60, 2/64, 8/78, 3/88, 3/97, 6/04

Note: This version of Board Policy 4540, High School Graduation Requirements and Commencement, shall take effect School Year 2009-2010, and shall apply to students beginning with the incoming ninth grade class.

4540

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND COMMENCEMENT
POLICY**

A. Requirements for High School Graduation. The purpose of high school graduation requirements is to establish rigorous standards of learning that will enable all public school students to meet the vision of a Hawaii public school graduate. All Hawaii public school graduates will:

- Realize their individual goals and aspirations;
- Possess the attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary to contribute positively and compete in a global society;
- Exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and
- Pursue post-secondary education and/or careers without need for remediation.

Students who demonstrate proficiency in the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards and General Learner Outcomes in the required courses shall receive a high school diploma. Students who meet additional requirements established by the Board of Education shall receive a Board of Education Recognition Diploma. Students who meet additional requirements established by the Board of Education and attain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher shall receive a Board of Education Recognition Diploma with Honors. Proficiency shall be determined in accordance with established Department of Education procedures.

The minimum course and credit requirements to receive a high school graduation diploma, the minimum course and credit requirements to receive a Board of Education Recognition Diploma, and the minimum course and credit requirements to receive a Board of Education Recognition Diploma with Honors are:

| Course Requirements | High School Diploma | Board of Education Recognition Diploma (Voluntary) | Board of Education Recognition Diploma with Honors (Voluntary) |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| English | 4.0 credits including English Language Arts 1 (1 credit) and ELA 2 (1 credit) | 4.0 credits English Language Arts 1 (1 credit), English Language Arts 2 (1 credit), and Expository Writing | 4.0 credits English Language Arts 1 (1 credit), English Language Arts 2 (1 credit), and Expository Writing |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | (0.5 credit) | (0.5 credit) |
| Social Studies | 4.0 credits including Modern History of Hawaii (0.5 credit) and Participation in a Democracy (0.5 credit) | 4.0 credits including Modern History of Hawaii (0.5 credit) and Participation in a Democracy (0.5 credit) | 4.0 credits including Modern History of Hawaii (0.5 credit) and Participation in a Democracy (0.5 credit) |
| Mathematics | 3.0 credits | 4.0 credits including Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II or the equivalent | 4.0 credits including, as a minimum, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II or the equivalent |
| Science | 3.0 credits | 3.0 credits including 2.0 credits in Biology, Chemistry, and/or Physics | 3.0 credits including 2.0 credits in Biology, Chemistry, and/or Physics |
| World Language | 2.0 credits in one of the specified courses | 2.0 credits in one of the specified courses | 2.0 credits in one of the specified courses |
| Fine Arts | | | |
| Career and Technical Education | | | |
| Senior Project | Not required | 1.0 credit | 1.0 credit |
| Physical Education | 1.0 credit including required Physical Education (0.5 credit) and required Physical Education elective (0.5 credit) | 1.0 credit including required Physical Education (0.5 credit) and required Physical Education elective (0.5 credit) | 1.0 credit including required Physical Education (0.5 credit) and required Physical Education elective (0.5 credit) |
| Health | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit |
| Personal/Transition Plan | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit |
| Electives | 6.0 credits | 5.0 credits | 5.0 credits |
| | | | |
| Total | 24.0 credits | 25.0 credits | 25.0 credits |
| Other | | Meet standard on Algebra II End of Course Exam | Meet standard on Algebra II End of Course Exam <u>and</u> |

| | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | | cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher |
|--|--|------------------------------------|

A Board of Education Recognition Diploma shall be issued to students who meet the course and credit requirements.

A Board of Education Recognition Diploma with Honors shall be issued to students who meet the course and credit requirements and attain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.

High school diplomas may be granted to 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds who have qualified for graduation through adult schools.

Note: This version of Board Policy 4540, High School Graduation Requirements and Commencement, shall take affect School Year 2011-2012, and shall apply to students beginning with the incoming sixth grade class.

4540

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND COMMENCEMENT POLICY

A. Requirements for High School Graduation. The purpose of high school graduation requirements is to establish rigorous standards of learning that will enable all public school students to meet the vision of a Hawaii public school graduate. All Hawaii public school graduates will:

- Realize their individual goals and aspirations;
- Possess the attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary to contribute positively and compete in a global society;
- Exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and
- Pursue post-secondary education and/or careers.

Students who demonstrate proficiency in the State Standards and General Learner Outcomes in the required courses or proficiency based equivalents shall receive a Hawaii High School Diploma. Proficiency shall be determined in accordance with established Department of Education procedures.

The minimum course and credit requirements to receive a high school graduation diploma are:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Course Requirements | Hawaii High School Diploma |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|

| | |
|--|---|
| English | 4.0 credits including English Language Arts 1 (1 credit), English Language Arts 2 (1 credit), and Expository Writing (0.5 credit or CCSS *proficiency based equivalents |
| Social Studies | 3.0 credits including World history (1.0 credit), U.S. History (1.0 credit), Modern History of Hawaii (0.5 credit) or new standards *proficiency based equivalents |
| Mathematics** | 3.0 credits including Algebra 1 and Geometry or an equivalent 2-year integrated course sequence or CCSS *proficiency based equivalents |
| Science | 3.0 credits including(2.0 credits) in laboratory sciences or new standards *proficiency based equivalents |
| World Language Fine Arts Career and Technical Education | 2.0 credits in one of the specified programs of study or *proficiency based equivalents |
| Physical Education | 1.0 credit or *proficiency based equivalent |
| Health | 0.5 credit or *proficiency based equivalent |
| Personal/ Transition Plan | 0.5 credit |
| Electives | 7.0 credits, may include (1.0 elective credit) for Senior Project or *proficiency based equivalents |
| | |
| Total | 24.0 credits |
| Other | |

A Hawaii High School Diploma shall be issued to students who meet the course and credit requirements.

High school diplomas may be granted to 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds who have qualified for graduation through adult schools.

*Criteria for the proficiency based equivalents will be determined by the department based on the proficiency level of the standards.

** A series of courses that satisfy the minimum learning expectations for all students as delineated in the College and Career Readiness Standards that are encompassed by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Mathematics.

The graduation requirements for students with disabilities shall be determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

B. Commencement Exercises. Commencement exercises may be scheduled any time after the last day of school for seniors. The last day of school for seniors shall be set by the Department of Education. Students shall be permitted to participate in commencement exercises if they: (1) meet the requirements for a diploma or a certificate; (2) have fulfilled their financial obligations; and (3) meet other conditions, established by the Department of Education, which meet the standards of clarity, reasonableness, and justifiability.

Former Code No. 5127

Approved: 5/47

Amended: 1/59, 6/59, 6/60, 9/60, 2/64, 8/78, 3/88, 3/97, 6/04, 03/06/08, 6/21/11

Examining Course and Credit Requirements for High School Graduation Per Policy 4540

| Course Requirements | Diploma for Graduating Classes of 2011 and 2012 (Amended 6/2004) | | Diploma for Graduating Classes of 2013 through 2017 (Amended 3/6/2008) | | | Diploma for Graduating Classes of 2018 and Beyond | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| | High School | BOE Recognition | High School | BOE Recognition | BOE Recognition w/ Honors | Hawaii High School Diploma | *Proficiency equivalents |
| English | 4.0 credits including ELA 1 (1 credit) and ELA 2 (1 credit). | 4.0 credits including ELA 1 (1 credit) and ELA 2 (1 credit). | 4.0 credits including ELA 1 (1 credit) and ELA 2 (1 credit). | 4.0 credits including ELA 1 (1 credit), ELA 2 (1 credit), and Expository Writing (0.5 credit) or the equivalent. | 4.0 credits including ELA 1 (1 credit), ELA 2 (1 credit), and Expository Writing (0.5 credit) or the equivalent. | 4.0 credits including English Language Arts 1 (1.0 credit), English Language Arts 2 (1.0 credit), and Expository Writing (0.5 credit) or CCSS proficiency based equivalents | e.g.. Eng. 100 for Expos. writing |
| Social Studies | Same requirement: 4.0 credits, including Mod. Hist. of HI (.5 credit), Part. in Dem. (.5 credit) | | | | | 3.0 credits including World History (1.0 credit), U.S. History (1.0 credit), Modern History of Hawaii (0.5 credit) or new standards proficiency based equivalents | e.g. Research issues/ Developing/ presenting legislation (process that involves more than a capstone) |
| Mathematics | 3.0 credits | 3.0 credits | 3.0 credits | 4.0 credits including, as a minimum, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II or the equivalent. Also, must meet standard on Alg. II EOC Exam. | 4.0 credits Including, as a minimum, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II or the equivalent. Also, must meet standard on Alg. II EOC Exam. | 3.0 credits including Algebra 1 (1.0 credit), Geometry (1.0 credit) or an equivalent 2-year integrated course sequence (2.0 credits) or CCSS proficiency based equivalents | |

| Course Requirements | Diploma for Graduating Classes of 2011 and 2012 (Amended 6/2004) | | Diploma for Graduating Classes of 2013 through 2017 (Amended 3/6/2008) | | | Diploma for Graduating Classes of 2018 and Beyond | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | |
| Science | 3.0 credits | 3.0 credits | 3.0 credits | 3.0 credits including 2.0 credits in Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics. | 3.0 credits including 2.0 credits in Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics. | 3.0 credits including laboratory sciences (2 credits) or new standards proficiency based equivalents | |
| World Lang. Fine Arts Career and Tech. Ed. | 2.0 credits in one of the specified courses | 2.0 credits in one of the specified courses | 2.0 credits in one of the specified courses | 2.0 credits in one of the specified courses | 2.0 credits in one of the specified courses | 2.0 credits in one of the specified programs of study or proficiency based equivalent | |
| Physical Ed. | 1.0 credit | 1.0 credit | 1.0 credit including required P.E. (.5 credit) and required P.E. elective (.5) credit. | 1.0 credit including required P.E. (.5 credit) and required P.E. elective (.5) credit. | 1.0 credit including required P.E. (.5 credit) and required P.E. elective (.5) credit. | 1.0 credit or proficiency based equivalent | |
| Health | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit or proficiency based equivalent | |
| Personal Transition Plan | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit | 0.5 credit or equivalent | |
| Electives | 6.0 credits | 6.0 credits | 6.0 credits | 5.0 credits | 5.0 credits | 7.0 credits, may include Senior Project (1.0 elective credit) or proficiency based equivalents | |
| Senior Project or equivalent | Not required | 1.0 credit | Not required | 1.0 credit | 1.0 credit | Not required | |

*Proficiency equivalents will be developed by the department based on the proficiency level of the standards. Only possibilities have been listed, none have been developed at this time.