

Changes are here

What Every Parent Should Know

1. Tennessee has new graduation requirements for all students.

To earn a regular high school diploma, students must complete new requirements which include four years of math, three lab sciences and a personal finance course. Complete graduation requirements are listed below.

2. Tennessee has updated what students learn in school.

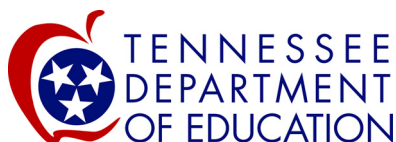
Tennessee's new approach to education provides a more in-depth understanding of important knowledge and skills. This approach includes regular assessments to measure whether each student is on track to graduate and how teachers can help each student achieve that goal.

3. Why change Tennessee schools?

Work and college in today's world require different skills than in the past. Tennessee updated its schools to help all students succeed after high school, whether entering the workforce or continuing their education. Tennessee's school improvement movement is called **The Tennessee Diploma Project**. Visit www.tennessee.gov/education/TDP to learn more.

YOU can help your child achieve. Here's how...

- + Know which courses your child must take
- + Talk to your child regularly about school
- + Encourage your child to get help when needed
- + Know and talk to your child's teachers
- + Praise your child's hard work!



New Graduation Requirements - Class of 2013 and beyond

Math	4 credits including Algebra I and II, Geometry or its equivalent, and a fourth higher-level course
Science	3 credits including Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and a third lab course
English	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Physical Education and Wellness	1.5 credits
Personal Finance	0.5 credits
Foreign Language	2 credits *
Fine Arts	1 credit *
Elective Focus	3 credits
Total Credits	22 credits

* The foreign language and fine arts credits may be waived for students not planning to attend college, however the credits must be used to expand their elective focus of study.

New Assessments - 2009-10 School Year

End of Course Assessments will be administered for 10 high school courses. These exams will count as a percentage of the student's final grade.

English I, II and III
 Geometry
 Biology I
 Physics

Algebra I and II
 U.S. History
 Chemistry

College Readiness Exams will be given to all students in 8th grade and 10th grade to determine whether students are on track to graduate with the knowledge required to succeed after high school. Students in 11th grade must also take either the SAT or ACT.

