

## Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2011-2012 School Year

### What Students and Parents Need to Know

#### What are the diploma options?

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

#### What are the state assessment requirements\*?

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 reading (or ACT/SAT concordant score)
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) if Algebra I is taken after 2010–2011 or a comparative score on the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.)

Students must participate in the following EOC assessments:

- Algebra I (if enrolled after 2010–2011)
- Biology I (if enrolled after 2010–2011)
- Geometry (if enrolled after 2010–2011)
- U.S. History (if enrolled after 2011–2012)

#### What is the credit acceleration program (CAP)?

This program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- U.S. History
- Biology I
- Algebra II



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#### What are the requirements for the 24-credit standard diploma option?

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| <b>4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>4 Credits Mathematics</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of which must be Algebra I and one of which must be Geometry</li> <li>▪ Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra I and Geometry)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>3 Credits Science</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of which must be Biology I, two of which must have a laboratory component</li> <li>▪ An industry certification that leads to college credit substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I)</li> <li>▪ An identified rigorous Computer Science course with a related industry certification substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I)</li> </ul> |
| <b>3 Credits Social Studies</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1 credit in World History<br>1 credit in U.S. History<br>.5 credit in U.S. Government<br>.5 credit in Economics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Eligible courses are specified in the Florida Course Code Directory at<br><a href="http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/default.asp">http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/default.asp</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>1 Credit Physical Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| To include the integration of health                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>8 Elective Credits</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>1 Online Course</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Students must earn a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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

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

All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per section 1003.4282(10)(d)1.-5., Florida Statutes [F.S.]).

## What are the requirements for standard diploma designations?

| Scholar Diploma Designation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <p>In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Earn 1 credit in Algebra II;</li> <li>▪ Earn 1 credit in Statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course;</li> <li>▪ Pass the Biology I EOC;</li> <li>▪ Earn 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics;</li> <li>▪ Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics;</li> <li>▪ Pass the U.S. History EOC;</li> <li>▪ Earn 2 credits in the same World Language; and</li> <li>▪ Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.</li> </ul> <p>A student is exempt from the Biology I or U.S. History assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology I or U.S. History course and the student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Takes the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment; and</li> <li>▪ Earns the minimum score to earn college credit.</li> </ul> |
| Merit Diploma Designation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meet the standard high school diploma requirements</li> <li>▪ Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Can a student who selects the 24-credit program graduate early?

Yes, a student who completes all the 24-credit program requirements for a standard diploma may graduate in fewer than eight semesters.

## Where is information on Bright Futures Scholarships located?

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding to attend a postsecondary institution in Florida. For more information, go to

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>.

## What are the public postsecondary options?

| SUS (State University System)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <p>Admission into Florida's public universities is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous curriculum 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High school graduation with a standard diploma</li> <li>▪ Admission test scores</li> <li>▪ 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses</li> <li>▪ 4 English (3 with substantial writing)</li> <li>▪ 4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)</li> <li>▪ 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)</li> <li>▪ 3 Social Science</li> <li>▪ 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language)</li> <li>▪ 2 approved electives</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.flbog.edu/forstudents/planning">http://www.flbog.edu/forstudents/planning</a></p> |
| The Florida College System                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>Includes 28 state colleges. These institutions offer career-related certificates and two-year associate degrees that prepare students to transfer to a bachelor's degree program or to enter jobs requiring specific skills. Many also offer baccalaureate degrees in high-demand fields. Florida College System institutions have an open door policy. This means that students who have earned a standard high school diploma, have earned a high school equivalency diploma or have demonstrated success in postsecondary coursework will be admitted to an associate degree program.</p> <p><a href="http://www.fldoe.org/fcs">http://www.fldoe.org/fcs</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Career and Technical Centers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>Florida also offers students 46 accredited career and technical 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.</p> <p><a href="http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/pdf/DistrictTechnicalCenterDirectors.pdf">http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/pdf/DistrictTechnicalCenterDirectors.pdf</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Where is information on financial aid located?

The Office of Student Financial Assistance State Programs administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships.

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>

\* Policy adopted in rule by the district school board may require for any cohort of students that performance of a statewide, standardized EOC assessment constitute 30 percent of a student's final course grade