

State Examples of Advanced Opportunities

Currently, 11 states offer state-level advanced opportunities in the form of advanced diploma and endorsement options: Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Advanced diplomas and endorsements are not only available in these states, however: Alabama, for instance, allows districts to create local diploma endorsements. There also are state seals of biliteracy, which are often affixed to high school diplomas and carry specific requirements around language coursework and achievement similar to advanced diplomas and endorsements. Twenty-three states and D.C. currently offer state seals of biliteracy for high school students; the [Seal of Biliteracy website](#) has links and summary information on these state statutes and requirements. Many schools across the country also offer IB diplomas, which are a type of internationally recognized diploma offered at schools implementing the curriculum and program.

Advanced diplomas and endorsements expand upon the requirements for a standard high school diploma, requiring a few additional credits or coursework in specific types of classes (such as CTE or civics) or in advanced coursework (such as honors or AP). Ohio and New York offer multiple types of advanced diplomas that require additional coursework, as well as specific scores on specialized exams. Other states have additional requirements, such as service learning or maintaining a specific grade point average. For many students, advanced diplomas and endorsements do not require additional courses or activities beyond what they already intend to achieve. Instead, advanced diplomas and endorsements provide students a way to meaningfully communicate their accomplishments to higher education and employers, rather than requiring students to meet additional requirements (with the exception of the exams required for some types of diplomas).

The following section provides a summary of the requirements for each of these state advanced diplomas and endorsements.

Table 1. Summary of State Requirements for Advanced Diplomas and Endorsements

Colorado offers a Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness endorsement for high school diplomas. The general requirements (beyond a traditional high school diploma) are listed here.

- *Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Endorsement:* Advanced coursework in math, science, social studies, and foreign language, approved ACT and SAT cut scores or higher or college credit earned through concurrent enrollment, completion of an Individual Career and Academic Plan, demonstration of 21st century skills through coursework, and demonstration of proficiency in at least three core subjects (including CTE) through a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and advanced coursework.

Source: Colorado Department of Education. (2013). *Colorado's Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) high school diploma endorsement criteria*. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/pwrendorsedcriteriadocument>

Table 1. Summary of State Requirements for Advanced Diplomas and Endorsements (cont.)

Hawaii offers three types of advanced diplomas for high school students. The general requirements (beyond a traditional high school diploma) are listed here.

- *Academic Honors Diploma*: Advanced coursework in math and science and at least two postsecondary credits earned through advanced high school coursework.
- *CTE Honors Diploma*: CTE concentration (three or more CTE courses in a pathway) and recognized industry credential.
- *STEM Honors Diploma*: Advanced coursework in math and science and a STEM capstone project.

Source: Hawaii Department of Education. (2017). *High school graduation requirements*. Retrieved from

<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/StudentLearning/GraduationRequirements/Pages/Requirements.aspx>

Indiana offers two advanced diplomas for high school students. The general requirements (beyond a traditional high school diploma) for each endorsement are listed here.

- *Core 40 With Academic Honors*: Advanced math, science, world language, and fine arts coursework, grade point average of at least a “B,” and college credit through advanced coursework OR a score of 1750 or higher on the SAT.
- *Core 40 With Technical Honors*: CTE concentration (three or more CTE courses in a pathway), grade point average of at least a “B,” a recognized industry credential, and college credit through advanced coursework OR minimum scores on Compass or WorkKeys assessments.

Source: Indiana Department of Education. (2017). *Indiana Core 40*. Retrieved from

<http://www.doe.in.gov/ccr/indianas-diploma-requirements>

Louisiana offers three endorsements for high school diplomas. The general requirements (beyond a traditional high school diploma) for each endorsement are listed here.

- *Academic Endorsement*: Complete core academic coursework, receive a score of “good” or “excellent” on end-of-course assessments, a score of 23 or above on ACT, a weighted course or a senior project, and an unweighted grade point average of at least 2.5.
- *Career Technical Endorsement*: Complete core academic coursework, receive a score of “good” or “excellent” on end-of-course assessments, a score of 20 or above on ACT or WorkKeys, an unweighted grade point average of at least 2.5, and one of the following: an industry certification, 3 hours of college credit in a CTE course, or work-based learning hours.
- *Community Service Endorsement*: A minimum number of community service hours per year in high school, totaling at least 80 hours.

Source: Louisiana Department of Education. (n.d.). *Diploma endorsements*. Retrieved from

<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/diploma-endorsements>

Table 1. Summary of State Requirements for Advanced Diplomas and Endorsements (cont.)

Nevada offers an advanced high school diploma. The general requirements (beyond a traditional high school diploma) are listed here.

- *Advanced Diploma:* Advanced math, science, and social studies coursework and a grade point average of at least 3.25.

Source: Nevada Department of Education. (2013). *Nevada state requirements for graduation.* Retrieved from

http://www.doe.nv.gov/Boards_Commissions_Councils/State_Board_of_Education/HS_Grad_Reg_Subcommittee/2014/September/Item_4_-_Overview/

New York offers two types of advanced high school diplomas and one endorsement for high school diplomas. The general requirements (beyond a traditional high school diploma) for each endorsement are listed here.

- *Regents Diploma:* A score of 65 or above on five Regents exams, including English, math, science, social studies, and pathways or New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential.
- *Regents Diploma With Honors:* A score of 90 or above on five Regents exams, including English, math, science, social studies, and pathways or New York State CDOS Commencement Credential.
- *Regents With Advanced Designation Diploma:* A score of 65 or above on nine Regents exams, including English, math, science, and social studies; or a score of 65 or above on eight Regents exams in a specified STEM or Pathway combination. Students also may earn an annotation indicating mastery in math or science, with a score of 80 or above on specific Regents exams.
- *Regents With Advanced Designation With Honors Diploma:* A score of 90 or above on nine Regents exams, including English, math, science, and social studies; or a score of 90 or above on eight Regents exams in a specified STEM or Pathway combination.
- *Career and Technical Education Endorsement:* A score of 65 or above on five Regents exams, including English, math, science, social studies, and pathways, as well as a three-part written technical examination.

Sources: New York State Department of Education. (n.d.). *General education and diploma requirements.* Retrieved from <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreq/intro.html>; New York State Department of Education. (n.d.). *Technical endorsement on diploma.* Retrieved from

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/ctepolicy/endorsement.html>

Table 1. Summary of State Requirements for Advanced Diplomas and Endorsements (cont.)

North Carolina offers five endorsements for high school diplomas. The general requirements (beyond a traditional high school diploma) for each endorsement are listed here.

- *Career Endorsement:* Advanced math coursework, CTE concentration (three or more CTE courses in a pathway), unweighted grade point average of at least 2.6, and recognized industry credential.
- *College Endorsement:* Advanced math coursework (with one course meeting state college admissions requirements) and an unweighted grade point average of at least 2.6.
- *College/UNC Endorsement:* Advanced math coursework (with one course meeting state college admissions requirements), advanced science coursework, advanced social studies coursework, two units of world language, four elective credits, three weighted courses, and an unweighted grade point average of at least 2.5.
- *North Carolina Academic Scholars Endorsement:* Advanced math coursework (with one course meeting state college admissions requirements), advanced science coursework, advanced social studies coursework, two units of world language, four elective credits, three weighted courses, and an unweighted grade point average of at least 3.5.
- *Global Languages Endorsement:* An unweighted grade point average of at least 2.5 for language, score “immediate-low” or higher on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (2017) proficiency scale, have an unweighted grade point average of at least 2.5 for foreign language courses, and (if applicable) reach “developing” or higher status on the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment proficiency scale.

Students can earn multiple endorsements, and all districts are required to offer these endorsements to students.

Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. (2013). *High school endorsements.*

Retrieved from <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/curriculum/scholars/endorsement-require.pdf>

Table 1. Summary of State Requirements for Advanced Diplomas and Endorsements (cont.)

Ohio offers three types of high school diplomas with honors. The general requirements (beyond a traditional high school diploma) for each endorsement are listed here.

- *International Baccalaureate Diploma With Honors:* Advanced math and social studies coursework, four units of advanced foreign language with at least two in the same language, fine arts credit, a score of 27 or above on the SAT or a score of 1210 or above on the SAT, a passing score on six advanced academic assessments, and a grade point average of at least 3.5.
- *Academic Diploma With Honors:* Advanced math and social studies coursework, three units of advanced foreign language with at least two in the same language, fine arts credit, a score of 27 or above on the SAT or a score of 1210 or above on the SAT, and a grade point average of at least 3.5.
- *Career-Technical Diploma With Honors:* Advanced math and social studies coursework, fine arts credit, a score of 27 or above on the SAT or a score of 1210 or above on the SAT, a passing score on an appropriate Ohio Career Technical Competency Assessment, a grade point average of at least 3.5, and four units of CTE leading to an industry credential, apprenticeship, or postsecondary credit.

Source: Ohio Department of Education. (n.d.). *Honors diplomas*. Retrieved from <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-Graduation-Requirements/Graduation-Requirements-2014-2017/Criteria-for-Diploma-with-Honors>

Texas offers five endorsements for high school diplomas and one additional diploma achievement. The general requirements (beyond a traditional high school diploma) for each endorsement are listed here.

- *Distinguished Level of Achievement:* Advanced coursework in math and science and at least one endorsement.
- *STEM Endorsement:* Advanced coursework in math and science, with two additional courses in no more than two STEM areas, including CTE.
- *Business and Industry Endorsement:* Advanced coursework in math and science, with two additional courses in CTE.
- *Public Service Endorsement:* Advanced coursework in math and science, with two additional courses in public service career and technical education career clusters (including Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps).
- *Arts and Humanities Endorsement:* Two sequential courses in two foreign languages with at least four sequential courses in the same foreign language, plus two additional courses in fine arts, social studies, American Sign Language, or English electives.
- *Multidisciplinary Studies:* Four advanced courses in other endorsement areas, advanced coursework in all core subject areas, and four credits in weighted courses.

Source: Texas Education Agency. (n.d.). *Graduation toolkit*. Retrieved from tea.texas.gov/communications/grad_toolkit/booklet.pdf

Table 1. Summary of State Requirements for Advanced Diplomas and Endorsements (cont.)

<p>Virginia offers an advanced high school diploma. The general requirements (beyond a traditional high school diploma) are listed here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Advanced Studies Diploma:</i> Advanced math, science, and social studies coursework, three credits in a foreign language, a fine arts or CTE course, an economics and personal finance course, and a passing score on a student-selected assessment in computer science, technology, CTE, or economics. <p>Source: Virginia Department of Education. (n.d.). <i>Advanced studies diploma</i>. Retrieved from http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/advanced_studies.shtml</p>
<p>Wisconsin offers an advanced high school diploma and an endorsement. The general requirements (beyond a traditional high school diploma) are listed here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Technical Education Diploma:</i> Completion of a CTE program.• <i>World Language Endorsement:</i> At least 4 years in a single world language, at least four credits of coursework with a global focus (such as geography or foreign affairs), reviews of at least eight foreign media pieces, at least four co-curricular or extracurricular activities, and at least 20 hours of community service with a global focus. <p>Sources: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. (n.d.). <i>The Wisconsin Global Education Achievement Certificate</i>. Retrieved from https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/cal/pdf/globaled-certificate.pdf; Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. (n.d.). <i>Technical education high school diploma</i>. Retrieved from https://dpi.wi.gov/cte/resources/technical-education</p>