GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Sterling Board of Education recognizes that a 12-year course of study in certain specific subject areas has proven to be beneficial in assisting students to become productive citizens and to prepare for advanced study. Therefore, it is the policy of the board of education that a minimum of 23 units of credit be earned in the subject areas listed below to be eligible for graduation. All students, in order to graduate from an Oklahoma public school, will be required to complete the "college preparatory/work ready curriculum units or sets of competencies" at the secondary level. A student will be allowed to enroll in the core curriculum in lieu of the requirements of the college preparatory/work ready curriculum upon the written approval of the parent or legal guardian of the student. Current state graduation requirements will be deemed to be the "core curriculum" option. The "college preparatory/work ready curriculum" will include the following:

4 units of English to include Grammar, Composition, Literature, or any English course approved for college admission requirements;

3 units of mathematics, limited to Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Math Analysis, Calculus, Advanced Placement Statistics, or any mathematics course with content and/or rigor above Algebra I and approved for college admission requirements;

3 units of laboratory science, limited to Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or any laboratory science course with content and/or rigor equal to or above Biology and approved for college admission requirements;

3 units of history and citizenship skills, including one unit of American History, one-half unit of Oklahoma History, one-half unit of United States Government and one unit from the subjects of History, Government, Geography, Economics, Civics, or Non-Western culture and approved for college admission requirements;

2 units of the same foreign or non-English language or two units of computer technology approved for college admission requirements, whether taught at a high school or technology center school, including computer programming, hardware, and business computer applications, such as word processing, databases, spreadsheets, and graphics, excluding keyboarding or typing courses;

1 additional unit selected from the above categories or career and technology education courses approved for college admission requirements; and

1 unit or set of competencies of fine arts, such as music, art, or drama, or 1 unit or set of competencies of speech.

In order to graduate from the district with a standard diploma, students shall complete the following core curriculum units at the secondary level:

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Cont.)

Language Arts
4 units or sets of competencies
- 1 unit of Grammar and Composition
  and
- 3 units which may include
  - American Literature
  - English Literature
  - World Literature
  - Advanced English Courses
  - Other English courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above grammar and composition

Mathematics
3 units or sets of competencies
- 1 unit of Algebra I [1]
  and
- 2 units which may include:
  - Algebra II
  - Geometry [1]
  - Trigonometry
  - Math Analysis or Precalculus
  - Statistics and/or Probability
  - Calculus
  - Computer Science I and II
  - Intermediate Algebra
  - Mathematics of Finance
  - Contextual mathematics courses that enhance technology preparation whether taught at a (1) comprehensive high school, or (2) technology center school when taken in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, taught by a certified teacher, and approved by the State Board of Education and the district board of education
  - Mathematics courses taught at a technology center school by a teacher certified in the secondary subject area when taken in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade upon approval of the State Board of Education and the district board of education
  - Other mathematics courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above Algebra I

Science
3 units or sets of competencies
- 1 unit of Biology I [1]
  and
- 2 units which may include:
  - Chemistry I
  - Physics
  - Biology II
  - Chemistry II
  - Physical Science
  - Earth Science
  - Botany
  - Zoology
  - Physiology
  - Astronomy
  - Applied Biology/Chemistry
  - Applied Physics
  - Principles of Technology
  - Qualified agricultural education courses
  - Contextual science courses that enhance technology preparation whether taught at a (1) comprehensive high school, or (2) technology center school when taken in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, taught by a certified teacher, and approved by the State Board of Education and the district board of education
  - Science courses taught at a technology center school by a teacher certified in the secondary subject area when taken in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade upon approval of the State Board of Education and the district board of education
  - Other science courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above Biology I

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Cont.)

Social Studies
3 units or sets of competencies
- 1 unit of United States History
- ½ to 1 unit of United States Government
- ½ unit of Oklahoma History
- ½ unit to 1 unit which may include:
  - World History
  - Geography
  - Economics
  - Anthropology
  - Other social studies courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above United States History, United States Government, and Oklahoma history

The Arts
2 units or sets of competencies

Electives
8 units or sets of competencies

In addition to the curriculum requirements, students shall complete the requirements for a personal financial literacy passport as set forth in the Passport to Financial Literacy Act.

All students are strongly encouraged to complete two units or sets of competencies of foreign language classes and two units or sets of competencies of physical and health education as part of the core curriculum.

Credit may be given for the above-referenced classes when the courses are taken in the seventh or eighth grades if the teachers are certified or authorized by law to teach the subjects for high school credit and the required course rigor is maintained.

Courses offered by a supplemental education organization that is accredited by a national accrediting body and that are taught by a certified teacher and which provide for the teaching and learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the PASS may, upon approval of the State Board of Education and the school district board of education, be counted for academic credit and toward meeting state graduation requirements.

No student will be allowed to receive credit more than once for completion of the same unit or sets of competencies. All of the above-referenced classes may not be offered by the district. However, sufficient courses shall be offered to allow students to meet the graduation requirements during the secondary grade years of the student.

The remaining units need to consist of coursework designed to meet the individual needs and interests of the student. However, all students in grades nine through twelve are required to enroll in a minimum of six periods, or the equivalent in block scheduling, of rigorous academic and/or rigorous vocational courses each day, which may include arts, vocal and instrumental music, speech classes, and physical education classes.

Students who transfer into this school district from out of state after their junior year of high school shall not be denied, because of differing graduation requirements, the opportunity to be awarded a standard diploma. This applies to students who would be unable to meet the specific graduation requirements listed above without extending the date of graduation. Exception from the graduation requirements will be based on rules established by the State Department of

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Cont.)

Education. All exceptions and the reasons therefor shall be reported to the State Department of Education on or before July 1 of each year.

(OPTIONAL LANGUAGE)

Early graduation from high school is not offered by this district. Students are expected to complete eight (8) semesters of high school in order to graduate and receive a diploma.

Every student shall demonstrate mastery of the state academic content standards in the following subject areas in order to graduate from a public high school with a standard diploma.

a. Algebra I;
b. English II; and
c. Two of the following five:
    1. Algebra II,
    2. Biology I,
    3. English III,
    4. Geometry, and
    5. United State History.

To demonstrate mastery, the student shall attain at least a satisfactory/proficient score on the end-of-instruction criterion-referenced tests administered for these courses. The State Board of Education has approved a process for alternative tests and an alternative method for students to demonstrate mastery, including exceptions and exemptions to these requirements for unusual circumstances, as required by law.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. § 11-103.2c
70 O.S. § 11-103.6
70 O.S. § 1210.508
70 O.S. § 1210.523