

CLASS OF 2013 DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	BOE RECOGNITION DIPLOMA*	HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
English	4.0 credits including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language Arts 1 (1 credit); • English Language Arts 2 (1 credit); and • Expository Writing (0.5 credit) 	4.0 credits including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language Arts 1 (1 credit); and • English Language Arts 2 (1 credit)
Social Studies	4.0 credits including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern History of Hawaii (0.5 credit); and • Participation in a Democracy (0.5 credit) 	4.0 credits including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern History of Hawaii (0.5 credit); and • Participation in a Democracy (0.5 credit)
Mathematics**	4.0 credits including: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or the equivalent	3.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits including: 2.0 credits in Chemistry, Biology, and/or Physics	3.0 credits
World Language Fine Arts Career and Technical Education	2.0 credits in one of the specified courses	2.0 credits in one of the specified courses
Senior Project	1.0 credit	Not Required
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	5.0 credits	6.0 credits
Total	25.0 credits	24.0 credits
Other	Meet standard on Algebra II End of Course Exam	

*Graduates with a GPA of 3.0 or better will be awarded the **BOE Recognition Diploma with Honors**.

**Mathematics requirements for a BOE Recognition Diploma with Honors is 4.0 credits, including as a minimum, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or the equivalent.

Board of Education (BOE) Recognition Diploma with Honors

The Board of Education Recognition Diploma with Honors is awarded to students with grade point averages of 3.0 and above who successfully complete course and other requirements.

To students who meet the requirements, the BOE Recognition Diploma with Honors is awarded:

- *Cum Laude* with a GPA of 3.0 to 3.5;
- *Magna Cum Laude* with a GPA of 3.5+ to 3.8; or
- *Summa Cum Laude* with a GPA of 3.8+ and above.

Board of Education (BOE) Recognition Diploma

The Board of Education Recognition Diploma is awarded to students who successfully complete course and other requirements.

High School Diploma

The High School Diploma shall be issued to students who have met all graduation requirements in the required courses by demonstrating proficiency in the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards and General Learner Outcomes.

Certificate of Completion

The Certificate of Completion of an Individually Prescribed Program (IPP) shall be issued to a student with a disability who completes all the requirements set by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Commencement Exercises

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) satisfy other conditions that meet the standards of clarity, reasonableness, and justifiability, as established by the Department of Education.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About the BOE Recognition Diploma

TOPIC	QUESTION/ANSWER
<p>Commonly Asked Questions</p>	<p>What types of high school diplomas are awarded to students?</p> <p>Two types of diplomas are currently available to students: the High School Diploma and the Board of Education (BOE) Recognition Diploma.</p> <p>Have the requirements for these diplomas changed?</p> <p>There are no changes to the High School Diploma requirements. However, at its March 6, 2008 meeting, the BOE increased the rigor of the BOE Recognition Diploma by revising Board Policy 4540, High School Graduation Requirements and Commencement Policy. (To view the new BOE Recognition Diploma Revised Policy 4540 online, go to www.boe.k12.hi.us and click on Document Library, BOE Policies, 4500 series, and 4540.)</p> <p>Who will be impacted by the revised BOE Recognition Diploma policy?</p> <p>The more rigorous requirements of the BOE Recognition Diploma will apply to the class of 2013—students who are entering the 8th grade during the 2008-2009 school year.</p> <p>Will all students, beginning with the class of 2013, be required to earn the BOE Recognition Diploma?</p> <p>No, pursuing the BOE Recognition Diploma is strictly voluntary. Although student participation is not mandatory, the intent of the policy is for students to strive to earn a diploma that has a more rigorous curriculum. Currently, 33% of Hawaii public school students earn the BOE Recognition Diploma.</p> <p>What are some of the advantages of earning the new BOE Recognition Diploma?</p> <p>The BOE adopted the new requirements to help students become better prepared for careers, college and civic responsibility. National research and local data show that the types of courses required in the BOE Recognition Diploma best prepare students to advance in living wage jobs and achieve success in college level courses. Seventeen other states have also adopted a more rigorous high school diploma.</p>
<p>Commonly Asked Questions – Diploma Clarification</p>	<p>What are the new requirements for the BOE Recognition Diploma?</p> <p>There are several specified changes in the Mathematics, Science, English and elective requirements to earn the new BOE Recognition Diploma.</p>

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Changes to the course requirements include:

- One (1.0) additional Mathematics credit (increased from three to four credits; math must include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II)
- Two (2.0) of three (3.0) currently required Science credits must include Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics
- One-half (0.5) credit of currently required four (4.0) English credits must be Expository Writing
- Five (5.0) credits of electives instead of six (6.0)
- Standards proficiency on the Algebra II End-of-Course Exam must be met
- A Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0, or higher, can earn a student a BOE Recognition Diploma *with Honors*.

What is the difference between a BOE Recognition Diploma and a BOE Recognition Diploma *with Honors*?

A BOE Recognition Diploma is issued to students who meet the course and credit requirements (25.0 credits) in the revised High School Graduation Requirements and Commencement Policy (BOE Policy #4540). A BOE Recognition Diploma *with Honors* is issued to students who meet the course and credit requirements (25.0 credits) *and attain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher*.

For the BOE Recognition Diploma *with Honors* (3.0 GPA), will there be specifics about the GPA ranges for the different BOE diplomas (*Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Summa Cum Laude*) – or will there be just one BOE diploma?

Yes, there will only be one BOE Recognition Diploma. However, a BOE Recognition Diploma *with Honors* will be noted. Here are the specific GPA ranges for the different BOE diplomas: *Cum Laude* (cumulative GPA of 3.0 to 3.5), *Magna Cum Laude* (cumulative GPA of 3.5+ to 3.8) or *Summa Cum Laude* (cumulative GPA of 3.8+ and above) will be noted on the *BOE Recognition Diploma with Honors*

Does the GPA requirement apply only to Algebra II, or to all courses?

The 3.0 GPA is a cumulative GPA of *all courses* taken.

When does the revised BOE Recognition Diploma take effect?

This version of BOE Policy 4540 shall take effect in School Year 2009-2010, and shall apply to students beginning with the *incoming ninth grade class* (or eighth grade class if the students are in the middle school).

When will the determination of the BOE Recognition Diploma take place? Third quarter or at the end of the Year?

Identification of graduating students to receive the BOE Recognition

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	<p>Diploma will be based on review of courses, credits, and cumulative grade point average according to the criteria set by the BOE and conducted <i>no earlier than the end of the third quarter of the student's senior year.</i></p>
<p>ACCN</p>	<p>The ACCN needs to be more flexible.</p> <p>We agree that the ACCN can be more flexible. This concern has been referred to the Instructional Services Branch to consider how schools can be given greater flexibility in meeting the requirements. Presently, there will not be a year course created for Expository Writing. Students wishing to take Expository Writing for one year can take the Expository Writing 1 course in the first semester and the Expository Writing 2 course in the second semester. Some schools offer a semester of Expository Writing course the same year they offer a semester of American, World or British Literature.</p>
<p>Algebra II Testing</p>	<p>When will the Algebra II End-of-Course Exam be given? Will there be a re-test? If the student takes Algebra II in the junior year and does not pass, can s/he retake the test during the senior year?</p> <p>The System Accountability Office is working with NCS Pearson, Inc. (the testing company) on the Algebra II exam. It should be ready for administration by Spring, 2009. A student who does not pass the Algebra II End-of-Course Exam should be allowed to retake the test. In addition, a new remediation course will provide students with extra help in meeting proficiency expectations.</p> <p>Can there be coordination with testing of Algebra II test and AP testing?</p> <p>Yes, the Mathematics Section in the Instructional Services Branch and the System Accountability Office are cognizant of the scheduling conflict, and they have been working to better coordinate this year's testing dates. The test results will be released on time to enable deserving students to receive the BOE Recognition Diploma, before graduation ceremonies.</p> <p>Some high schools are on block scheduling – for the Algebra II End-of-Course Exam, can students take it at the end of the course or do they need to take it at the end of the year?</p> <p>This issue is currently being discussed among all the American Diploma Project (ADP) states and NCS Pearson, Inc. (the testing company). The opportunity for students to take the Algebra II End-of-Course Exam after the first semester will likely become available in the future. As a corollary, the results of the Algebra II End-of-Course Exam should be released in time for students to be awarded the BOE Recognition Diploma, and before graduation ceremonies.</p>
<p>American Diploma Project</p>	<p>How does the American Diploma Project (ADP) support Hawaii's efforts to prepare High School graduates for careers and college?</p>

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	<p>The ADP provides the framework and the support for the BOE Recognition Diploma. Hawaii’s efforts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligning high school standards with college and work expectations • Requiring all students to take more challenging college- and work- preparatory courses • Administering tests that measure readiness for college and work to all high school students • Collecting data and hold high school and postsecondary institutions accountable for student success
<p>Diploma and Special Education</p>	<p>How does the BOE Recognition Diploma apply to students with disabilities?</p> <p>The BOE graduation requirements for students with disabilities shall be determined by the student’s Individualized Education Program.</p>
<p>Expository Writing</p>	<p>Since the BOE did not approve “or equivalent” for Expos Writing, if a student takes LA1 and LA2 and then takes AP Language and AP Literature for two years will this student not get the BOE Recognition Diploma?</p> <p>The Board of Education did not approve an “equivalent” course for Expository Writing. One semester of Expository Writing will be sufficient to meet the new BOE Recognition Diploma. Therefore, if a student takes LA1 and LA2, and then takes AP Language and AP Literature for two years, this student is not meeting the BOE Recognition Diploma requirements.</p> <p>Should Expository Writing be combined with another half credit English course?</p> <p>Students will still need to have 4.0 credits of English. If they are taking the Expository Writing a 0.5 credit English course then they will need another 0.5 credit course. A scenario would be taking another Basic Elective semester literature course, such as American, British or World Literature. Or they can take a semester of Creative Writing or Expository Writing II.</p>
<p>Personnel</p>	<p>Has there been a discussion with Personnel or OHR about this – teachers teaching outside of content areas – we need to anticipate that as a problem – teachers teaching outside of content areas.</p> <p>Yes, this is already in the “works” with the Office of Human Resources taking the lead to meet the federal requirements (under Title IIA) “to assure that all teachers in the core academic content areas earn the federal designation of <i>highly qualified</i>.” A reference guide for a “highly qualified teacher” in Hawaii has been used to document a high, objective, uniform, state standard evaluation (HOUSSE).</p> <p>For further information, here’s the URL:</p>

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	<p>http://doe.k12.hi.us/teacherquality/Hawaii%2007-08%20HQT%20Course%20ID%20Ref%20Guide%20010108.pdf</p> <p>As a corollary, an Expository Writing Task Force has been working on several fronts with a timeline to (a) align the high school expository writing course with college and employers expectations for entry-level writing; (b) pilot a Model Curriculum for Expository Writing (including syllabus, core assignments, rubrics, exemplars); (c) pilot an Online Course for Expository Writing; (d) Train a cadre of teachers (at least one per high school) to be comfortable and confident teachers of Expository Writing using a model curriculum; (e) by 2011-12 school year, provide access to Expository Writing course to every high school students at their high school or through on-line course.</p> <p>Are we looking at highly qualified teachers or effective teachers?</p> <p>NCLB requires that we look at highly qualified teachers (primarily, but also at highly effective teachers).</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>Please explain the Science requirements – is it actually 4.0 (two science and two labs - is the lab counted as a science credit or as an elective?) Will substitute sciences be allowed?</p> <p>The Science credit is actually three (3.0) credits. The lab component is part of the Science courses (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), not a separate credit-bearing course. Substitute sciences will not be allowed.</p> <p>For the Science requirement, if a student takes Biology, Chemistry and AP Biology, but does not take Physics, would that meet the Science requirements?</p> <p>To meet the Science requirements, the students must take Biology, Chemistry <i>and</i> Physics. AP Biology, AP Chemistry and/or AP Physics may be substituted for the Biology, Chemistry and Physics requirements.</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>For the Social Studies requirement, will U.S. History and World History still be required? These courses are not specifically listed like Modern History of Hawaii (MHH)/Participation in Democracy (PID).</p> <p>High School graduation requirements are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) credit of U.S. History • One (1) credit of World History • Half (.5) credit of MHH • Half (.5) credit of PID <p>Regarding Social Studies, there had been much work with the military and JVEF on accepting “state history courses” in place of</p>

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	<p>Modern History of Hawaii. Is this going to be provided for in the BOE Recognition Diploma? Presently, if a high school principal makes any exception, the student is not eligible for the BOE recognition diploma.</p> <p>Modern History of Hawaii (our state history) is included in the graduation requirements. Out-of-state transfer students (including military transfers) can always make a request to the principal to substitute the state history that the transfer student may have previously taken (and successfully passed) for the Hawaii state history requirement. This determination, however, would be up to the principal who has the ultimate authority to award credit and would have to be on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Can Modern History of Hawaii be replaced with another State History credit?</p> <p>Modern History of Hawaii (our state history) is included in the graduation requirements, Out-of-state transfer students (including military transfers) can always make a request to the principal to substitute the state history that the transfer student may have previously taken (and successfully passed) in lieu of the Hawaii state history requirement. This determination, however, would be up to the principal who has the ultimate authority to award credit and would have to be on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>World Languages</p>	<p>Will World Languages be the same as current BOE diploma requirement where it must be in the same language?</p> <p>Yes, credits earned must be in the same language, e.g., two credits in French, not one credit in French and one credit in Japanese.</p>
<p>Further Questions or Clarification?</p>	<p>For further information or to pose additional questions, please contact Gerry Madrazo, Administrator, Accreditation/School Improvement Section, 735-8373 or via Lotus Notes.</p>