

Strengthened High School Graduation Requirements

May 2017

Vision Alignment: New Graduation Requirements

Mission: To provide a high quality public education for every child, in every neighborhood, that prepares each for success in college, career and civic life.



HS Strategy Foundational Values

Goal: To provide a high-quality, open-enrollment high school option within three miles of every student's home in Chicago.

These foundational values undergird the HS Strategy:



Equity in Access

Improve equitable access to high school options.

Equity in Excellence

Strengthen HS specialized programs and curricula

Advocacy

Include input from stakeholders and strengthen student voice

New Graduation Requirements

Postsecondary Plan (Learn. Plan. Succeed.)

- This proposed requirement will help guide postsecondary success for students by requiring that they develop plans for life after graduation. If approved by the Board, CPS will become the first large urban district in the country to require students to develop a postsecondary plan.
 - The following concrete steps would meet the District’s proposed graduation requirement for postsecondary planning:
 - College acceptance letter received and returned
 - Military acceptance/enlistment letter
 - Acceptance into a job program (ie, coding boot camp)
 - Acceptance into a trades pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship
 - Acceptance into a “Gap-Year” program
 - Current job/job offer letter
- 60 percent of students already have a postsecondary plan, and this requirement will empower all students to plan for a successful future
- The graduation requirement will apply to the Class of 2020 (current freshmen).

New Graduation Requirements

Science Standards to Prepare Students for Success in STEM Fields

- The proposed requirement will revise the existing graduation requirement to ensure that students receive a robust Science education that prepares them for future success.
- Under the proposed requirements, students must receive one credit each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, which is the benchmark for success established in the Next Generation Science Standards.
 - Under the current requirement, students must earn 1 credit in Biology and a total of 2 credits in a combination of Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Environmental Science and Physics.
- CPS is proposing these changes in order to:
 - Ensure equity of access to a rigorous science education for all students.
 - Better prepare students for careers in science fields.
 - Promote consistency in curricular and instructional practices across high schools.
- If approved by the Board, this graduation requirement will go into effect for the Class of 2022 (students entering high school in 2018).

New Graduation Requirements

Financial Education for All CPS Students

- The proposed policy will ensure all students receive an education in financial literacy that equips them with the knowledge and skills to make empowered financial decisions.
- Many schools already offer Financial Education, and through this new policy we will ensure that all students have access to Financial Education that is aligned to a shared standard.
 - CPS will work with schools to implement this curriculum, and schools will be required to submit plans for providing Financial Education.
- The revised policy meets the State requirement for Consumer Education.
- Financial Education will be a pass/fail graduation requirement that will apply to the Class of 2021, (students entering in SY 17-18).