

**Kentucky Department of Education**  
**Early Graduation: Amendment to 704 KAR 3:305**  
**Guidance for regulatory changes for Minimum High School Requirements**

Part 3: Academic Requirements for Early Graduation

- **Meet proficiency benchmarks on Kentucky required end-of-course exams**
  - **Currently those classes are ENGLISH II, ALGEBRA II, BIOLOGY, US HISTORY**
    - For more information access KDE's End of Course webpage <http://education.ky.gov/AA/distsupp/Pages/EOC.aspx>
    - **Students in the Early Graduation pathway DO NOT have to meet the minimum 22 credits; the regulation waives those requirements for this pathway.**
  - As required in (703 KAR 5:240) Section 8; students must complete courses before taking the corresponding End of Course (EOC) exams
  - Proficiency benchmarks on the EOC are set by the Kentucky Board of Education
  - An EG candidate may repeat a course and EOC exam HOWEVER, repeated attempts to meet proficiency might indicate that the student is not academically prepared for the rigors of Early Graduation or college-level work.
  - Student schedules must reflect the accelerated pace of Early Graduation, for example, you may have sophomores may take US History (a course usually taken by juniors).
  - Students in middle school may take courses and exams prior to entering high school.
  - Regularly set counseling sessions with the student and family and use the ILP to monitor student progress while attempting Early Graduation are essential, students who are unable or unwilling to meet the Early Graduation criteria should be counseled regarding other options.
  - It is highly recommended that counselors record all meeting notes, grades and ongoing contact with students and families using the ILP as they make progress toward Early Graduation.
  - Districts should set clearly defined parameters for students who fail to meet critical points on the pathway and plans for transitioning students out of Early Graduation should the student fail to meet the benchmarks.
- **Meet Council of Post-Secondary Education (CPE) defined college readiness benchmarks on a college readiness exam**
  - Current benchmarks for the ACT (English = 18, Reading = 20, Mathematics = 19) as set by CPE in 13 KAR 2:020.
  - Most definitions of college readiness include a predictive statement about how well students will do in relevant courses based on national assessments, such as the ACT or SAT. "Success" is defined by ACT as 50 percent or higher probability of a student earning a B or higher in the corresponding college course or courses and 75 percent or higher probability of earning a C or higher in the corresponding college course or courses.
  - The Kentucky system-wide standards of readiness guarantee students access to credit-bearing coursework without the need for transitional, developmental education, or supplemental courses or programs.
  - Students participating in Early Graduation may take their state administered ACT prior to junior year as stated in Section 9 (3) of the regulation.
  - Students may take other college readiness exams, however, Early Graduation is an accelerated path to higher education and the ACT is typically required for eligibility for college level courses. The state provides one administration of the ACT for all Kentucky students; Early Graduate candidates take their ACT earlier than the junior year.

**Kentucky Department of Education**

**Early Graduation: Amendment to 704 KAR 3:305**

**Guidance for regulatory changes for Minimum High School Requirements**

- The cost of any subsequent administrations of the ACT shall be the responsibility of the student.
- The school must regularly set counseling sessions and use the ILP with the student and family to monitor student progress while attempting Early Graduation. Students who are unable or unwilling to meet the Early Graduation criteria should be counseled regarding their options.
- Meeting Early Graduation does not ensure acceptance to a two or four year post-secondary institution. Students, along with families and counselors are encouraged to have preliminary talks with the institutions of their choice to determine all requirements for acceptance. Post-Secondary institutions may need time to consider appropriate options for students under the age of 16.