

# Ohio Curriculum Choice Fact Sheet for Families

Ohio’s curriculum graduation requirements for students graduating in 2015-2019 include a higher level course in math and in science. If your child is not prepared to achieve the increased credit requirements, to succeed in the higher-level courses in mathematics and science and/or is planning a career that does not require these courses, your family may choose to use Curriculum Choice. In selecting Curriculum Choice, your child’s school will create an individual Student Success Plan describing his or her career goals. Your child may continue to take and strive to meet the higher level course requirements. If he or she succeeds in these courses, your child will not be subject to the consequences of Curriculum Choice.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Graduating through the Curriculum Choice provision does limit your child’s options to go to a four-year college. It means that your child cannot enroll in MOST four-year colleges without taking remedial courses. Your family will pay for these extra courses before your child can start college work. Three Ohio colleges – Central State, Shawnee State and Youngstown State – are exceptions and will consider enrolling your son or daughter without remedial classes.

## WHAT ARE OHIO CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2015-2019?

English language arts	4 units
Social Studies	3 units (½ unit American history, ½ unit American government)
Mathematics	4 units (including Algebra II or its equivalent)
Science	3 units (lab experience, 1 unit biological science, 1 unit physical science, 1 unit ‘advanced’ science)
Health	½ unit
Physical Education	½ unit
Electives	5 units in one or any combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer science, technology, agricultural education, JROTC, or English Language Arts, mathematics, science or social studies courses not otherwise required
Fine Arts	Two semesters completed in grades 7-12
Economics and Financial Literacy instruction in grades 9-12	
Any additional local curriculum graduation requirements	

## WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS FOR CURRICULUM CHOICE?

Students graduating in the classes of 2015, 2016 and 2017 must minimally meet the above curriculum requirements with these four exceptions:

Mathematics	3 units
Science	3 units (1 unit biological science, 1 unit physical science)
Electives	6 units (with 1 unit or two 1/2 units in business, technology, fine arts and/or foreign language)
No financial literacy requirement	

Students graduating in the classes of 2018 and 2019 must meet the 2015-2019 curriculum requirements above, with the three exceptions below:

Mathematics	4 units (1 unit shall be one of the following: probability and statistics; computer programming; applied mathematics; quantitative reasoning; and any other course approved by the department using standards identified <a href="#">here</a> .)
Science	3 units (3 units with inquiry-based laboratory experience that engages students in asking valid scientific questions and gathering and analyzing information, which shall include the following or their equivalent: 1 unit of physical sciences; 1 unit life sciences; 1 or more of advanced sciences study).
Electives	5 units in any area not already required for graduation

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CURRICULUM CHOICE?

Curriculum Choice is available to all students in the graduating Classes of 2015 through 2019.

Your child must:

- Have entered high school for the first time after July 1, 2010, and before July 1, 2016; and
- Be enrolled in the third year of high school. (Seniors in the 2014-2015 school year may select Curriculum Choice during the 2014-2015 school year.)

## HOW DOES OUR CHILD SELECT CURRICULUM CHOICE?

Your family, including your child, must:

- Meet with your school to have the Curriculum Choice provision fully explained;
- Understand any additional requirements your school district has for this option;
- Develop and complete a Student Success Plan in the third year of high school. One exception is the Class of 2015; current seniors can create a plan during the 2014-2015 school year; another exception is students who transfer or enroll in an Ohio high school after their third year of high school may also select Curriculum Choice as a part of the placement process.
- Sign a written consent stating the Curriculum Choice, its consequences and added district requirements is understood by all. The school will keep the consent in the student's file.

## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT MY CHILD WHO HAS A DISABILITY AND HAS AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)?

Many students with disabilities can and will complete the new curriculum requirements for graduation. If your child has an IEP that includes Curriculum Choice, the Student Success Plan becomes part of the IEP. Your child is exempt from the college consequence in the law.

## WHAT IS A STUDENT SUCCESS PLAN?

A Student Success Plan identifies your child's career goals after high school graduation and describes what he or she will do to achieve those goals. The plan needs to lead to at least one of the following:

- a. A two-year degree program;
- b. A business industry credential; or
- c. An apprenticeship.

The plan also states your child's interests, skills and knowledge that support his or her career goals. It includes the high school courses and programs related to and that support your child's career goals, outside-of-school

activities, the results of OhioMeansJobs K-12 (or other similar career information planning system) and a record of assessments (both current and planned). Examples of Student Success Plans are [here](#).

Direct questions to [curriculumchoice@education.ohio.gov](mailto:curriculumchoice@education.ohio.gov).