DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Statutory Authority: 14 Delaware Code, Section 122(b)(6) (14 **Del.C.** §122(b)(6))
14 **DE Admin. Code** 505

PROPOSED

PUBLIC NOTICE

505 High School Graduation Requirements and Diplomas

A. TYPE OF REGULATORY ACTION REQUIRED
Amendment to Existing Regulation

B. SYNOPSIS OF SUBJECT MATTER OF THE REGULATION
Pursuant to 14 **Del.C.** §122(b)(6), the Delaware Department of Education ("Department") developed amendments to 14 DE Admin. Code 505 High School Graduation Requirements and Diplomas. The Department made changes to the regulation as a result of recent statutory changes.

This regulation was previously published as proposed on March 1, 2026. After that publication, based on public comments received, additional substantive amendments were identified as needing inclusion in the regulations.

Below are the responses to the public comments received from Delaware State Education Association (DSEA), Delaware Charter School Network (DCSN), Positive Outcomes Charter School (POCS), DelawareKidsCAN, Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC), State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) and several educators:

Statement of Neutrality: The DSEA expressed that all high school graduates should be prepared for either the workforce or higher education, supported by a rigorous curriculum that builds strong skills in English, math, critical thinking, problem-solving, and responsible citizenship. Students should also develop global awareness, environmental responsibility, and values that support lifelong growth. Requiring at least a half-credit course in financial literacy will equip students with essential life skills. Ensuring local education agencies have flexibility in how they implement the requirement is important to ensure students continue to receive a well-rounded education.
Response: The Department appreciates the comments provided by the DSEA.

Issue: The DCSN and POCS expressed concern that the itemized credit categories in subsection 7.1 appear to total 24.5 credits, creating a perceived inconsistency with the stated 24-credit graduation requirement.
Response: The Department clarifies that the regulation does not increase the minimum graduation requirement beyond 24 credits. The ½ credit in Financial Literacy is incorporated within the existing 24-credit structure. The Department has updated subsection 7.1 to provide additional clarity.

Issue: DelawareKidsCAN and the DCSN expressed concern that the updates to Regulation 505 do not reflect the legislative intent of HS 1 for House Bill 203 and may limit flexibility by directing implementation of Financial Literacy within Social Studies.
Response: The Department believes that the regulation reflects and directly implements the intent of HS 1 for HB 203 w/ SA 1, including the statute's requirement that students complete a ½ credit in Financial Literacy as part of either the Social Studies or elective credits required for graduation and aligns to the state-adopted Financial Literacy standards. Per HS 1 for HB 203 w/ SA 1, "Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2026 through 2027 school year, students must successfully complete a ½ credit in Financial Literacy as part of the Social Studies or elective credits required to receive a high school diploma issued under §152(a) of this title."

Issue: Several educators expressed concern that the Financial Literacy requirement should be located in Math or CTE rather than Social Studies.
Response: The Department notes that Financial Literacy is established as a separate content area under Delaware regulation 501, with its own state-adopted standards. HS 1 for HB 203 w/ SA 1 requires that students complete a ½ credit in Financial Literacy and specifies that this requirement may be satisfied as part of either the Social Studies or elective credits required for graduation. The legislation does not include Math or Career and Technical Education as pathways for earning Financial Literacy credit.

Issue: The DCSN, POCS, and educators expressed concern that limiting Financial Literacy integration to Economics is overly restrictive and does not allow for broader interdisciplinary connections within Social Studies.

Response: The Department has updated Regulation 505 to reflect the specific language in HS 1 for HB 203 w/ SA 1. Students must successfully complete a ½ credit in Financial Literacy as part of the Social Studies or elective credits, aligned to state adopted Financial Literacy standards, required to receive a high school diploma.

Issue: Daphne Herber expressed concern that allowing Financial Literacy to be integrated into other courses may result in reduced or insufficient instruction, rather than the comprehensive instruction intended by the legislation.
Response: The Department notes that Financial Literacy is established as a separate content area under Delaware regulation 501, with its own state-adopted standards. HS 1 for HB 203 w/ SA 1 requires that students complete a ½ credit in Financial Literacy aligned to state adopted Financial Literacy standards and specifies that this requirement may be satisfied as part of either the Social Studies or elective credits required for graduation.

Issue: The DCSN, POCS, and several educators expressed concern that the regulation may constrain local scheduling flexibility and negatively impact course offerings and sequencing, including Civics and World History.
Response: The Department acknowledges that any new graduation requirement requires adjustments to local master schedules. The Department recognizes the importance of courses such as World History and Civics within a comprehensive Social Studies program. Decisions regarding how these courses are included within local programs remain under the authority of districts and charter schools in alignment with HS 1 for HB 203 w/ SA 1.

Issue: Several educators suggested that the regulation should increase the Social Studies graduation requirement to 4 credits to accommodate the addition of Financial Literacy.
Response: The Department notes that HS 1 for HB 203 w/ SA 1 does not increase the total number of credits required for graduation or the number of credits required in Social Studies. The Department further notes that decisions regarding additional credit requirements beyond the state minimum remain under local control, and districts and charter schools may choose to require additional Social Studies credits based on local priorities.

Issue: The GACEC and the SCPD expressed concern that financial fraud is one of the fastest growing forms of abuse targeting seniors and adults with disabilities. Financial literacy will be important for all students, but particularly so for students with disabilities. Online and social media safety should be addressed in the curriculum, as individuals with ill intent target individuals with disabilities in this way.
Response: The Department acknowledges this concern and notes that Delaware's Financial Literacy Standards explicitly address fraud, identity theft, and online scams within Financial Literacy Standard Four, emphasizing consumer awareness, risk reduction, and the protection of personal information for all students, including those most vulnerable. The Department also acknowledges the importance of online and social media safety instruction. Media Literacy and Digital Citizenship instruction is implemented, for all students, by each school district and charter school in accordance with the Digital Citizenship Education Act (SB 195 of the 151st General Assembly).

Issue: SCPD recommends that James H. Groves special education services be added along with DSCYF at the beginning of the new subsection 9.1.
Response: The Department recognizes the recommendation. This is addressed in subsection 9.1.8.

Issue: The GACEC and SCPD suggested that the definition of "Adult Education" may create confusion because special education in adult correctional facilities is operated by the James H. Groves High School, but is a K12 educational program, and recommended that the definition be modified accordingly using the WIOA definition.
Response: The Department recognizes this suggestion and recommendation. James H. Groves high school services are not funded through the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Persons wishing to present their views regarding this matter may do so in writing by submitting them to the Department of Education, Office of the Secretary, Attn: Regulation Review, 401 Federal Street, Suite 2, Dover, Delaware 19901 or through the Department's online submission form at https://de.gov/doeregs by the close of business (4:30 p.m. EST) on or before July 1, 2026. Any person who wishes to receive a copy of the proposed regulation may obtain a copy from the Department at the Office of the Secretary on the second floor of the Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street, Dover, Delaware.

C. IMPACT CRITERIA

1. Will the amended regulation help improve student achievement as measured against state achievement standards? No.
2. Will the amended regulation help ensure that all students receive an equitable education? Yes.
3. Will the amended regulation help to ensure that all students' health and safety are adequately protected? No.
4. Will the amended regulation help to ensure that all students' legal rights are respected? Yes.
5. Will the amended regulation preserve the necessary authority and flexibility of decision making at the local board and school level? Yes.

6. Will the amended regulation place unnecessary reporting or administrative requirements or mandates upon decision makers at the local board and school levels? No.
7. Will the decision-making authority and accountability for addressing the subject to be regulated be placed in the same entity? No.
8. Will the amended regulation be consistent with and not an impediment to the implementation of other state educational policies, in particular to state educational policies addressing achievement in the core academic subjects of mathematics, science, language arts and social studies? Yes.
9. Is there a less burdensome method for addressing the purpose of the regulation? No.
10. What is the cost to the State and to the local school boards of compliance with the regulation? Not applicable.

505 High School Graduation Requirements and Diplomas

1.0 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this regulation, shall have the following ~~meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:~~meaning:

"**Adult Education**" means programs and services designed to help adults improve literacy, numeracy, language skills, and workforce readiness, with the goals of advancing their education, training, and employment opportunities through Adult Basic Education, James H. Groves High School, English as a second language, integrated education training, integrated English literacy and civics education, workplace literacy, and correctional education.

"**Career Pathway**" means the ~~three (3)~~3 credits of pre-planned and sequential courses required for graduation designed to develop knowledge and skills in a particular career or academic area.

"**Computer Science**" means an advanced placement, honors, ~~college prep~~college prep, or integrated computer science course that meets both the computer science and mathematics standards that can be used towards a mathematics graduation credit requirement in addition to those mathematics course requirements under subsection ~~5.1.1.~~7.3.1.

"**Credit**" means the acquisition of skills and knowledge at a satisfactory level as determined by the district and charter school ~~boards through~~boards. Acquisition of skills and knowledge may be shown through either: (1) 135 ~~hours (a Carnegie Unit)~~ hours, a Carnegie Unit, of actual classroom instruction, which may include various methods of ~~delivery~~delivery; or (2) through locally approved options contained in Section ~~8.0.~~9.0.

"**Department**" means the Delaware Department of Education.

"**English Language Arts**" means those ~~four (4)~~4 components of ~~reading,~~reading literary and literary nonfiction texts, writing, language, and speaking and listening that are included in the State Content Standards for high school English Language Arts as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501.

"**Financial Literacy**" means those components of financial planning and decision-making, money management, saving and investing, and risk protection that are included in the State Content Standards for Financial Literacy as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501.

"**Health Education**" means those components that are included in the State Content Standards for high school health education as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501.

"**High ~~School~~" school**" means grades 9 through 12.

"**Homeless ~~Youth~~"youth**" as defined by the provisions of 42 U.S.C. §11434a(2), means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime ~~residence (within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. §11302(a)(1)),~~ residence, within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. §11302(a)(1), and includes:

- Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; or are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human ~~beings (within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. §11302(a)(2)(C));~~beings, within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. §11302(a)(2)(C);
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory ~~children (as such term is defined in 20 U.S.C. §6399 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended)~~ children, as this term is defined in 20 U.S.C. §6399 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described ~~above~~in this definition.

"**Mathematics**" means those conceptual categories of number and quantity, algebra, functions, geometry, statistics and probability combined with problem solving, modeling, reasoning, communicating, and making connections that are included in the State Content Standards for high school mathematics as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501 either through integrated courses or in courses titles ~~such as~~including Algebra I,

Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Computer Science, Discrete Mathematics, Data Science, Statistics, and Probability.

"**Novice-high proficiency level**" means the novice-high level of proficiency of certain skills and knowledge as defined by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign ~~Languages (ACTFL).~~Languages, or ACTFL.

"**Physical Education**" means those components that are included in the State Content Standards for high school physical education as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501 and 503. ~~In addition to the one (1) credit required for high school graduation, only one (1) additional elective credit in physical education such as weightlifting, yoga, fitness, running, or tennis may be used to fulfill the graduation requirements.~~

"**Science**" means those components of the nature of science which include science and engineering practices, matter and its interactions, motion and stability, energy and its effects, waves and their applications, Earth's place in the universe, Earth's systems, Earth and human activity, life structure and processes, ecosystems, heredity, diversity and continuity of living thing, engineering design, and the links among engineering, technology, science, and society that are included in the State Content Standards for high school science as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501 either through integrated courses or in course titles ~~such as~~ including Earth Science, Biology, ~~Chemistry~~ Chemistry, and Physics.

"**Social Studies**" means those components of civics, economics, geography, and history that are included in the State Content Standards for high school social studies as required in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501 either through integrated courses or in course titles ~~such as~~including United States History, World History, Geography, Economics, and Civics.

"**State of Delaware ~~High School Diploma~~" high school diploma**" means a diploma granted to students who successfully complete the prescribed course credit requirements established by the State, or the district or charter school, if district or charter school credit requirements are higher than those of the State.

"**State of Delaware – Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards**" means a diploma awarded to a student who has met the requirements of the student's Individualized Education ~~Program (IEP)~~Program, or IEP, but will not complete the high school graduation course credit requirements established by the State, district, or charter school for a State of Delaware ~~High School Diploma.~~high school diploma.

"**Student in DSCYF custody**" means a student, who is or was in the custody of ~~the Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families (DSCYF) including the Division of Family Services (DFS), the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health (PBH) and the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (YRS), for any length of time, during his or her enrollment in high school.~~the Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families, or DSCYF, including the Division of Family Services, or DFS, the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health, or PBH, and the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, or YRS, for any length of time, during the student's enrollment in high school.

"**Veteran**" ~~means any veteran who performed service during any of the following periods: World War II: December 7, 1941 through December 11, 1946, and also during occupation of defeated territories up to September 8, 1951; Korean War: June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955; and Vietnam: May 1, 1961 through April 30, 1975.~~means a person who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable.

"**World Languages**" means any language other than English that is used by persons around the world for communicating information and ideas and transmitting ~~its~~ cultures, including American Sign ~~Language (ASL), Latin~~Language, or ASL, Latin, and Ancient Greek.

10 DE Reg. 1802 (06/01/07)
12 DE Reg. 934 (01/01/09)
14 DE Reg. 555 (12/01/10)
18 DE Reg. 127 (08/01/14)
19 DE Reg. 303 (10/01/15)
22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)
24 DE Reg. 536 (12/01/20)

2.0 Credit Requirements for the Graduation Class of 2011 (Freshman Class of 2007-2008) through the Graduation Class of 2014 (Freshman Class of 2010-2011), Applicable to Adult Education Programs

2.1 For the graduating class of 2011, a public school student shall be granted a State of Delaware ~~Diploma when such~~ high school diploma when the student has successfully completed a minimum of ~~twenty two (22)~~22 credits in order to graduate including: ~~four (4)~~4 credits in English Language Arts, ~~four (4)~~4 credits in Mathematics; ~~three (3)~~ 3 credits in Science, ~~three (3)~~3 credits in Social Studies, ~~one (1)~~1 credit in Physical Education, ~~one-half (1/2)~~1/2 credit in Health Education, ~~three (3)~~3 credits in a Career Pathway, and ~~three and one-half (3 ½)~~3 ½ credits in elective courses.

2.1.1 Students shall complete Mathematics course work that includes no less than the equivalent of the traditional requirements of Geometry, ~~Algebra I~~Algebra I, and Algebra II courses.

2.1.2 Scientific investigations related to the State Science Standards shall be included in all ~~three (3)~~3 Science course requirements.

2.1.3 During the senior year students shall maintain a credit load each semester that earns them at least a majority of credits that could be taken that semester. A credit in Mathematics shall be earned during the senior year.

~~2.1.3.1~~2.1.4 Senior year credits shall include regular ~~High School~~high school course offerings, the options available in Section ~~8.0,~~9.0, or a combination of both.

10 DE Reg. 1802 (06/01/07)
15 DE Reg. 62 (07/01/11)
22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)
24 DE Reg. 536 (12/01/20)

3.0 Credit Requirements Beginning with the Graduation Class of 2015 (Freshman Class of 2011-2012), Applicable to Adult Education Programs

3.1 For the graduating class of 2015, a public school student shall be granted a State of Delaware ~~Diploma when such~~ high school diploma when the student has successfully completed a minimum of ~~twenty four (24)~~24 credits to graduate including: ~~four (4)~~4 credits in English Language Arts, ~~four (4)~~4 credits in Mathematics, ~~three (3)~~3 credits in Science, ~~three (3)~~3 credits in Social Studies, ~~two (2)~~2 credits in a World Language, ~~one (1)~~1 credit in Physical Education, ~~one-half (1/2)~~1/2 credit in Health Education, ~~three (3)~~3 credits in a Career Pathway, and ~~three and one-half (3 ½)~~3 ½ credits in elective courses.

3.1.1 The student shall complete Mathematics course work that includes no less than the equivalent of the traditional requirements of Geometry, ~~Algebra I~~Algebra I, and Algebra II courses.

3.1.2 Scientific investigations related to the State Science Standards shall be included in all ~~three (3)~~3 Science course requirements.

3.1.3 During the senior year the student shall maintain a credit load each semester that earns the student at least a majority of credits that could be taken that semester. A credit in Mathematics shall be earned during the senior year.

~~3.1.3.1~~3.1.4 Senior year credits shall include regular High School course offerings, the options available in Section ~~8.0,~~9.0, or a combination of both.

3.2 World Language:

3.2.1 Students may fulfill the ~~two (2)~~2 credit World language requirement by either:

3.2.1.1 Earning a minimum of ~~two (2)~~2 World Language credits in the same language; or

3.2.1.2 Demonstrating ~~Novice-high~~novice-high or higher proficiency level on a nationally recognized assessment of language proficiency, except English, in the skill areas of oral or signed expressive and receptive communication, ~~reading~~ reading, and writing, that uses the levels of proficiency as identified by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Language, or as approved for use by the Delaware Department of Education.

3.2.2 Any student enrolling in a Delaware public ~~High School~~high school from an out-of-state school or nonpublic Delaware ~~High School~~high school between and including October ~~1st~~ 1 of the ~~11th~~ eleventh grade year and September ~~30th~~ 30 of the ~~12th~~ twelfth grade year with ~~one (1)~~1 World Language credit from a previous school shall be required to earn the second credit in that language unless the language is not offered at the enrolling school. In ~~such~~ this case, the student shall earn ~~one (1)~~1 credit in an additional language for a total of ~~two (2)~~2 credits or pursue available options in Section ~~8.0~~9.0 to earn the second credit of the original language.

3.2.3 Any student enrolling in a Delaware public ~~High School~~high school from an out-of-state school or nonpublic Delaware ~~High School~~high school between and including October ~~1st~~ 1 of the ~~11th~~ eleventh grade year and September ~~30th~~ 30 of the ~~12th~~ twelfth grade year with no World Language credits, shall be required to earn at least ~~one (1)~~1 World Language credit prior to graduation. Provided further, the minimum ~~twenty-four (24)~~24 total credits outlined in this section shall still be met, or any other credit requirements pursuant to Section ~~9.0.~~10.0.

3.2.4 Any student enrolling in a Delaware public ~~High School~~high school from an out-of-state school or nonpublic Delaware ~~High School~~high school on or after October ~~1st~~ 1 of the ~~12th~~ twelfth grade year, the World Language requirement shall be waived. Provided further, the minimum ~~twenty-four (24)~~24 total credits outlined in this section shall still be met, or any other credit requirements pursuant to Section ~~9.0.~~10.0.

3.2.5 Any student transferring between Delaware public schools with ~~one (1)~~1 World Language credit from a previous school shall be required to earn the second credit in that language unless the language is not offered at the enrolling school. In ~~such~~ this case, the student shall pursue available options in Section ~~8.0~~9.0 to earn the second credit of the original language students or earn ~~one (1)~~1 credit in an additional language for a total of ~~two (2)~~2 credits.

10 DE Reg. 1802 (06/01/07)
12 DE Reg. 934 (01/01/09)
15 DE Reg. 62 (07/01/11)
18 DE Reg. 127 (08/01/14)
22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)
24 DE Reg. 536 (12/01/20)
25 DE Reg. 274 (09/01/21)

4.0 Credit Requirements Beginning with the Graduation Class of 2016 (Freshman Class of 2012-2013), Applicable to Adult Education Programs

4.1 Beginning with the graduating class of 2016, a public school student shall be granted a State of Delaware ~~Diploma when such~~ high school diploma when the student has successfully completed a minimum of ~~twenty four (24)~~24 credits to graduate including: ~~four (4)~~4 credits in English Language Arts, ~~four (4)~~4 credits in Mathematics, ~~three (3)~~3 credits in Science, ~~three (3)~~3 credits in Social Studies, ~~two (2)~~2 credits in a World Language, ~~one (1)~~1 credit in Physical Education, ~~one-half (1/2)~~1/2 credit in Health Education, ~~three (3)~~3 credits in a Career Pathway, and ~~three and one-half (3 ½)~~3 ½ credits in elective courses.

4.1.1 The student shall earn credit upon completion of Mathematics course work that includes no less than the equivalent of the traditional requirements of Geometry, ~~Algebra I~~Algebra I, and Algebra II courses. The student shall complete an Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics III course as one of the Mathematics credits.

4.1.2 Scientific investigations related to the State Science Standards shall be included in all ~~three (3)~~3 Science course requirements. The student shall complete a Biology course as ~~one (1)~~1 of the Science credits.

4.1.3 The student shall complete a U. S. History course as ~~one (1)~~1 of the Social Studies credits.

4.1.4 During the senior year the student shall maintain a credit load each semester that earns the student at least a majority of credits that could be taken that semester. A credit in Mathematics shall be earned during the senior year. Further provided, a student participating in a dual enrollment course or dual credit course, as defined in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 506 Policies for Dual Enrollment and Awarding Dual Credit, shall be considered to be meeting the majority of credits, as long as a credit in Mathematics is earned during the senior year.

~~4.1.4.1~~4.1.5 Senior year credits shall include regular ~~High School~~high school course offerings, the options available in Section ~~8.0,~~9.0, or a combination of both.

4.2 World Language:

4.2.1 Students may fulfill the ~~two (2)~~2 credit World Language requirement by either:

4.2.1.1 Earning a minimum of ~~two (2)~~2 World Language credits in the same language; or

4.2.1.2 Demonstrating ~~Novice-high~~novice-high or higher proficiency level on a nationally recognized assessment of language proficiency, except English, in the skill areas of oral or signed expressive and receptive communication, ~~reading~~ reading, and writing, that uses the levels of proficiency as identified by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Language, or as approved for use by the Delaware Department of Education.

4.2.2 Any student enrolling in a Delaware public ~~High School~~high school from an out-of-state school or nonpublic Delaware ~~High School~~high school between and including October ~~1st~~ 1 of the ~~11th~~ eleventh grade year and September ~~30th~~ 30 of the ~~12th~~ twelfth grade year with ~~one (1)~~1 World Language credit from a previous school shall be required to earn the second credit in that language unless the language is not offered at the enrolling school. In ~~such~~ this case, the student shall earn ~~one (1)~~1 credit in an additional language for a total of ~~two (2)~~2 credits or pursue available options in Section ~~8.0~~9.0 to earn the second credit of the original language.

4.2.3 Any student enrolling in a Delaware public ~~High School~~high school from an out-of-state school or nonpublic Delaware ~~High School~~high school between and including October ~~1st~~ 1 of the ~~11th~~ eleventh grade year and September ~~30th~~ 30 of the ~~12th~~ twelfth grade year with no World Language credits, shall be required to earn at least ~~one (1)~~1 World Language credit prior to graduation. Provided further, the minimum ~~twenty-four (24)~~24 total credits outlined in this section shall still be met, or any other credit requirements pursuant to Section ~~9.0.~~10.0.

4.2.4 Any student enrolling in a Delaware public ~~High School~~high school from an out-of-state school or nonpublic Delaware ~~High School~~high school on or after October ~~1st~~ 1 of the ~~12th~~ twelfth grade year, the World Language requirement shall be waived. Provided further, the minimum ~~twenty-four (24)~~24 total credits outlined in this section shall still be met, or any other credit requirements pursuant to Section ~~9.0.~~10.0.

4.2.5 Any student transferring between Delaware public schools with ~~one (1)~~1 World Language credit from a previous school shall be required to earn the second credit in that language unless the language is not offered at the enrolling school. In ~~such~~ this case, the student shall pursue available options in Section 9.0 to earn the second credit of the original language or earn ~~one (1)~~1 credit in an additional language for a total of ~~two (2)~~2 credits.

15 DE Reg. 62 (07/01/11)
18 DE Reg. 127 (08/01/14)
22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)
24 DE Reg. 536 (12/01/20)
25 DE Reg. 274 (09/01/21)

5.0 Credit Requirements for State of Delaware High School Diploma - Beginning with the Graduation Class of 2019 (Freshman Class of 2015-2016) through the Graduation Class of 2029 (Freshman Class of 2025-2026)

5.1 Beginning with the graduating class of 2019, ~~a~~ public school ~~student~~students and students within adult education programs shall be granted a State of Delaware ~~Diploma when such~~ high school diploma when the

student has successfully completed a minimum of ~~twenty-four (24)~~24 credits to graduate including: ~~four (4)~~4 credits in English Language Arts, ~~four (4)~~4 credits in Mathematics, ~~three (3)~~3 credits in Science, ~~three (3)~~3 credits in Social Studies, ~~two (2)~~2 credits in a World Language, ~~one (1)~~1 credit in Physical Education, ~~one-half (1/2)~~1/2 credit in Health Education, ~~three (3)~~3 credits in a Career Pathway, and ~~three and one-half (3 ½)~~3 ½ credits in elective courses.

5.1.1 The student shall earn credit upon completion of Mathematics course work that includes no less than the equivalent of the ~~traditional requirements of~~ requirements set forth in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501 for Geometry, ~~Algebra I~~Algebra I, and Algebra II courses. The student shall complete an Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics III course as one of the Mathematics credits.

5.1.2 Scientific investigations related to the State ~~Science~~ Science Content Standards shall be included in all ~~three (3)~~3 Science course requirements. The student shall complete a Biology course as ~~one (1)~~1 of the Science credits. Students within adult education programs are exempted from scientific investigation requirements.

5.1.3 The student shall complete a U. S. History course as ~~one (1)~~1 of the Social Studies credits.

5.1.4 During ~~the senior year the student~~senior year, public school students shall maintain a credit load each semester that earns the student at least a majority of credits that could be taken that semester. Students within adult education programs are exempted from senior year requirements.

5.1.4.1 A credit in Mathematics shall be earned during the senior year.

5.1.4.2 ~~Further provided, a~~ A student participating in a dual enrollment course or dual credit course, as defined in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 506 Policies for Dual Enrollment and Awarding Dual Credit, shall be considered to be meeting the majority of credits, as long as a credit in Mathematics is earned during the senior year.

~~5.1.4.1~~5.1.4.3 Senior year credits shall include regular ~~High School~~high school course offerings, the options available in Section ~~8.0,~~9.0, or a combination of both.

5.1.5 In addition to the 1 credit required for high school graduation, students may only take 1 additional elective credit in physical education to fulfill the graduation requirements.

5.2 World Language:

5.2.1 Students may fulfill the ~~two (2)~~2 credit World Language requirement by either:

5.2.1.1 Earning a minimum of ~~two (2)~~2 World Language credits in the same language; or

5.2.1.2 Demonstrating ~~Novice-high~~novice-high or higher proficiency level on a nationally recognized assessment of language proficiency, except English, in the skill areas of oral or signed expressive and receptive communication, ~~reading~~ reading, and writing, that uses the levels of proficiency as identified by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Language, or as approved for use by the ~~Delaware Department of Education.~~Department.

5.2.2 Any student enrolling in a Delaware public ~~High School~~high school or adult education program from an out-of-state school or nonpublic Delaware ~~High School~~high school between and including October ~~1st~~ 1 of the ~~11th~~ eleventh grade year and September ~~30th~~ 30 of the ~~12th~~ twelfth grade year with ~~one (1)~~1 World Language credit from a previous school shall be required to earn the second credit in that language unless the language is not offered at the enrolling school. In ~~such~~ this case, the student shall earn ~~one (1)~~1 credit in an additional language for a total of ~~two (2)~~2 credits or pursue available options in Section ~~8.0~~9.0 to earn the second credit of the original language.

5.2.3 Any student enrolling in a Delaware public ~~High School~~high school or adult education program from an out-of-state school or nonpublic Delaware ~~High School~~high school between and including October ~~1st~~ 1 of the ~~11th~~ eleventh grade year and September ~~30th~~ 30 of the ~~12th~~ twelfth grade year with no World Language credits shall be required to earn at least ~~one (1)~~1 World Language credit prior to graduation. Provided further, the minimum ~~twenty-four (24)~~24 total credits outlined in this section shall still be met, or any other credit requirements pursuant to Section ~~8.0.~~10.0.

5.2.4 Any student enrolling in a Delaware public ~~High School~~high school or adult education program from an out-of-state school or nonpublic Delaware ~~High School~~high school on or after October ~~1st~~ 1 of the ~~12th~~ twelfth grade year, the World Language requirement shall be waived. Provided further, the minimum ~~twenty-four (24)~~24 total credits outlined in this section shall still be met, or any other credit requirements pursuant to Section ~~8.0.~~10.0.

5.2.5 Any student transferring between Delaware public schools with ~~one (1)~~1 World Language credit from a previous school shall be required to earn the second credit in that language unless the language is not offered at the enrolling school. In ~~such~~ this case, the student shall pursue available options in Section ~~8.0~~9.0 to earn the second credit of the original language or earn ~~one (1)~~1 credit in an additional language for a total of ~~two (2)~~2 credits.

10 DE Reg. 1802 (06/01/07)
12 DE Reg. 934 (01/01/09)
15 DE Reg. 62 (07/01/11)
18 DE Reg. 127 (08/01/14)
22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)
24 DE Reg. 536 (12/01/20)
25 DE Reg. 274 (09/01/21)

6.0 Requirements for State of Delaware - Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards - Beginning with the Graduation Class of 2019 (Freshman Class of 2015-2016)

Beginning with the graduating class of 2019, a public school student shall be granted a State of Delaware - Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards when ~~such~~ the student has met the requirements of the student's Individualized Education ~~Program (IEP),~~Program, or IEP, but will not complete the ~~High School~~high school graduation course credit requirements established by the State, district, or charter school for a State of Delaware ~~High School Diploma.~~high school diploma.

22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)
24 DE Reg. 536 (12/01/20)

7.0 Credit Requirements for State of Delaware High School Diploma Beginning with Graduation Class of 2030 (Freshman Class of 2026 – 2027)

7.1 Beginning with the students entering grade 9 in the 2026-2027 school year, a public school student and students within adult education programs shall be granted a State of Delaware high school diploma when the student has successfully completed a minimum of 24 credits to graduate including: 4 credits in English Language Arts, 4 credits in Mathematics, 3 credits in Science, 3 credits in Social Studies, 2 credits in a World Language, 1 credit in Physical Education, 1/2 credit in Health Education, 1/2 credit in Financial Literacy, 3 credits in a Career Pathway, and 3 ½ credits in elective courses.

7.1.1 The required ½ credit in Financial Literacy shall be completed as part of the minimum 24 credits required for graduation and shall not increase the total number of credits required.

7.1.2 Students within adult education programs are not required to complete credits in Physical Education as part of the minimum 24 credits required for graduation.

7.2 During the senior year, the student must maintain a credit load each semester that earns the student at least a majority of credits that could be taken that semester and includes a credit in Mathematics.

7.2.1 A student participating in a dual enrollment course or dual credit course, as defined in 14 **DE Admin. Code** 506 Policies for Dual Enrollment and Awarding Dual Credit, will be considered to be meeting the majority of credits, as long as a credit in Mathematics is earned during the senior year.

7.2.2 Senior year credits include regular high school course offerings, the options available in Section 9.0, or a combination of both.

7.2.3 Students within adult education programs are exempted from senior year requirements.

7.3 Course specific requirements:

7.3.1 Mathematics: Mathematics course work must include no less than the equivalent of the requirements set forth in 14 **DE** Admin. Code 501 for Geometry, Algebra I, and Algebra II. Students must complete an Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics III course as 1 of the 4 required Mathematics credits.

7.3.2 Science: Scientific investigations related to the State Content Standards must be included in all 3 science course requirements. Students shall complete a Biology course as 1 of the 3 required Science credits. Students within adult education programs are exempted from scientific investigations requirement.

7.3.3 Social Studies: Students shall complete a U.S. History course as 1 of the 3 required Social Studies credits.

7.3.4 World Language: Students may fulfill the 2 credit World Language requirements by either earning a minimum of 2 World Language credits in the same language; or demonstrating novice-high or higher proficiency level on a nationally recognized assessment of language proficiency, except English, in the skill areas of oral or signed expressive and receptive communication, reading, and writing, that uses the levels of proficiency as identified by the American Council for the Teachers of Foreign Language, or as approved by the Department.

7.3.4.1 Any student enrolling in a Delaware public high school or adult education program from an out-of-state school or nonpublic Delaware high school:

7.3.4.1.1 Between and including October 1 of the eleventh grade year and September 30 of the twelfth grade year with 1 World Language credit from a previous school will be required to earn the second credit in that language unless the language is not offered at the enrolling school. In this case, the student shall earn 1 credit in an additional language for a total of 2 credits or pursue available options in Section 9.0 to earn the second credit of the original language.

7.3.4.1.2 Between and including October 1 of the eleventh grade year and September 30 of the twelfth grade year with no World Language credits will be required to earn at least 1 World Language credit prior to graduation. The student must still meet all other graduation requirements and earn a minimum of 24 total credits.

7.3.4.1.3 On or after October 1 of the twelfth grade year will not be required to earn any World Language credits. The student must still meet all other graduation requirements and earn a minimum of 24 total credits.

7.3.4.2 Any student transferring between Delaware public schools with 1 World Language credit from a previous school will be required to earn the second credit in that same language unless the language is not offered at the enrolling school. In this case, the student can pursue available

options in Section 9.0 to earn the second credit in the original language or earn 1 credit in a different language for a total of 2 credits.

7.3.5 Financial Literacy: Students may fulfill the 1/2 credit in Financial Literacy requirement by either completing a course aligned solely to the State Content Standards for Financial Literacy or completing a 1 credit course aligned to both the State Content Standards of Financial Literacy and the State Content Standards for Social Studies.

7.3.5.1 Courses aligned solely to the State Content Standards for Financial Literacy must be applied toward the Financial Literacy credit requirement in subsection 7.1 and shall count as part of the elective credit requirement in subsection 7.1.

7.3.5.2 A 1 credit course aligned to both the State Content Standards for Financial Literacy and the State Content Standards for Social Studies must be applied to the Social Studies credit requirement in subsection 7.1.

7.3.5.3 A course aligned only to the State Content Standards for Financial Literacy and not also aligned to the State Content Standards for Social Studies cannot be used to satisfy the Social Studies credit requirement.

7.3.5.4 Any student enrolling in a Delaware public high school from an out-of-state school or nonpublic Delaware high school on or after October 1 of the twelfth grade year, will not be required to earn the Financial Literacy credit. The student must still meet all other graduation requirements and earn a minimum of 24 total credits.

7.3.6 Physical Education: In addition to the 1 credit required for high school graduation, students may only take 1 elective credit in physical education to fulfill the graduation requirements.

~~7.0~~8.0 Career Pathway

Local school districts and charter school boards shall establish policies concerning the purpose, content, development, and approval of Career Pathways.

10 DE Reg. 1802 (06/01/07)
22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)

~~8.0~~9.0 Options for Awarding Credit Toward High School Graduation

~~8.1~~9.1 District and charter school boards, ~~and~~ the Department of Services for Children, Youth ~~and their Families (DSCYF) as provided in 29 **Del.C.** §9003(8),~~ & their Families, or DSCYF, and the Adult and Prison Educaiton Resources Work group in the Department, or APER, are authorized to award credit toward ~~High School~~high school graduation for the following activities on the condition that the activities incorporate any applicable state content standards. ~~Before awarding credit for any of the following activities, the districts and charter school boards shall have adopted a policy approving the activity for credit and establishing any specific conditions for the award of credit for the activity. Such policy shall be applicable to each school within the district or each charter High School.~~

~~8.1.1~~9.1.1 Courses taken at or through an accredited ~~community college, two- or four-year~~2-year or 4-year college.

~~8.1.2~~9.1.2 Voluntary community service as defined in 14 **Del.C.** §§8901A and 8902A.

~~8.1.3~~9.1.3 Supervised work experience in the school and the community which meets the educational objectives or special career interest of the individual student.

~~8.1.4~~9.1.4 Independent study.

~~8.1.5~~9.1.5 Distance learning courses. These courses may be delivered by the teacher to the learner in real time, online or by video.

~~8.1.6~~9.1.6 High ~~School~~school courses taken while in middle school in conjunction with an articulated agreement between the district or charter middle school and the ~~district High School.~~district or charter high school. ~~Such credit~~Credit shall also transfer to a ~~High School~~high school in another district or to a charter school.

~~8.1.7~~9.1.7 Course credit transferred from another ~~High School.~~high school.

~~8.1.8~~9.1.8 Course credit earned through summer or evening school classes, as a member of the military service, or as part of the James H. Groves Adult High School.

~~8.1.9~~9.1.9 Tutoring programs taught by a teacher certified in the subject being taught.

~~8.1.10~~9.1.10 Course credit awarded by agencies or instrumentalities of the state other than public schools which provide educational services to students. A description of the program provided to the student, grades given, and the number of clock hours of instruction or a demonstration of competency must be provided to the school ~~district or charter school~~district, charter school, DSCYF, or APER prior to receipt of credit.

~~8.1.11~~9.1.11 Courses taught by a teacher certified in the subject being taught and credit earned upon demonstration of mastery of the competencies of the particular course.

9.2 Before awarding credit for the activities in this Section, the district or charter school board, DSCYF, or community based adult education programs, and prison education program must have adopted a policy approving the activity for credit and establishing any specific conditions for the award of credit for the activity. The policy must be applicable to each school within the district or each charter high school.

18 DE Reg. 127 (08/01/14)
19 DE Reg. 303 (10/01/15)
22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)
24 DE Reg. 536 (12/01/20)

~~9.0~~10.0 Additional Credit Requirements

District and charter school boards may establish additional credit requirements for graduation above the minimum number of credits required by the Department.

10 DE Reg. 1802 (06/01/07)
22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)

~~10.0~~11.0 State of Delaware High School Diplomas and State of Delaware – Diplomas of Alternate Achievement Standards

~~10.1~~11.1 Diplomas from ~~one (1)~~1 school year shall not be issued after September 15 of the next school year.

~~10.2~~11.2 Duplicate State of Delaware ~~Diplomas~~ high school diplomas or Diplomas of Alternate Achievement Standards will be issued upon validated request. Requests for duplicate diplomas from graduates of Delaware ~~High Schools~~high schools should be directed to the ~~High School~~high school the student was attending at the time of graduation. If the school is no longer open or does not have the records, the student should contact the ~~Department of Education.~~Department. Fees for duplicate diplomas will be assessed at the ~~High School's or Department of Education's~~high school's or Department's cost. The requesting student will pay all associated fees.

~~10.3~~11.3 State ~~High School Diploma for Veterans~~high school diploma for veterans serving during times of war or conflict, pursuant to ~~14 **Del.C.** §1591~~4 **Del.C.** §159.

~~10.3.1~~11.3.1 The Department shall provide a ~~High School Diploma to any Veteran who:~~high school diploma to any veteran who:

~~10.3.1.1~~11.3.1.1 Left a Delaware ~~High School~~high school prior to graduation to serve in the armed forces of the United States;

~~10.3.1.2~~11.3.1.2 Did not receive a ~~High School Diploma, or received a G.E.D.,~~high school diploma as a consequence of ~~such~~ service; and

~~10.3.1.3~~11.3.1.3 Was discharged from the armed forces under honorable circumstances.

~~10.3.2~~11.3.2 The diploma may also be awarded posthumously if the deceased ~~Veteran~~ veteran meets the qualifications in subsections ~~10.3.1.1 through 10.3.1.3.~~11.3.1.1 through 11.3.1.3.

~~10.3.3~~11.3.3 Applications for this ~~High School~~high school diploma shall be made on forms designated by the Department and the ~~Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs and shall have a copy of the candidate's honorable discharge papers attached to the application.~~Delaware Department of Veterans Affairs and must include a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge papers.

4 DE Reg. 995 (12/01/00)
5 DE Reg. 625 (09/01/01)
7 DE Reg. 1344 (04/01/04)
10 DE Reg. 547 (09/01/06)
12 DE Reg. 934 (01/01/09)
15 DE Reg. 62 (07/01/11)
18 DE Reg. 127 (08/01/14)
22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)
24 DE Reg. 536 (12/01/20)
25 DE Reg. 274 (09/01/21)

~~11.0~~12.0 Exceptions for Homeless Youth and Students in DSCYF Custody

~~11.1~~12.1 Any student who experiences homelessness or is placed in DSCYF custody while the student is in high school, including a ~~Homeless Youth or a Student~~homeless youth or student in DSCYF custody who transfers into a district or charter school shall be permitted to graduate based on the successful completion of the Department's graduation requirements as defined in this regulation in lieu of the district's or charter school's specific requirements permitted by Section ~~9.0.~~10.0.

~~11.2~~12.2 When a ~~Homeless Youth or a Student~~homeless youth or student in DSCYF custody transfers into a district or charter school, the district or charter school shall use policies developed pursuant to Section ~~8.0~~9.0 to review the student's prior transcript and award values for credit earned through:

~~11.2.1~~12.2.1 Distance learning courses. These courses may be delivered by the teacher to the learner in real time, online or by video;

~~11.2.2~~12.2.2 Courses completed in mental health or rehabilitative facilities;

~~11.2.3~~12.2.3 Courses completed in other districts or charter schools that use a different standard of awarding credits; or

~~11.2.4~~12.2.4 Any other means as approved by the Chief School Officer of the district or charter school in accordance with policy and the law.

18 DE Reg. 127 (08/01/14)

19 DE Reg. 303 (10/01/15)
22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)
24 DE Reg. 536 (12/01/20)
25 DE Reg. 274 (09/01/21)

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4 DE Reg. 995 (12/01/00)
5 DE Reg. 625 (09/01/01)
7 DE Reg. 1344 (04/01/04)
10 DE Reg. 547 (09/01/06)
10 DE Reg. 1802 (06/01/07)
12 DE Reg. 934 (01/01/09)
14 DE Reg. 555 (12/01/10)
15 DE Reg. 62 (07/01/11)
18 DE Reg. 127 (08/01/14)
19 DE Reg. 303 (10/01/15)
22 DE Reg. 762 (03/01/19)
24 DE Reg. 536 (12/01/20)
25 DE Reg. 274 (09/01/21)