



FIRST CHOICE

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF THE FUTURE

**Curriculum and Instruction
Alabama Department of Education**

FIRST CHOICE Was Created To:



- **Increase the level of expectation and learning for Alabama high school students.**
- **Help those students who have successfully completed their curriculum requirements but have been unable to pass all five sections of the Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE).**
- **Improve Alabama's high school graduation rate and decrease the drop out rate.**

DIPLOMA OPTIONS

1. Alabama High School Diploma *With or Without Endorsements*

- Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement (FIRST CHOICE)

- Alabama High School Diploma with Career Technical Endorsement

- Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Career Technical Endorsement

- Alabama High School Diploma with Credit-Based Endorsement

2. Alabama Occupational Diploma

Alabama High School
Diploma
24 Credits

English
4 Credits

Social Studies
4 Credits

Science
4 Credits

Math
4 Credits

P.E., Health, Arts,
Computer
2.5 Credits

Electives
5.5 Credits

Advanced Academic
Endorsement
(First Choice)
24 Credits

English
4 Credits

Social Studies
4 Credits

Science
4 Credits

Math
4 Credits
(includes Algebra II
with Trig.)

P.E., Health, Arts,
Computer
2.5 Credits

Foreign Language
2 Credits

Electives
3.5 Credits

DIPLOMA OPTIONS

Alabama High School Diploma No Endorsement

24 credits

English (4 credits) 9, 10, 11, 12

Social Studies (4 credits) 9, 10, 11, 12

Science (4 credits) Biology, a physical science, 2 science electives

Mathematics (4 credits) Algebra I, Geometry, 2 math electives

Physical Education (1 credit) LIFE course

Health (1/2 credit)

Arts Education (1/2 credit)

Computer Applications (1/2 credit)

Electives (5.5 credits)

Pass all portions of the AHSGE

Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement

FIRST CHOICE

24 credits

English (4 credits) 9, 10, 11, 12

Social Studies (4 credits) 9, 10, 11, 12

Science (4 credits) Biology, a physical science, two science electives

Mathematics (4 credits) Algebra I, Geometry, **Algebra II with Trig.**, 1 math elective

Physical Education (1 credit) LIFE course

Health (1/2 credit)

Arts Education (1/2 credit)

Computer Applications (1/2 credit)

Foreign Language (2 credits)

Electives (3.5 credits)

Pass all portions of the AHSGE

Alabama High School Diploma with Career Technical Endorsement

24 credits

English (4 credits) 9, 10, 11, 12

Social Studies (4 credits) 9, 10, 11, 12

Science (4 credits) Biology, a physical science, 2 science electives (1 may be embedded/substituted)

Mathematics (4 credits) Algebra I, Geometry, 2 math electives (1 may be embedded/substituted)

Physical Education (1 credit) LIFE course

Health (1/2 credit)

Arts Education (1/2 credit)

Computer Applications (1/2 credit)

Attaining concentrator status and 1 additional CTE credit

Electives (2.5 credits)

Pass all portions of the AHSGE

Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Career Technical Endorsement

24 credits

English (4 credits) 9, 10, 11, 12

Social Studies (4 credits) 9, 10, 11, 12

Science (4 credits) Biology, a physical science, 2 science electives (1 may be embedded/substituted)

Mathematics (4 credits) Algebra I, Geometry, **Algebra II with Trig.**, 1 math elective (may be embedded/substituted)

Physical Education (1 credit) LIFE course

Health (1/2 credit)

Arts Education (1/2 credit)

Computer Applications (1/2 credit)

Attaining concentrator status and 1 additional CTE credit

Electives (2.5 credits)

Pass all portions of the AHSGE

**Alabama High School Diploma with
Credit-Based Endorsement**

***Available only to eligible 12th graders**

24 credits

English (4 credits) 9, 10, 11, 12

Social Studies (4 credits) 9, 10, 11, 12

Science (4 credits) Biology, a physical science, 2 science
electives

Mathematics (4 credits) Algebra I, Geometry, 2 math
electives

Physical Education (1 credit) LIFE course

Health (1/2 credit)

Arts Education (1/2 credit)

Computer Applications (1/2 credit)

Electives (5.5 credits to include 1 CTE credit—9th graders
beginning 2009)

**Pass 3 portions of the AHSGE, including Reading
and Mathematics**

Alabama Occupational Diploma

24 credits

English (4 credits) English I, II, III, IV (or equivalent)

Social Studies (4 credits) Social Studies I, II, III, IV (or equivalent)

Science (4 credits) Science I, II, III, IV (or equivalent)

Mathematics (4 credits) Math I, II, III, IV (or equivalent)

Career Technical education (2 credits)

Coordinated Studies or Transitional Services (1 credit)

Cooperative/Career Technical Education (1 credit)

Physical Education (1 credit) LIFE course Health (1/2 credit)

Arts Education (1/2 credit)

Electives ((2 credits)

OPT-OUT PROVISION

(Place on School Letterhead)

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT CHANGE REQUEST FORM

I _____, have reviewed the possible options to the Alabama High School Diploma and feel that
(student name)

the Advanced Academic Endorsement is not the most appropriate to meet my individual academic and learning needs.

I have discussed this request with my parent/guardian and my high school counselor and understand the academic implications of this change.

I would like to change my option to:

- _____ Alabama High School Diploma
- _____ Alabama High School Diploma with a Career Technical Endorsement
- _____ Alabama Occupational Diploma

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Counselor Signature

Date

Principal Signature

Date

CREDIT –BASED ENDORSEMENT REQUEST FORM

(Place on School Letterhead)

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA CREDIT-BASED ENDORSEMENT REQUEST FORM

I, _____ am a graduating senior and have taken the Alabama High
(student name)

School Graduation Exam each time it has been offered and have not passed one or more subtests of the exam. I have, however, passed the Reading, Mathematics, and _____ Sections and the
(one other subtest required)

academic classes required for graduation from my high school. I would, therefore, like to request the Credit-Based Endorsement to the Alabama High School Diploma. I have reviewed this option with my parent/guardian and my high school counselor and understand the academic implications of this change.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Counselor Signature

Date

Principal Signature

Date

FIRST CHOICE TIMELINE

WHEN WILL THIS TAKE PLACE?

- 2008-2009 school year: LEAs were able to implement the First Choice Diploma on a voluntary basis.
- 2009-2010 school year: First Choice Diploma beginning with the ninth-grade class for all high schools
- 2010-2011 school year: LEAs may delay implementation of First Choice pending waiver approval.

FUTURE GRADUATES



ACADEMIC TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR SUPPORT

Alabama Credit Recovery Program



ALABAMA CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAM DEFINITION



- Course-specific, skill-based extended learning opportunities
- Designed for students who have been unsuccessful in mastering content or skills required to receive course credit or earn promotion
- Based on deficiencies rather than a repeat of the entire course

LOCAL CREDIT RECOVERY PLANS



- LEAs may develop local Credit Recovery Plans and provide to the State Department of Education for approval.
- LEAs shall provide local Credit Recovery Plans to students and parents.
- Local Credit Recovery Plans are based on the guidelines adopted by the state Board of Education.

LOCAL PLANS MUST ADDRESS

- Admission and Removal
- Instruction
- Content and Curriculum
- Grades
 - Entry
 - Final
- Credits

Admission and Removal Guidelines Should Address:



- Attendance
- Discipline
- Availability of Coursework
- Availability of Space
- Appropriate Progress
- Grades

Admission and Removal Guidelines

Must:



- Require an Application Process
- Require Parental Consent

Instruction



Computer–Based Courses Shall require:

- Certified Teachers as Facilitators
- Appropriate Technology Training for Facilitators
- Software Addressing Alabama Course of Study Standards

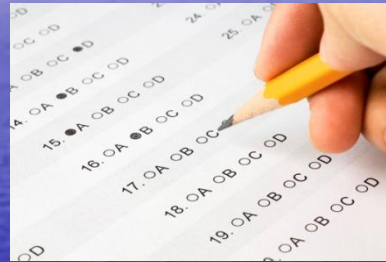
Teacher-Based Programs Shall Require:

- Highly Qualified Teachers in Core Academic Areas

Online Courses Including ACCESS Shall Require:

- Adult Facilitators Approved by Local School Board

Instruction (cont'd)



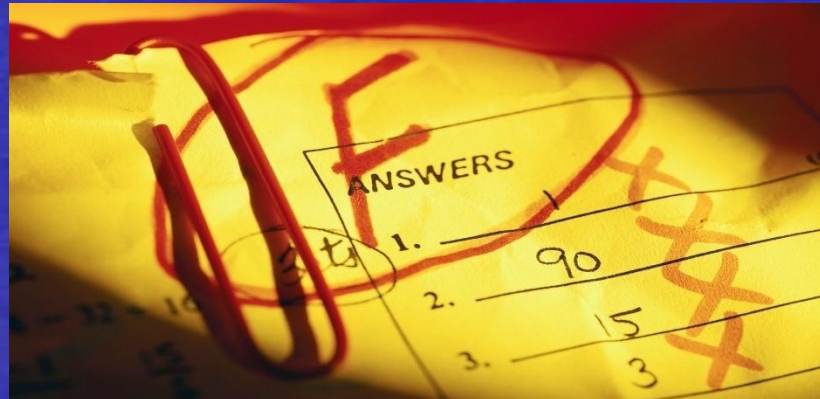
- Students shall complete a course, skill-specific diagnostic test to determine skill-specific goals.

AND/OR

- Teacher designates content standards that were not met.

PROGRESS AND FINAL GRADES

- LEAs establish procedures for evaluation of student progress.
- LEAs shall establish a grading formula not to exceed 70 for the final grade.
- LEAs may choose the option of grade forgiveness (for computing GPAs).



CREDITS



- Credit recovery courses must be included in calculating total credits allowed during the year.

Credit Advancement



- Originally Referred to as Academic Flexibility
- 2009-2010 will serve as a pilot year.
- For Students Who Exhibit Proficiency Beyond the Level Required for All Students
- Local Option

Credit Advancement

- Current Guidelines Are Posted on the SDE Website.
- Guidelines will be refined through this pilot program.
- Currently: End-of-Course Assessment may be administered before taking a course, or students may work ahead and take end-of-course assessment during a course.

(Place on School Letterhead)

CREDIT ADVANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

I _____, would like to request the opportunity to obtain credit for
(student name)

_____ through Credit Advancement. I have obtained the
(name of course)

recommendation of former teachers of the subject listed above, and my performance on state and national assessments of achievement. I realize that I must obtain a score of 80 or above on the comprehensive exam for the course requested to be eligible for Credit Advancement. After receiving my score on the comprehensive exam, I have the option of accepting the grade or pursuing the course through traditional means. Should I accept the exam score, it will be used in the calculation of my Grade Point Average.

Student Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Counselor Signature

Date

Attached Documentation

Teacher Signature

Date

Attached Documentation

Principal Signature

Date

Online Course or Online Experience



- The online course/experience is required for all students beginning with 9th-grade students in 2009-2010.
- An online course, e.g., ACCESS, satisfies this requirement.
- An online experience within a teacher-directed classroom may also satisfy the requirement.
- Guidelines are posted on the SDE Website.

Online Experience Requirements



- Collaborate online in content-related projects that integrate a variety of media.
- Incorporate a variety of media and formats to design, develop, publish, and present.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the use of emerging technology.

ALABAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL INITIATIVE

- Southern Regional Education Board Making Middle Grades Work
- Overarching Goals:
 - To Increase the Percentage of Eighth Graders Who Perform at the Proficient Level
 - To Provide Educational Experiences That Will Close the Gaps and Increase Students' Knowledge and Skills
 - To Provide Students With Opportunities to Apply Their Skills in the Fine Arts and to Explore Careers and New Technology

For Additional Information

State Department of Education Website:

First Choice and Supporting Programs

http://www.alsde.edu/html/al_high_school_diploma_proposal.asp

Alabama Administrative Code

<http://www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/docs/ed/McWord290-3-1.pdf>

or

contact the following:

Alabama Department of Education

Curriculum and Instruction

(334) 242-8059