

1 16 NCAC 06A .0201 is proposed for adoption as follows:

2
3 **SUBCHAPTER 6A – ~~ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN~~ STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES**

4
5 **SECTION .0200 – Organization and Administration**

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7 **16 NCAC 06A .0201 DEFINITIONS**

8 As used in this Chapter, the following definitions apply unless otherwise specified:

9 (1) "Board," "SBE," or "NCSBE" means the State Board of Education.

10 (2) "Charter school" means a public school organized and operated under Chapter 115, Article 14A of the
11 General Statutes.

12 (3) "Department," "DPI," or "NCDPI" means the Department of Public Instruction.

13 (4) "High school" means a public school offering education in Grades 9 through 12 or 10 through 12.

14 (5) "Institution of higher education" or "IHE" means a community college, two-year college, four-year
15 college, or university accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Secretary of
16 Education to be a reliable authority on accreditation.

17 (6) "Junior high school" means a public school offering education in Grades 6 through 9 or 7 through 9.

18 (7) "Local education agency" or "LEA" means a local school administrative unit.

19 (8) "Local board of education" or "local board" is defined in G.S. 115C-5(5).

20 (9) "Local school administrative unit" or "LSAU" is defined in G.S. 115C-5(6).

21 (10) "Local superintendent" means the superintendent of a local school administrative unit, as provided in
22 Chapter 115C, Article 18 of the General Statutes.

23 (11) "Middle school" means a public school offering education in Grades 6 through 8.

24 (12) "Principal" means a school administrator employed as the principal of a school, as provided in Chapter
25 115C, Article 19 of the General Statutes.

26 (13) "Professional educator" or "educator" is defined in G.S. 115C-270.1(2).

27 (14) "Public school" or "school" means a public institution offering tuition-free education at any level from
28 Kindergarten through Grade 12 and that is under the jurisdiction of a public school unit.

29 (15) "Public school unit" or "PSU" is defined in G.S. 115C-5(7a).

30 (16) "PSU governing body" or "governing body of a public school unit" is defined in G.S. 115C-5(3a).

31 (17) "Regional school" is defined in G.S. 115C-238.61(4).

32 (18) "School district" is defined in G.S. 115C-5(4).

33 (19) "School for the blind" is defined in G.S. 115C-150.10(6).

34 (20) "School for the deaf" is defined in G.S. 115C-150.10(7).

35 (21) "School year" or "academic year" means a calendar year beginning on July 1 of one year and ending on
36 June 30 of the following year.

1 (22) "Student" means a person enrolled in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or in Grade 1 through Grade 12 in
2 any public school unit.

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4 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 115C-5; 115C-12; 115C-150.10; 115C-218; 115C-238.61; 115C-270.1;
5 Eff. January 1, 2025.

1 16 NCAC 06A .0202 is proposed for adoption as follows:
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4 **16 NCAC 06A .0202 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

5 (a) The administrative offices for the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction are located
6 in the New Education Building, 301 North Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601.

7 (b) The mailing address for the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction is 6301 Mail Service
8 Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699. To the extent that any rule in this Chapter calls for materials to be submitted
9 via physical mail to the SBE, DPI, or any officer or employee thereof, the sender shall utilize this mailing address.

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11 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 115C-5; 115C-12;
12 Eff. January 1, 2025.

1 16 NCAC 06D .0501 is proposed for readoption with substantive changes as follows:

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3 **SECTION .0500 – ~~DEFINITIONS~~ PROMOTION AND GRADUATION**

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5 **16 NCAC 06D .0501 DEFINITIONS**

6 As used in this ~~Subchapter~~ Section, the following definitions apply:

- 7 (1) ~~"adequate progress" shall mean student performance at or near grade level as indicated by student work,~~
8 ~~assessment data, and other evaluation information.~~
- 9 (2) ~~"focused intervention" shall mean help for students in attaining competency goals and objectives. The help~~
10 ~~or assistance shall be based on a diagnosis of what the student knows and is able to do. The strategies~~
11 ~~for helping the student shall be based on the diagnosis of the student's work.~~
- 12 (3) ~~"grade level proficiency" shall mean Level III or above on end of grade assessments in reading and~~
13 ~~mathematics in grades 3-8. In grades K-2, teachers shall identify those students who are not~~
14 ~~performing at grade level expectations. The levels of student performance shall be defined as follows:~~
15 (a) ~~"Level I" shall mean that the student fails to achieve at a basic level. Students performing at this~~
16 ~~level do not have sufficient mastery of knowledge and skills in this subject area to be~~
17 ~~successful at the next grade level.~~
18 (b) ~~"Level II" shall mean that the student achieves at a basic level. Students performing at this level~~
19 ~~demonstrate inconsistent mastery of knowledge and skills in this subject area and are~~
20 ~~minimally prepared to be successful at the next grade level.~~
21 (c) ~~"Level III" shall mean that the student achieves at a proficient level. Students performing at this~~
22 ~~level consistently demonstrate mastery of grade level subject matter and skills and are well~~
23 ~~prepared for the next grade level.~~
24 (d) ~~"Level IV" shall mean that the student achieves at an advanced level. Students performing at this~~
25 ~~level consistently perform in a superior manner clearly beyond that required to be proficient~~
26 ~~at grade level work.~~
- 27 (4) ~~"instructionally sound" shall mean a practice or strategy that reflects research findings and the~~
28 ~~achievement needs of students. The practice shall take into account student learning styles, effective~~
29 ~~delivery of content and skills, diagnosis, monitoring, and evaluation.~~
- 30 (1) "Alternative assessment" is defined in G.S. 115C-83.3.
- 31 (2) "Career and technical education" or "CTE" means education designed to teach a set of technical or career-
32 based skills, including agriculture, business and finance, family and consumer science, health
33 science, information technology, marketing, technology, and industrial trades.
- 34 (3) "Child with a disability" is defined in G.S. 115C-106.3(1).
- 35 (4) "Content area" means a subject matter, academic discipline, or knowledge domain, such as a core
36 academic area, career and technical education, and the arts.

- (5) "Content standards" means the knowledge, concepts, and skills that a student should acquire at a specific grade level or within a specific content area. The Standard Course of Study indicates the minimum content standards for students in North Carolina.
- (6) "Core academic areas" means the academic disciplines of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, geography, and civics.
- (7) "Course credit" means the documented recognition that a student has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the governing body of a public school unit and consistent with the content standards, rigor, breadth, and depth of the Standard Course of Study, mastery of the content area for which the credit is being earned.
- (8) "Elective course credit" means course credit not specifically mandated by law or by this Section.
- (9) "Individualized education program" or "IEP" is defined in G.S. 115C-106.3(8).
- (10) "IEP team" is defined in G.S. 115C-106.3(7).
- (11) "Occupational preparation education" means instruction designed to prepare a student identified as a child with a disability for post-secondary education, employment, or independent living.
- (12) "Postsecondary plans" means a student's educational or occupational plans after graduating from high school, such as one of the following:
- (a) Enrollment in an institution of higher education.
 - (b) Full-time employment.
 - (c) Enlistment in the military.
- (13) "Principal" means a school administrator employed as the principal of a school, as provided in Chapter 115C, Article 19 of the General Statutes, or the staff member with the highest decision-making authority at a school, if there is no principal.
- (14) "Standard Course of Study" means the plan of education and standard course of study that has been developed and approved by the State Board of Education in accordance with G.S. 115C-12(9c) and Chapter 115C, Article 8, Part 1 of the General Statutes. The Standard Course of Study defines the content standards for each grade level or proficiency level for each high school course to provide a uniform set of learning standards for every public school in North Carolina. These standards define what a student is expected to know and be able to do by the end of each school year or high school course so that the student is prepared for the student's postsecondary plans.

*History Note: Authority ~~G.S. 115C-12(9b); 115C-81(b)(4); N.C. Constitution, Article IX, Sec. 5;~~
~~G.S. 115C-12(9c); 115C-12(9d); 115C-81.5; 115C-81.25; 115C-81.45; 115C-81.90;~~
~~115C-83.3; 115C-83.31; 115C-83.32; 115C-106.3;~~
~~Eff. December 1, 1999;~~
~~Amended Eff. January 2, 2006; April 1, 2005; 2005;~~
~~Readoption Eff. January 1, 2025.~~*

16 NCAC 06D .0503 is proposed for readoption with substantive changes as follows:

16 NCAC 06D .0503 STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

~~(a) In order to graduate and receive a high school diploma, public school students shall meet the requirements of Paragraph (e) of this Rule and shall attain passing scores on competency tests adopted by the SBE and administered by the LEA. The passing score for the competency test, which is the same as grade level proficiency as set forth in Rule~~

~~.0502 of this Subchapter, shall be level III or higher.~~

~~(b) Students who satisfy all state and local graduation requirements but who fail the competency tests shall receive a certificate of achievement and transcript and shall be allowed by the LEA to participate in graduation exercises.~~

~~(c) Special education students, other than students who are following the occupational course of study in Paragraph (e)(1)(D) of this Rule, may apply in writing to be exempted from taking the competency tests. Before it approves the request, the LEA must assure that the parents, or the child if aged 18 or older, understand that each student must pass the competency tests to receive a high school diploma.~~

~~(d) Any student who has failed to pass the competency tests by the end of the last school month of the year in which the student's class graduates may receive additional remedial instruction and continue to take the competency tests during regularly scheduled testing until the student reaches maximum school age. Special education students who are following the occupational course of study in Paragraph (e)(1)(D) of this Rule shall not be required to pass the competency test or the exit exam referred to in 16 NCAC 06D .0502(d)(2) in order to graduate and receive a diploma.~~

~~(e) In addition to the requirements of Paragraph (a) of this Rule, students must successfully complete 20 course units in grades 9-12 as specified below.~~

~~(1) Effective with the class entering ninth grade for the first time in the 2000-2001 school year, students shall select one of the following four courses of study:~~

~~NOTE: All students are encouraged, but not required, to include at least one elective course in arts education. Unless included as career/technical education credits in the career preparation course of study, courses in R.O.T.C. qualify for credit as electives in any of the courses of study.~~

~~(A) career preparation, which shall include:~~

~~(i) four credits in English language arts, which shall be English I, II, III, and IV;~~

~~(ii) three credits in mathematics, one of which shall be algebra I (except as limited by G.S. 115C-81(b));~~

~~(iii) three credits in science, which shall include biology, a physical science, and earth/environmental science;~~

~~(iv) three credits in social studies, which shall be Civics and Economics, U.S. history, and World history;~~

~~(v) one credit in health and physical education;~~

(vi) ~~four credits in career/technical education, which shall be in a career concentration or pathway that leads to a specific career field and which shall include a second-level (advanced) course; or four credits in one of the four disciplines in arts education: theatre, music, visual arts, or dance; or four credits in R.O.T.C.;~~

(vii) ~~two elective credits; and~~

(viii) ~~other credits designated by the LEA.~~

(B) ~~college technical preparation, which shall include:~~

(i) ~~four credits in English language arts, which shall be English I, II, III, and IV;~~

(ii) ~~three credits in mathematics, which shall be either algebra I, geometry, and algebra II; or algebra I, technical mathematics I, and technical mathematics II; or integrated mathematics I, II, and III;~~

(iii) ~~three credits in science, which shall include biology, a physical science, and earth/environmental science;~~

(iv) ~~three credits in social studies, which shall be Civics and Economics, U.S. history, and World history;~~

(v) ~~one credit in health and physical education;~~

(vi) ~~four credits in career/technical education, which shall be in a career concentration or pathway that leads to a specific career field and which shall include a second-level (advanced) course;~~

(vii) ~~two elective credits; and~~

(viii) ~~other credits designated by the LEA.~~

NOTE: ~~A student who is pursuing this course of study may also meet the requirements of a College/university course of study by completing one additional mathematics course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite and, effective with the class entering the ninth grade for the first time in the 2002-03 school year, two credits in the same second language.~~

(C) ~~college/university preparation, which shall include:~~

(i) ~~four credits in English language arts, which shall be English I, II, III, and IV;~~

(ii) ~~three credits in mathematics, which shall be algebra I, algebra II, and geometry or a higher level course for which algebra II is a prerequisite; or integrated mathematics I, II, and III; however, effective with the class entering the ninth grade for the first time in the 2002-03 school year, this requirement shall become four credits in mathematics, which shall be algebra I, algebra II, geometry, and a higher level course for which algebra II is a prerequisite; or integrated mathematics I, II, III, and one course beyond integrated mathematics III;~~

(iii) ~~three credits in science, which shall include biology, a physical science, and earth/environmental science;~~

- (iv) ~~three credits in social studies, which shall be Civics and Economics, U.S. history, and World history;~~
- (v) ~~one credit in health and physical education;~~
- (vi) ~~two credits in the same second language or demonstration of proficiency in a language other than English as determined by the LEA;~~
- (vii) ~~four elective credits, except that effective with the class entering the ninth grade for the first time in the 2002-03 school year, this shall be reduced to three elective credits;~~
- ~~and~~
- (viii) ~~other credits designated by the LEA.~~

(D) ~~occupational, which shall include:~~

- (i) ~~four credits in English language arts, which shall be Occupational English I, II, III, and IV;~~
- (ii) ~~three credits in mathematics, which shall be Occupational Mathematics I, II, and III;~~
- (iii) ~~two credits in science, which shall be Life Skills Science I and II;~~
- (iv) ~~two credits in social studies, which shall be Government/U.S. History and Self-Advocacy/Problem Solving;~~
- (v) ~~one credit in health and physical education;~~
- (vi) ~~six credits in occupational preparation education, which shall be Occupational Preparation I, II, III, IV, 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment;~~
- (vii) ~~four vocational education elective credits;~~
- (viii) ~~computer proficiency as specified in the student's IEP;~~
- (ix) ~~a career portfolio; and~~
- (x) ~~completion of the student's IEP objectives.~~

(2) ~~Effective with the class entering ninth grade for the first time in the 2006-2007 school year, students who are following the career preparation, college technical preparation, or college/university preparation courses of study shall meet the following exit standards:~~

(A) ~~successfully complete a senior project that is developed, monitored, and scored within the LEA using state-adopted rubrics; and~~

(B) ~~score at proficiency level III or above on the end of course assessment for English I, U.S. History, Biology, Civics and Economics, and Algebra I. A student who does not score at proficiency level III or above on the end of course assessment for any of these courses but who passes the course shall be offered the opportunity to retake the assessment no later than three weeks from the receipt of assessment results. If the student does not score at or above proficiency level III on the retest, school officials shall apply the review process described in Rule .0504 of this Section to provide focused intervention, a second retest opportunity, and a review of the student's documentation to determine whether the student has met the exit~~

1 standard for the course. The principal shall make the final decision as to whether the student
2 has met the exit standard.

3 (3) LEAs may count successful completion of course work in the ninth grade at a school system which does
4 not award course units in the ninth grade toward the requirements of this Rule.

5 (4) LEAs may count successful completion of course work in grades 9-12 at a summer school session toward
6 the requirements of this Rule.

7 (5) LEAs may count successful completion of course work in grades 9-12 at an off-campus institution toward
8 the locally designated electives requirements of this Rule. 23 NCAC 02C .0305 shall govern
9 enrollment in community college institutions.

10 (f) Effective with the class of 2001, all students must demonstrate computer proficiency as a prerequisite for high
11 school graduation. The passing scores for this proficiency shall be 47 on the multiple choice test and 49 on the
12 performance test. This assessment shall begin at the eighth grade. A student with disabilities shall demonstrate
13 proficiency by the use of a portfolio if this method is required by the student's IEP.

14 (g) Special needs students as defined by G.S. 115C-109, excluding gifted and pregnant, who do not meet the
15 requirements for a high school diploma shall receive a graduation certificate and shall be allowed to participate in
16 graduation exercises if they meet the following criteria:

17 (1) successful completion of 20 course units by general subject area (4 English, 3 math, 3 science, 3 social
18 studies, 1 health and physical education, and 6 local electives) under Paragraph (e) of this Rule. These
19 students are not required to pass the specifically designated courses such as Algebra I, Biology or
20 United States history; and

21 (2) completion of all IEP requirements.

22 (a) To graduate from a public high school in North Carolina and be issued a high school diploma by the governing
23 body of a public school unit, a student shall satisfy the requirements set forth in this Rule. The requirements for each
24 student are determined by the school year in which the student first enrolls in Grade 9. The requirements for a student
25 who has been identified as a child with a disability and whose IEP team has determined cannot satisfy the standard
26 state graduation requirements are set forth in 16 NCAC 06D .0506.

27 (b) A student who first enrolled in Grade 9 in the 2020-2021 school year shall earn a total of 22 course credits,
28 including the following:

29 (1) Four course credits in the content area of English and language arts, which shall consist of:

30 (A) English I;

31 (B) English II;

32 (C) English III; and

33 (D) English IV

34 (2) Four course credits in the content area of mathematics, which shall consist of:

35 (A) NC Math I;

36 (B) NC Math II;

37 (C) NC Math III; and

- (D) A fourth course credit aligned with the student's postsecondary plans.
- A student may, with the approval of the principal of the student's school, complete a CTE course approved by DPI in lieu of NC Math III.
- (3) Three course credits in the content area of science, which shall consist of:
- (A) Biology;
 - (B) One course in physical science; and
 - (C) One course in earth and environmental science.
- (4) Four course credits in the content area of social studies, which shall consist of:
- (A) One course on founding principles of the United States, which shall be either American History: Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics; or Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy;
 - (B) Economics and Personal Finance;
 - (C) One course in American history, which shall be either American History, American History I, or American History II; and
 - (D) World History.
- (5) One course credit in the content area of health and physical education, including completion of instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation ("CPR") as provided in G.S. 115C-81.25(c)(10).
- (6) Two elective course credits in any combination of the following content areas:
- (1) Career and technical education.
 - (2) Visual or performing arts education; or
 - (3) World languages education.
- (7) Four elective course credits in any combination of the following content areas:
- (A) Career and technical education;
 - (B) Visual or performing arts education;
 - (C) Reserve Officer Training Corps ("ROTC"); or
 - (D) Any other content area.
- (c) A student who first enrolled in Grade 9 in the 2021-2022 school year shall earn a total of 22 course credits, including the following:
- (1) Four course credits in the content area of English and language arts, which shall consist of:
- (A) English I;
 - (B) English II;
 - (C) English III; and
 - (D) English IV
- (2) Four course credits in the content area of mathematics, which shall consist of:
- (A) NC Math I;
 - (B) NC Math II;
 - (C) NC Math III; and

1 (D) A fourth course credit aligned with the student's postsecondary plans.
2 A student may, with the approval of the principal of the student's school, complete a CTE course approved
3 by DPI in lieu of NC Math III.
4 (3) Three course credits in the content area of science, which shall consist of:
5 (A) Biology;
6 (B) One course in physical science; and
7 (C) One course in earth and environmental science.
8 (4) Four course credits in the content area of social studies, which shall consist of:
9 (A) Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy;
10 (B) Economics and Personal Finance;
11 (C) American History; and
12 (D) World History.
13 (5) One course credit in the content area of health and physical education, including completion of instruction
14 in cardiopulmonary resuscitation ("CPR") as provided in G.S. 115C-81.25(c)(10).
15 (6) Two elective course credits in any combination of the following content areas:
16 (A) Career and technical education.
17 (B) Visual or performing arts education; or
18 (C) World languages education.
19 (7) Four elective course credits in any combination of the following content areas:
20 (A) Career and technical education;
21 (B) Visual or performing arts education;
22 (C) Reserve Officer Training Corps ("ROTC"); or
23 (D) Any other content area.
24 (d) A student who first enrolled in Grade 9 in the 2026-2027 school year shall earn a total of 22 course credits,
25 including the following:
26 (1) Four course credits in the content area of English and language arts, which shall consist of:
27 (A) English I;
28 (B) English II;
29 (C) English III; and
30 (D) English IV
31 (2) Four course credits in the content area of mathematics, which shall consist of:
32 (A) NC Math I;
33 (B) NC Math II;
34 (C) NC Math III; and
35 (D) A fourth course credit aligned with the student's postsecondary plans.
36 A student may, with the approval of the principal of the student's school, complete a CTE course approved
37 by DPI in lieu of NC Math III.

1 (3) Three course credits in the content area of science, which shall consist of:

2 (A) Biology;

3 (B) One course in physical science; and

4 (C) One course in earth and environmental science.

5 (4) Four course credits in the content area of social studies, which shall consist of:

6 (A) Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy;

7 (B) Economics and Personal Finance;

8 (C) American History; and

9 (D) World History.

10 (5) One course credit in the content area of health and physical education, including completion of instruction
11 in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (“CPR”) as provided in G.S. 115C-81.25(c)(10).

12 (6) One course credit in the content area of computer science, as prescribed in G.S. 115C-81.90. A student
13 shall be exempt from this requirement if the student transfers from a nonpublic school or a school
14 in another state to a North Carolina public school after completion of Grade 11, or if the student has
15 been identified as a child with disabilities and the student’s IEP team determines that the student’s
16 disability would prevent the student from completing the course credit.

17 (7) Two elective course credits in any combination of the following content areas:

18 (A) Career and technical education.

19 (B) Visual or performing arts education; or

20 (C) World languages education.

21 (8) Three elective courses any other content area.

22 (e) A student who first enrolled in Grade 9 in the 2025-2026 school year shall have earned at least one course credit
23 in visual or performing arts from Grade 6 through 12. A student shall be exempt from this requirement if the student
24 transfers from a nonpublic school or a school in another state to a North Carolina public school in Grade 9 or
25 thereafter and the requirement would prevent the student from graduating with the cohort of students to which the
26 student was assigned upon transfer.

27 (f) In determining whether a student who is the child of a military family has satisfied the requirements established
28 by this Rule, the governing body of a public school unit shall consider and comply with all requirements of the
29 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, codified at G.S. 115C-407.5.

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31 *History Note: Authority ~~G.S. 115C-12(9b); 115C-81(b)(4); N.C. Constitution, Article IX, Sec. 5;~~*

32 *~~G.S. 115C-12(9c); 115C-12(9d); 115C-81.5; 115C-81.25; 115C-81.45; 115C-81.90;~~*

33 *~~115C-83.31; 115C-83.32;~~*

34 *~~Eff. December 1, 1999;~~*

35 *~~Amended Eff. January 2, 2006; April 1, 2005; September 1, 2002; December 1, 2001; December~~*
36 *~~1, 2000. 2000;~~*

37 *~~Readoption Eff. January 1, 2025.~~*

16 NCAC 06D .0506 is proposed for readoption with substantive changes as follows:

16 NCAC 06D .0506 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

~~(a) Unless exempted pursuant to Paragraph (b) of this Rule, all students with disabilities shall participate in the statewide student accountability promotion standards for elementary, middle, and high school levels.~~

~~(b) Students with disabilities may be exempted from the statewide student accountability promotion standards by the IEP team, including the principal or school district representative. These students shall demonstrate evidence of progress on alternate assessments. Alternate assessments shall be performance measures that assess the educational progress of students with disabilities who are unable to participate in the general large-scale assessment system even when accommodations are provided to the student.~~

~~(c) All interventions/remediation and other opportunities, benefits and resources that are made available to students without disabilities shall be made available to students with disabilities who participate in the student promotion standards. All services offered shall be in addition to the special education services provided to the student.~~

(a) To graduate from a public high school in North Carolina and be issued a high school diploma by the governing body of a public school unit, a student who has been identified as a child with a disability in accordance with Chapter 115C, Article 9 of the General Statutes and whose IEP team has determined cannot satisfy the standard state graduation requirements set forth in 16 NCAC 06D .0503 shall satisfy the requirements set forth in this Rule. The requirements for each student are determined by the school year in which the student first enrolls in Grade 9.

(b) A student who first enrolled in Grade 9 in the 2020-2021 school year shall earn a total of 22 course credits, including the following:

(1) Four course credits in the content area of English and language arts, which shall consist of:

(A) English I;

(B) English II;

(C) English III; and

(D) English IV.

(2) Three course credits in the content area of mathematics, which shall consist of:

(A) Introduction to Mathematics;

(B) NC Math I; and

(C) Financial Management.

(3) Two course credits in the content area of science, which shall consist of:

(A) Biology; and

(B) Applied Science

(4) Two course credits in the content area of social studies, which shall consist of:

(A) One course on founding principles of the United States, which shall be either American History: Founding Principals, Civics, and Economics; or Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy; and

(B) Economics and Personal Finance.

- 1 (5) One course credit in the content area of health and physical education, including completion of instruction
2 in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (“CPR”) as provided in G.S. 115C-81.25(c)(10). The governing
3 body of a public school unit shall provide appropriate accommodations in accordance with the
4 student’s approved IEP.
- 5 (6) Six course credits occupational preparation education, which shall consist of:
6 (A) Occupational Preparation I or Employment Preparation I: Science
7 (B) Occupational Preparation II, or Employment Preparation II: Citizenship 1A and Employment
8 Preparation II: Citizenship 1B;
9 (C) Occupational Preparation III or Employment Preparation III: Citizenship 2A and Employment
10 Preparation III: Citizenship 2B; and
11 (D) Occupational Preparation IV or Employment Preparation IV: Math.
- 12 (7) Four elective credits in career and technical education.
- 13 (c) A student who first enrolled in Grade 9 in the 2021-2022 school year shall earn a total of 22 course credits,
14 including the following:
- 15 (1) Four course credits in the content area of English and language arts, which shall consist of:
16 (A) English I;
17 (B) English II;
18 (C) English III; and
19 (D) English IV.
- 20 (2) Three course credits in the content area of mathematics, which shall consist of:
21 (A) Introduction to Mathematics;
22 (B) NC Math I;
23 (C) Financial Management; and
24 Employment Preparation IV: Math, including 150 of the work hours required by Subparagraph
25 (d)(1).
- 26 (3) Three course credits in the content area of science, which shall consist of:
27 (A) Biology;
28 (B) Applied Science; and
29 (C) Employment Preparation I: Science, including 150 of the work hours required by Subparagraph
30 (d)(1).
- 31 (4) Four course credits in the content area of social studies, which shall consist of:
32 (A) Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy; and
33 (B) Economics and Personal Finance;
34 (C) Employment Preparation II: Citizenship 1A, including 75 of the work hours required by required
35 by Subparagraph (d)(1); and
36 (D) Employment Preparation II: Citizenship 1B, including 75 of the work hours required by required
37 by Subparagraph (d)(1).

- 1 (5) One course credit in the content area of health and physical education, including completion of instruction
2 in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (“CPR”) as provided in G.S. 115C-81.25(c)(10). The governing
3 body of a public school unit shall provide appropriate accommodations in accordance with the
4 student’s approved IEP.
- 5 (6) Two additional course credits occupational preparation education, which shall consist of:
6 (A) Employment Preparation III: Citizenship 2A, including 75 of the work hours required by
7 required by Subparagraph (d)(1); and
8 (B) Employment Preparation III: Citizenship 2B, including 75 of the work hours required by
9 required by Subparagraph (d)(1).
- 10 (7) Four elective credits in career and technical education.
- 11 (d) In addition to completing the course credits listed above, the student must complete the following:
12 (1) 600 work hours consisting of the following:
13 (A) 150 hours of school-based vocational training with activities and experiences that align with the
14 student’s postsecondary plans;
15 (B) 225 hours of community-based vocational training; and
16 (C) 225 hours of paid employment or 225 hours of unpaid vocational training, an unpaid internship,
17 paid employment at a community rehabilitation facility, or community service.
- 18 (2) A career portfolio.
- 19 (3) Any other objectives identified in the student’s IEP.
- 20 (e) In determining whether a student who is the child of a military family has satisfied the requirements established
21 by this Rule, the governing body of a public school unit shall consider and comply with all requirements of the
22 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, codified at G.S. 115C-407.5.
- 23 (f) The governing body of a public school unit shall award a Graduation Certificate to a child with a disability who
24 does not earn a high school diploma by the age of 22 or who completes the requirements of this Rule except for the
25 225 hours of employment identified in Sub-subparagraph (d)(1)(C). The student shall be allowed to participate in
26 high school graduation exercises.

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29 *History Note: Authority G.S. 115C-12(9b); 115C-81(b)(4); N.C. Constitution, Article IX, Sec. 5;*
30 *G.S. 115C-12(9c); 115C-12(9d); 115C-81.5; 115C-81.25; 115C-81.45; 115C-81.90;*
31 *115C-83.3; 115C-83.31; 115C-83.32; 115C-106.3;*
32 *Eff. December 1, 1999;*
33 *Amended Eff. April 1, ~~2005~~; 2005;*
34 *Readoption Eff. January 1, 2025.*

16 NCAC 06D .0508 is proposed for amendment as follows:

**16 NCAC 06D .0508 ~~NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S~~ NORTH CAROLINA READ TO ACHIEVE
PROGRAM**

(a) ~~Local education agencies (LEAs)~~ The governing board of each public school unit shall ~~enact third grade~~ adopt retention and promotion policies for students in Grade 3 that are consistent with G.S. 115C-83.1, 83.3, and 83.7. Chapter 115C, Article 8, Part 1a of the General Statutes.

(b) ~~Pursuant to G.S. 115C-83.3(2), LEAs shall use the Read to Achieve test as the alternative assessment in connection with G.S. 115C-83.7 and 83.8.~~ For the purpose of implementing the requirements of Chapter 115C, Article 8, Part 1a of the General Statutes, local school administrative units shall utilize the alternative assessment approved by the State Board of Education in accordance with G.S. 115C-83.3.

(c) The board of directors for a charter school may submit for approval by the State Board of Education ("SBE") an alternative assessment of its choice for use in satisfying the requirements of Chapter 115C, Article 8, Part 1a of the General Statutes, provided that the board does so no later than June 30 prior to the start of the school year in which it intends to use the alternative assessment. The board shall be responsible for any expenses associated with utilization of the alternative assessment.

(d) For purposes of supplemental tutoring offered in accordance with G.S. 115C-83.8(e), a student is identified as "retained twice" if the student was retained once in Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, or Grade 3, and was retained again in Grade 3 either by placement in a Grade 3 class or a combined Grades 3 and 4 class in which the student received Grade 3 instruction in reading.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 115C-12; 115C-83.1; 115C-83.3; 115C-83.7; 115C-83.7A; 115C-83.8; 115C-83.10;
Eff. July 1, 2014; 2014;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2025.*

1 16 NCAC 06D .0510 is proposed for adoption as follows:

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3 **16 NCAC 06D .0510 THREE-YEAR GRADUATION**

4 (a) For the purposes of this Rule, the following definitions shall apply:

5 (1) "Local superintendent" means the superintendent of a local school administrative unit or the staff member
6 with the highest decision-making authority for a PSU, if there is no superintendent.

7 (2) "Public school unit" or "PSU" is defined in G.S. 115C-5(7a), except that this Rule shall not apply to a
8 charter school unless the charter school has elected to offer a three-year sequence of courses under
9 G.S. 115C-218.85, or to a regional school unless the regional school has elected to offer a three-
10 year sequence of courses under G.S. 115C-238.66.

11 (b) A student enrolled in a PSU who requests to graduate from high school three years after entering Grade 9 shall
12 do so in accordance with this Rule. This Rule shall apply to a student who enters Grade 11 on or after July 1, 2024,
13 and is at least 16 years of age at the time of graduation.

14 (c) The student shall complete and sign a 3-year graduation request form provided by the student's PSU. The form
15 shall be signed by the student's parent or legal guardian, unless the student is at least 18 years of age or has been
16 emancipated in accordance with Chapter 7B, Article 35 of the General Statutes.

17 (d) An administrator from the student's high school or the PSU shall meet with the student and, if the student is
18 under 18 years of age and not emancipated, the student's parent or legal guardian, to discuss the implications of
19 graduating after three years. The administrator shall address, at minimum, the following topics:

20 (1) Plans for transitioning into higher education, employment, or enlistment in the Armed Forces of the
21 United States; and

22 (2) Loss of access to high school services and programming, including extracurricular activities,
23 interscholastic athletics, nutritional services, and school counseling.

24 (e) The local superintendent shall verify that the student has met the minimum graduation requirements of 16
25 NCAC 06D .0503 or 16 NCAC 06D .0506.

26 (f) No later 45 school days after receipt of a request, the local superintendent shall approve the request upon
27 verification of the student's eligibility and compliance with the procedures set forth above. If the request is
28 approved during the semester after classes have started, the student may elect to graduate immediately or graduate
29 at the end of the semester. However, if the student does not submit the request until after classes have started, the
30 student shall be required to complete the current semester.

31 (g) Before students select their course schedules for Grade 9, PSUs shall provide students with information on how
32 to graduate from high school within three years. Such information shall include the topics listed in Paragraph (d) of
33 this Rule as well as a course schedule that, if followed, will satisfy the minimum graduation requirements of 16
34 NCAC 06D .0503 or 16 NCAC 06D .0506.

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37 History Note: Authority G.S. 115C-12(9d); 115C-83.31; 115C-218.85; 115C-238.66;

1 Codifier determined that rule did not meet criteria for emergency rule on November 6, 2023.
2 Emergency Adoption Eff. November. 16, 2023;
3 Temporary Adoption Eff. February 8, 2024;
4 Eff. January 1, 2025.