

*Otis-Bison Academy/
(Formerly)
SouthWinds Academy
(OBA/SWA)
2023-2024*



*Student Handbook &
Planning Guide*

2023-2024

Otis-Bison Academy/(formerly SWA) Handbook

Welcome to Otis-Bison Academy/SWA. OBA/SWA provides a meaningful learning experience by incorporating cutting-edge technology with multiple curriculum vendors while focusing on college and career goals. Our staff takes great pride in joining with parents and students in this online educational experience.

OBA/SWA virtual school is here to meet your educational needs and help you become academically successful.

The information in this handbook has been prepared to acquaint students, parents, and guardians with Kansas Board of Education regulations and OBA/SWA school policies.

Each student, parent/academic coach is responsible for being familiar and aware of the contents of this handbook so that their actions conform to the philosophy of the virtual school.

Who is OBA/SWA

OBA/SWA is a school for students who want a non-traditional approach to learning, one that works collaboratively with students and parents or guardians to create a personalized learning plan.

OBA/SWA provides:

- Individualized learning plans adapted to personal interests, skills, and strengths
- Flexible schedules
- Online and virtual learning
- Core curriculum and elective learning opportunities
- Use of technology for teaching and learning
- Learning plans for individuals seeking to complete requirements for a high school diploma

Who Should Consider OBA/SWA

“One size fits all” does not apply to learning at **OBA/SWA**.

OBA/SWA will meet the educational needs for:

- Students who are self-directed learners
- Students who desire a non-traditional approach to learning
- Individuals seeking additional learning opportunities
- Individuals who need a means of completing high school diploma requirements

Our **PURPOSE** is to focus on **YOUR** future.

Our **MISSION** is to facilitate the creation and navigation of each student’s individual pathway to success.

Our **APPROACH** is to create individualized, customized academic and career plans that provide meaningful and engaging educational experiences by providing an alternative learning environment.

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OBA/SWA Administration

Carl Helm.....Superintendent
Travis Starr.....Principal
Ann Baus.....Program Director
Stan Ewy.....School Counselor

OBA/SWA Board of Education

The USD 403 Board of Education serves as members of the OBA/SWA board.

Program Requirements

Students, teachers and/or parents must:

- 1) complete the student online enrollment form
- 2) complete the student transcript release form from the school most recently attended
- 3) read and sign the Student/Parent contract
- 4) attend the required OBA/SWA training sessions pertaining to time-management, access to curriculum, student/parent/teacher communication, and access to the virtual classroom portal.

In addition, students must

- 1) attend via virtually or offline with signed academic activity log on two academic count days; on a single day on or before September 19 and a single day on or after September 20, but before October 4.
- 2) take a proctored semester final exam via in person or virtually
- 3) take proctored Kansas State Assessments in person or virtually

FEES

During open enrollment, students located in Kansas can enroll at no cost as their funding comes from state sources. Open enrollment will begin July 15, 2023 and close September 15, 2023. Students outside Kansas or any students not enrolled during open enrollment can take courses on a tuition basis at \$150 per credit hour. Please contact Ann Baus at otisbisonacademy@usd403.org for details.

TECHNOLOGY/ORIENTATION

Once enrolled, the student and parents if the student is a minor are required to attend an orientation session in-person or in the virtual classroom setting to learn hands-on usage of the virtual technology necessary to access the online curriculum, school website, and virtual classroom. The session will be held prior to the student starting the new school year.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Research shows that students receive the best virtual education through consistent access to online course materials and regular communication with the teacher. Students are required to work on their classes on a consistent basis. Regularly accessing course work promotes good study habits and enhances the learning process. Academic coaches/parents are encouraged to supervise student progress on daily course work. All OBA/SWA students are expected to access coursework on a consistent basis. Daily attendance is determined by activity recorded via the learning platform as well as the signed Academic Activity Log by parent/guardian. The school must be notified if the student is not able to follow the calendar prepared by the student and their supervising teacher. Students must notify their teachers of absences. Failure to access the online course materials or to communicate with the supervising teacher will result in the student being placed on academic probation. The steps of academic probation are addressed in the next section.

STUDENT AT RISK OF FAILING/ACADEMIC PROBATION

The purpose of placing a student on academic probation is to provide notification that the student's academic efforts and/or performance are not meeting the expectations set forth by OBA/SWA or USD 403. Academic probation serves as a notice that the student must change the way he or she is working within the program. The probation process that follows provides academic support that will hopefully assist the student in obtaining academic success. The counselor or teacher usually initiates placing a student on academic probation, but a student or parent can request academic probation. There are three steps to the process, and during the first two steps the student has the power to improve his or her academic standing by implementing the recommendations made by the faculty of the school. Academic probation can be implemented at any time during either semester and may continue through the end of the current school year.

Academic Probation Process

- A. Step 1 - Teacher identifies student at risk of failing class
 - a) Teacher contacts the student and parent about academic concerns.
 - b) The teacher, student and parent meet about academic concerns regarding this student. The goal of this conference is to reach an understanding as to how the student can improve academic standing for this particular class.
 - c) Possible interventions for the student may include:
 - i. Development of an individual student study schedule
 - ii. Time management assistance for the student
 - iii. Online peer tutoring
 - iv. Closer parent/academic coach supervision of online and offline class work completed by the student
- B. Step 2 - Notification of OBA/SWA principal.

- a) The teacher notifies OBA/SWA principal of failure of Step 1.
 - b) OBA/SWA Principal contacts the student and parent to review the academic probation process.
 - c) Failure to engage in the improvement plan will result in moving to Step 3 of the process.
- C. Step 3 – Student placed on academic probation
- a) Teacher notifies the parent, student and OBA/SWA director that the Step 1 and Step 2 interventions have not corrected the student achievement problem.
 - b) The OBA/SWA director will contact the parents and student to schedule a Step 3 conference involving the student, parent, counselor and the principal. This conference is to be held as soon as possible and may be conducted within a virtual classroom if the student attends from a distance.
 - c) Additional interventions may be implemented, including those listed above or any of the following:
 - i. Student may be required to provide weekly progress reports to the director of the virtual school concerning his or her academic progress.
 - ii. Student may be required to attend weekly online assistance time in a virtual classroom or at the school.
 - d) The teacher, parents and school director will monitor student progress for 10 days, after which a second conference will be scheduled. This conference will determine whether or not the student is moved to Step 4 of the academic probation process or if there is a reasonable improvement in the academic effort and success of the student. Should the conference provide evidence that the student is making academic gains and is working to improve his or her grades, then the school may determine which interventions the student is required to continue using.
 - e) Should the follow-up conference show no improvement in the academic effort and/or success of the student, the teacher and/or director can move the student to Step 4 of the academic probation process.
 - f) Should the teacher and/or director not be able to successfully elicit a response from the student and/or parents concerning the

Step 1 process, the school has no alternative but to proceed to Step 4 of the academic probation process.

D. Step 4 – Recommendation to move the student from the virtual school into a traditional school setting.

- a) As a last effort to assist the student in improving his or her academic performance, and Step 1, 2 and 3 of the academic Probation Process have proved unsuccessful; parents, student, teacher and OBA/SWA administrator meet and review the student's current step 3 academic probation status.
- b) The following individuals are required to attend: the student, the parents, the director of the virtual school, and the principal. Failure of the parents and/or student to attend will result in the teacher/director recommending long-term suspension or expulsion of the student from OBA/SWA to the superintendent of schools.

E. Suspension/Expulsion

- a) Following the Step 4 meeting, the student must meet the required timeline for enrolling in a traditional school setting. Failure to do so will result in the director recommending long-term suspension or expulsion from OBA/SWA to the superintendent of schools.

PERSONAL COUNSELING

Students experiencing academic or personal issues, or those who just need someone to talk to may request contact with the counselor. A single or ongoing web conference can be set up to assist the student. Conferences of this type may also be initiated at the request of the school administration, teaching staff, parent or school counselor.

EDUCATIONAL & ACADEMIC GUIDANCE

OBA/SWA provides help with transcript review and individual enrollment services. Students, with the help of parents and OBA/SWA staff, will create an individual plan of study (IPS) by selecting courses to meet OBA/SWA graduation requirements, State of Kansas

graduation requirements as well as courses to meet the qualified admission requirements of the Kansas Regent universities. OBA/SWA offers educational/academic guidance, educational planning, and college and career services.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

Students engaging in unethical academic practices (copying, cheating, turning in work that is not the student's own) will face disciplinary action. Consequences will depend upon the severity of the incident, and/or the number of offenses of this type on the part of the student. At a minimum, the student will be required to resubmit the assignment in question.

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

High school students will be classified as Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior. OBA/SWA will determine student classification on a case-by-case basis. Official transcripts will be used to determine classification placement.

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Freshman: | 0 - 6 credits |
| Sophomore: | 6.5 - 12 credits |
| Junior: | 12.5 - 18 credits |
| Senior: | 18.5 - 21 credits |

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students graduating from OBA/SWA are required to successfully complete a minimum of 21 credits. Students who transfer to OBA/SWA from another accredited high school will be given credit for those courses successfully completed and that meet the OBA/SWA graduation requirements.

Basic Graduation Requirements:

- 4 units of English language arts, which shall include reading, writing, literature, communication, and grammar.
- 3 units of history and government, which shall include world history, United States history, United States government, including the Constitution of the United States, concepts of economics and geography.
- 3 units of science, which shall include physical, biological, and earth and space science concepts and which shall include at least one unit as a laboratory course.
- 3 units of mathematics, including algebraic and geometric concepts
- 1 unit of physical education, which shall include health and which may include safety, first aid, or physiology
- 1 unit of fine arts, which may include art, music, dance, theater, forensics, and other similar studies
- 6 units of elective courses

GRANTING CREDIT FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

Students must provide an official transcript from the school last attended upon enrollment. Home school students must provide a transcript of courses completed within the home school setting. It is the goal of OBA/SWA to place the student in the most appropriate academic setting in terms of course selection.

FINAL EXAMS

OBA/SWA students are required to have proctored final exams at the end of each course. Those can be completed online via the virtual classroom or in-person.

Grading Scale:

| Percentage: | Letter Grade | GPA Points |
|------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 100%-90% = | A | 4 |
| 89% - 80% = | B | 3 |
| 79% - 70% = | C | 2 |
| 69% - 60% = | D | 1 |
| 59%& Less = | F | 0 |

Information on the following is located at the end of this document:

Qualified Admission: High School Graduates Academic Year
2023-2024:

Kansas Graduation Requirements 2023-2024 Fact Sheet

Kansas Students in Custody of JJA or DCF (SB23) 2023-2024 Fact
Sheet

For students wishing to qualify for college admissions or Kansas scholars program, additional and specialized courses may be required. SW/OBA will provide those options for students who are interested.

DETENTION

Although students attending virtually are not usually assigned detentions, students and their parents can be asked to attend a conference at the request of the teacher or the director to discuss a behavior situation involving a particular incident. Conferences may be held in person or virtually. Failure to attend the virtual conference will result in the situation being passed on to the director of the virtual school, and may result in the students being placed at Step 1 of the academic probation process, which is discussed elsewhere in this handbook.

EXPULSION

After repeated violations, attempts to correct misbehavior fail, or in extreme serious situations, a student may be expelled from school. In these cases the student receives no credit for unfinished classes for the year in which the expulsion occurs. Like a suspension, the student is not permitted to be online or on school grounds during the period of the expulsion.

ACCESS TO STUDENT GRADES

OBA/SWA students, academic coaches and parents will access course grades via the Internet by using Apex and Edmentum weekly progress reports. Students will be given a personal login and password. In cases where the academic coach is someone other than a parent it is highly recommended that the parent gives written consent for the academic coach. Parents need to check emails regularly for grades. Transcript grades are updated each semester.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

It is our goal to provide tech support to our students and parents as soon as possible when problems arise. When technology problems are encountered, please work to determine if the problem is with the Internet provider, the curriculum or the laptop. OBA/SWA cannot help with problems caused by the internal or external access to the Internet. Please contact the teacher immediately if there is a problem. If it is not possible to send an email due to the technical problem, please call the school at 620-755-8918. Should you experience a problem with the laptop outside of the normal school day, please call and leave a message. The goal of the technology support program is to get the student online and engaged in learning activities as soon as possible.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

OBA/SWA students with an existing IEP will receive services through USD 403 Otis-Bison. The student's current IEP will be reviewed upon enrollment to determine how OBA/SWA can provide the best services for the student. As with all students enrolling in OBA/SWA, it is important for all involved to have a clear understanding of the student's needs for success in a virtual learning environment.

The BOE of Otis Bison USD 403 has given the Superintendent the job of negotiating the cost of integrity monitoring and equipment care. The monitoring includes curriculum, testing of curriculum, point of contacts for student care and Kansas State testing. This is accomplished by using individual contracts and MOUs. Curriculum integrity is very important to the Board, and they want similar standards for all schools in their care and these students will become USD 403 graduates.

OBA/SWA STUDENT CONTRACT

As a student enrolled in OBA/SWA and USD 403, I agree to the following terms and conditions of enrollment:

1. I understand it is my responsibility to promote academic integrity, and hereby promise to complete my own schoolwork using my own effort and abilities. I will not provide unethical academic assistance to other students, nor will I accept unethical academic assistance from anyone else while enrolled as a student of OBA/SWA. I understand that any violation of academic integrity will result in disciplinary action by the school administration and may be grounds for expulsion from the school.
2. I understand that if I choose to use a USD 403 computer for my studies, I am responsible for all damages that occur while the computer is checked out to me.
3. I agree to complete all assignments and projects assigned for each of my classes and will adhere to the posted due dates. Furthermore, I will participate in and complete each course listed on my individual plan of study.
4. I understand that I must attend school online or offline with the signed Academic Activity Log on two academic count days; on a single day on or before September 19 and a single day on or after September 20, but before October 4. In addition, I agree to complete the Academic Activity Log for each of the required days and submit them to the OBA/SWA teacher/director at the time specified.
5. I understand that as a student of OBA/SWA I may be required to take the Kansas State Assessments on specified days.
6. I agree to answer email, text or phone messages from my teacher or the school within 24 hours. I will adhere to the expectations of my

teachers in terms of communicating with each of them through the virtual classroom, website chat, text messages, phone calls and email.

7. I agree to abide by the policies listed in the OBA/SWA Student Handbook.

8. I understand that failure to abide by the components of this student contract will result in me being placed on academic probation for the next semester and may result in suspension or expulsion from OBA/SWA.

Any violation of these rules will result in disciplinary action.

My signature below indicates that I understand the terms of this student contract and its policies concerning academic integrity, attendance, and technology usage as written above, and accept responsibility for adhering to this agreement.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

OBA/SWA PARENT CONTRACT (For students aged 18 and under)

As a parent of a child who is enrolling in OBA/SWA, I agree to the terms and conditions of the student contract, and I have read and understand the following parent contract:

1. I understand the importance of supporting my child's effort to maintain academic integrity regarding completing assignments, projects, papers, and exams online. I will not provide unethical academic assistance to my child but will provide learning support by monitoring his or her online efforts to complete assignments, projects, papers, and exams in an honest and ethical manner. I understand that any violation of academic integrity will result in disciplinary action by the school administration and may be grounds for suspension or expulsion from the school.
2. I understand that our family must identify a legal adult who will assist the student with their online education. This person is responsible for checking student work each day, answering simple questions, verifying that the student has replied to any contact from the teacher or from the school and ensuring that the student is working each day.
3. I understand that it is my responsibility to provide and pay an Internet Service Provider (ISP) for a connection to the Internet for access to online lessons, email and web conferences. I also understand that a DSL or faster connection speed is required to be able to use the video component of web conferencing.
4. I understand the school is not responsible or able to filter content streaming through my home Internet connection.
5. I understand I must maintain an email address for school communication and that my student(s) must also have email accounts provided by my Internet Service Provider.
6. I understand that I must supervise my student's work on the set "count days," that I will document the time my student spends online

and offline; and will sign, date and return the Academic Activity Log within the time specified. (Students whose Academic Activity Logs have not been correctly filled out, signed, dated and returned by the time specified will be withdrawn from OBA/SWA.)

7. I understand I must make sure my child attends school online or offline, and I must sign the completed Academic Activity Log on two academic count days; on a single day on or before September 19 and a single day on or after September 20, but before October 4. In addition, I agree to make sure the Academic Activity Logs are submitted to the OBA/SWA teacher/director at the time specified.

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the Student Contract and the Parent Contract as written above, and accept responsibility for adhering to them.

Signature of Parent: _____ Date: _____



Qualified Admissions

High School Graduates Academic Year 2022-2023 and After

The six state universities in Kansas—Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, The University of Kansas, and Wichita State University—use the standards below, set by the Kansas Board of Regents, to review applicants for undergraduate admission.

ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL

Freshman applicants, under the age of 21, who graduate from an accredited high school, will be guaranteed admission to six state universities by meeting the Qualified Admissions requirements designated by each university, as follows:

ESU, PSU, FHSU, & WSU:

- Cumulative High School GPA 2.25+ or ACT 21+ (SAT 1060)*

K-State:

- Cumulative High School GPA 3.25+ or ACT 21+ (SAT 1060)*

KU:


- Cumulative High School GPA 3.25+
OR Cumulative GPA 2.0+ and ACT 21+ (SAT 1060)*

ALL Institutions Require:

- Cumulative GPA 2.0+ for College Credits earned in High School

KANSAS SCHOLARS CURRICULUM IS RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED: To best prepare for the rigor of college-level courses, the Kansas Scholars curriculum is recommended.

One unit is equivalent to one year, or two semesters:

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| English 4 units | Math 4 units 1 unit of each: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II 1 unit: Advanced Math See KS Scholars page For Math course list | Social Science 3 units 1 unit U.S. History .5 unit U.S. Gov .5 unit World History 1 unit: Social Science course See KS Scholars Page for Social Science course list | Science 3 units 1 unit of each: Biology, Chemistry, & Physics | Foreign Language 2 units of the same language |

KANSAS SCHOLARS Program: More information about the Kansas Scholars Scholarship & Curriculum can be found [here](#) (pdf).

HOMESCHOOL & UNACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL

Freshman applicants, under the age of 21, who are homeschooled or graduate from an unaccredited high school will be guaranteed admission to the six state universities by achieving an ACT score equivalent to those outlined above, per each university. If you enroll in college courses while in high school, it is also required that you achieve a 2.0 GPA or higher in those courses.

**If you do not meet the qualified admission requirements, you are still encouraged to apply. Your application will be reviewed individually. Contact the university admissions office for more information.*

This document provides a summary overview of admission requirements at state universities and is not a substitute for or to be used in lieu of the actual detailed admissions requirements, which can be found at: www.kansasregents.org/qualified_admissions_rules_regulations.

December 2022



Kansas Graduation Requirements

What are the minimum high school graduation requirements in Kansas?

Each local board of education must have a written policy specifying that students are eligible for graduation only upon completion of at least the following requirements:

- Four units of English language arts, which shall include reading, writing, literature, communication, and grammar. The building administrator may waive up to one unit of this requirement if the administrator determines that a pupil can profit more by taking another subject.
- Three units of history and government, which shall include world history; United States history; United States government, including the Constitution of the United States; concepts of economics and geography
- Three units of science, which shall include physical, biological, and earth and space science concepts and which shall include at least one unit as a laboratory course
- Three units of mathematics, including algebraic and geometric concepts
- One unit of physical education, which shall include health and which may include safety, first aid, or physiology
- One unit of fine arts, which may include art, music, dance, theatre, forensics, and other similar studies selected by a local board of education
- Six units of elective courses



Can the local board of education increase the number of graduation requirements?

Any local board of education may increase the number of units of credit required for graduation.

Any additional requirements of the local board of education that increase the number of units of credit required for graduation apply to those students who enter the ninth grade in the school year following the effective date of the additional requirement.

Can the local board of education adopt different graduation requirements for certain students?

Districts are required to award diplomas to requesting students who have met the state minimum graduation requirements and were in custody of Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) or Kansas Department for Children and Families (KDCCF) is on or after their 14th birthday. For more information about these requirements, please see the [Diploma for Students in Custody of KDOC and KDCCF \(SB 23\) Fact Sheet on the Graduation Webpage](#). Local boards of education may adopt a different number of graduation requirements (not lower than the state minimum) for adult learners whose four- and five-year cohorts have graduated or for students attending an alternative school or program. Most typically, diplomas are awarded to these students for successful completion of the state minimum graduation requirements.

Local boards of education can also adopt policy giving the superintendent and/or

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.



Graduation Requirements

principal the discretion to waive local graduation requirements that are in excess of the state minimum for students on a case by case basis. Situations that would be appropriate to receive this discretion include, but are not limited to, students who experienced high mobility, teen pregnancy and long-term illness. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) does not support policies that automatically waive local graduation requirements for students with disabilities that are in excess of the state minimum.

Is a district allowed to waive the Physical Education (PE)/Health requirement?

- The PE/Health requirement shall be waived if the school district is provided with either of the following:
- A statement by a licensed physician that a pupil is mentally or physically incapable of participating in a regular or modified physical education program; or
- A statement, signed by a lawful custodian of the pupil, indicating that the

For more information, contact:

Dr. David Fernkopf
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Career, Standards and Assessments
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dfernkopf@ksde.org

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Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

requirement is contrary to the religious teachings of the pupil.

Can a student earn high school credit for a course taken in eighth grade?

It is up to each local district whether an eighth grade course will count as a high school credit. If high school credit is given, the eighth grade course must be equivalent to, or the same as, a high school course.

Courses must be taken at the high school level to count toward Regents' Qualified Admissions requirements. No eighth grade courses will count toward Qualified Admissions.

Where can I find more information about Regents' Qualified Admissions requirements?

The Kansas Board of Regents has information available on their website:
http://www.kansasregents.org/qualified_admissions

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.

SEPTEMBER 2021



Diploma for Students in Custody of DCF and KDOC Fact Sheet

What does the law say?

- **DCF:** Kansas State Statute 38-2285, Awarding high school diplomas; requirements:
(a) The board of education of a school district shall award a high school diploma to any person requesting a diploma if such person: (1) Is at least 17 years of age; (2) is enrolled or resides in such school district; (3) is or has been a child in the **custody** of the **secretary**, or in the **custody** of a federally recognized Indian tribe in this state, at any time on or after such person's 14th birthday; and (4) has achieved at least the minimum high school graduation requirements adopted by the state board of education.
- **KDOC:** Kansas State Statute 38-2388, Awarding high school diplomas; requirements:
(a) The board of education of a school district shall award a high school diploma to any person requesting a diploma if such person: (1) Is at least 17 years of age; (2) is enrolled or resides in such school district; (3) is or has been a child in the **custody** of the **commissioner** at any time on or after such person's 14th birthday; and (4) has achieved at least the minimum high school graduation requirements adopted by the state board of education.

Definitions:

- "Secretary" means the secretary for children and families or the secretary's designee.
- "Commissioner" means the secretary of corrections or the secretary's designee.
- "Custody" whether temporary, protective or legal, means the status created by court order or statute that vests in a custodian, whether an individual or an agency, the right to physical possession of the child and the right to determine placement of the child, subject to restrictions placed by the court.

How will the district know that the student has been "in the custody" of the Secretary or Commissioner?

- The student is responsible for showing documentation that he/she has been "in the custody" of the secretary or commissioner.
- The student can access his/her court documents at the district court where his/her hearing was held.

When is a district required to issue a diploma based on the minimum high school graduation requirements?

- When a student meeting the requirements of the law requests such a diploma. The district cannot require students to wait until the end of the school year to receive their diploma. It must be issued when the requirements are met and it is requested by the student, regardless of the time of year.

Must a district allow students to participate in graduation and senior activities?

- Districts are highly encouraged to allow students to participate in all graduation and senior activities. This is a state recognized diploma option and participating students should not be ostracized from graduation and senior activities.

What type of diploma should the district award the student?

- The student should be awarded a regular high school diploma from the district. It should look exactly the same as all other diplomas issued by the district and should not include any language such as "minimum credit diploma", "state requirement diploma" or "KDOC/DCF diploma".

If the student is incarcerated in the city or county adult or juvenile facility, is he/she eligible for this diploma?

- Incarceration in an adult or juvenile facility is not immediate grounds for eligibility. Even if the student spent time in a KDOC facility, the district will still want to see court documents that confirm that the student was placed into the custody of the secretary.

If a student was in state custody in another state, is he/she eligible for this diploma?

- No. This diploma option only applies to students in state custody within Kansas. However, the local board of education can always waive local graduation requirements that are in excess of the state minimum for specific students; so long as the local board of education has adopted a policy that gives them that discretion.

House Substitute for Senate Bill 23
Revised December 2019



Diploma for Students in Custody of DCF and KDOC Fact Sheet

If a student was in state custody but never was removed from the home, is he/she eligible for this diploma?

- Yes. Although the intent of the law was to serve those students who had multiple placements, it does not preclude students who were in state custody but placed in their home.

What are the minimum high school graduation requirements in Kansas? (Requirements taken from K.A.R. 91-31-35, see regulation for additional details)

- Four units of English language arts, which shall include reading, writing, literature, communication, and grammar. The building administrator may waive up to one unit of this requirement if the administrator determines that a pupil can profit more by taking another subject
- Three units of history and government, which shall include world history; United States history; United States government, including the Constitution of the United States; concepts of economics and geography
- Three units of science, which shall include physical, biological, and earth and space science concepts and which shall include at least one unit as a laboratory course
- Three units of mathematics, including algebraic and geometric concepts
- One unit of physical education, which shall include health and which may include safety, first aid, or physiology
- One unit of fine arts, which may include art, music, dance, theatre, forensics, and other similar studies selected by a local board of education
- Six units of elective courses

Who is the contact if there are questions?

Dr. David Fernkopf
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