Ohio's Graduation Requirements: A Comparison of Proposals

Currently, Ohio students earn diplomas under the college and work ready assessment system. In addition to satisfying the high school curriculum requirements, including any local requirements, students in Ohio must satisfy **one of three** pathways to graduation. The pathways include:

1. Earn 18 graduation points on Ohio's State Tests;
2. Earn an industry-recognized credential or group of credentials totaling 12 points and earn a cumulative score of 13 on the WorkKeys test;
3. Earn remediation-free scores in math and English language arts on the ACT or SAT.

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Ohio | Department of Education

PROPOSED: The Ohio Department of Education in partnership with Ohio educators proposes that students meet the state and district course completion requirements and take the necessary high school end-of-course exams. Students will also have <u>multiple tested and non- tested methods</u> to demonstrate what they know and are able to do. Earning a high school diploma will require students to:

- Demonstrate skills and knowledge in english, mathematics and technology, and a variety of content such as science, social studies and foreign languages.
- Demonstrate leadership skills, critical thinking and reasoning as well as communication and social emotional skills.

<u>*Also* complete a culminating student experience</u> that could include but is not limited to:

- Major research or portfolio project
- Major Community Service project
- Work based learning experience
- Career Technology program completion

Ohio Excels

PROPOSED: Ohio Excels proposes that all students will select from one of the pathways <u>*listed above as well as*</u>:

Career Experience and Technical Competency – One *of the following:*

- Earn a total score of Proficient or better on career technical exams (WebXam) in at least four courses in a single career pathway;
- Complete a pre-apprenticeship or earn acceptance into an apprenticeship program in the student's career field;

<u>*Also complete one of the following*</u>:

- Complete a workplace experience totaling 250 hours with evidence of positive evaluations;
- Earn an OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal.

Military Readiness – Complete both of the following:

- Achieve a score on the ASVAB that would allow entrance into any service branch; and
- Enter into a contract with the military to enlist upon graduation.

Proposal Differences:

The most notable difference is the absence of a ***culminating experience*** in Ohio Excels' proposal. Without the culminating experience, the graduation requirements have realized little or no change. Ohio Excels proposal requires **ALL** high school graduates to demonstrate proficiency on standardized assessments. These standardized assessments are calibrated for college preparedness only.

The culminating experience in the ODE proposal emcompasses everything endorsed in the Ohio Excels proposal <u>*and provides flexibility*</u>. This flexibility:

- is key to supporting individual students and allows them to demonstrate proficiency of knowledge and skills in a variety of authentic ways. For some students, it will make sense to meet the requirements primarily through tests. For others, it will make sense to meet these requirement primarily through non-tested demonstrations. There are quality assurances to support equity.
- allows for businesses to work with school districts in their region to create learning experiences for students and support workforce development.

This systematic change strengthens the high school experience and supports the workforce pipeline for Ohio businesses.