

## **Focused Graduation Pathway Example Policy**

### **Authority**

This policy is established under the authority of relevant state and local education regulations and governs the implementation of the Focused Graduation Pathway (FGP) within the district.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the standards and procedures for implementing the Focused Graduation Pathway to provide eligible students with an alternative route to high school completion through the use of the General Education Development (GED®) exam.

### **Definitions**

- **FGP Student:** A student aged 16 to 19 who meets the eligibility requirements, attends a participating school, and consents to participate in the Graduation Pathway.
- **GED® Exam:** A standardized high school equivalency test measuring proficiency in core subjects, such as Reasoning Through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies.

### **Program Requirements**

The goal of the Focused Graduation Pathway program is to allow students an alternate pathway to high school completion using a hybrid of in-person courses and proficiency-based completion of core credits through successful passing of GED® assessments. The program will be overseen by the FGP Coordinator. High school administrators will refer students based on the recommendations of their counselors and intervention teams using outlined eligibility criteria and individual student needs and goals.

### **Candidate Eligibility Criteria**

To be considered as a candidate for the Focused Graduation Pathway, a candidate must:

- Be 16 years of age or older.
- Be a junior or senior enrolled in high school.
- Be significantly behind in high school credits earned with at least 6 credits behind if a junior, or at least 3 credits behind if a senior.
- Demonstrate a 9th grade reading level as indicated by XXX.

- Maintain their high school enrollment with satisfactory attendance throughout the entirety of the pathway.

### **Enrollment**

Students wishing to enroll in the Focused Graduation Pathway must meet with applicable school staff to review policy and procedures. Enrollment into the Focused Graduation Pathway is voluntary. Parents must provide written consent for their student to be enrolled in the Focused Graduation Pathway. If the student is a verified unaccompanied minor, the student may sign consent.

### **Instructional Support**

Students will be enrolled in GED® prep courses for each subject area identified as a need. These classes will be taught by highly qualified subject area experts with a ratio of 1 instructor per 15 participating students. Students working towards completing equivalency exams will be required to participate in at least one preparation course.

### **Testing**

When the student has demonstrated readiness through a practice test or other measures, the Coordinator will ensure alerts are cleared so the student will be eligible to test at an approved testing center. An FGP student must complete a GED® exam at an approved testing center or through an online proctored test, in accordance with exam policies and procedures.

### **Credits**

Core credit will be awarded to an FGP student for passing GED exams up to:

- 4.0 language arts credits for passing the Reasoning through Language Arts exam
- 3.0 social studies credits for passing the Social Studies exam
- 3.0 mathematics credits for passing the Mathematical Reasoning exam
- 3.0 science credits for passing the Science exam

Awarded credits shall be recorded on the student's transcript as Pass/Fail instead of a letter grade when official exam results are obtained by the school. The equivalency exam will be included in the description line of the transcript for each entry.

### **Additional Credits Required to Receive a District or High School Diploma**

Students will need to complete all remaining graduation requirements to be eligible for graduation.

### **Student Enrollment and Retention**

FGP Students will maintain enrollment in a K-12 school until they have completed the requirements for graduation, or their class has graduated. Students will be assigned a mentor teacher to track their progress towards graduation and to set goals for post graduation.

### **Reporting Requirements**

The Coordinator will annually report to the Superintendent the following:

- Enrollment numbers
- Completion rates
- Other relevant data as determined by the Superintendent

### **Oversight and Compliance**

The Superintendent will oversee the implementation of this policy and ensure compliance with state and local requirements. Schools failing to meet the standards outlined in this policy may lose authorization to participate in the FGP.