



Reach for Success
with your ...

High School Student



*A Parent's Guide to
Curriculum Standards in
Decatur Public Schools*

Gloria J. Davis, Superintendent of Schools



What are Curriculum Standards?

In Decatur Public Schools, curriculum standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. These standards are based on state and national standards and were developed with participation from many Decatur Public School teachers, as well as state and national consultants.

Why are curriculum standards important?

Before standards, learning could vary from classroom to classroom and teacher to teacher across the district. With standards, your student will have the same goals and opportunities to learn as every other student in his/her grade level district wide.



How do I learn more?

The best way to learn about Decatur Public Schools curriculum standards is to talk to your child's teacher(s) and principal. This guide provides a good place to begin. It should not replace a face-to-face conversation. Each school offers a variety of opportunities for you to get involved, including parent-teacher conferences and family-night events. Use this as a tool to know what questions to ask and how to best help your student...

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For a complete copy of the curriculum standard guide books, visit www.dps61.org or call the Community Engagement Office at 424-3425.



Help your **High School Student Graduate**

Using this guide to the Decatur Public Schools Curriculum requirements, you and your student can plan courses that will help your student meet these requirements.

Graduation Requirements

- 26 credit hours are required for 2009
- 27 credit hours are required in 2010
- 28 credit hours are required in 2011 and 2012

Course Year(s) Credit Hours

English 9, 10, 11, 12 - 4 credit hours total

Mathematics 9, 10, 11 - 3 credit hours total (including one year of Geometry)

Science 9, 10, 11 or 10, 11, 12 - 3 credit hours total (three-year sequence for class of 2011)

World History 9 or 10 - 1 credit hour

United States History 11 - 1 credit hour (Federal & State Constitution required)

Health (semester) 9 or 10 - .5 credit hours

Driver Ed (semester) 10 - .5 credit hours (not required)

Physical Education 9, 10, 11, 12 - 4 credit hours – (daily P.E. must be taken each semester except for the semesters that Health and Driver Education are taken)

Consumer Education* 11 or 12 - .5 credit hours (semester course; can be satisfied with other courses/electives)

Art/Foreign Language/Music 9, 10, 11 or 12 - 1 credit hour (one year of either art, foreign language, vocational education or music)

**Requirement is waived if student passes proficiency test over material.*

Post Secondary Recommendation - add an additional 2 years of foreign language and another year of math.

Weighted grades are in effect.

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Basic Courses for PS&AE

Language Arts

English I

Honors English I

American Literature

Honors American Literature

Advanced Composition

Debate

Drama

Advanced Placement Language and Composition

English II/ Writing II

Honors English II/Writing II

World Literature

Composition

Research

Shakespeare

Speech

Advanced Placement Literature

Math

Algebra I

Honors Algebra I

Geometry

Honors Geometry

Integrated Math

Algebra II

Honors Algebra II

College Prep Math

Precalculus

Advanced Placement Calculus

Special Education — Life Skills Mathematics 1-8, Algebra Foundations 1-2 and 3-4, Geometry Foundations, Consumer Mathematics



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Basic Courses for P_SA_E Continued

Science

Physical Science

Biology I

Chemistry I

Human Anatomy

Advanced Placement Biology

Special Education — General Physical Science 1-2, General Life Science 1-2 , and General Earth Science 1-2

Chemistry II

Advanced Placement Chemistry

Physics

Earth Science

Physics II

Social Studies

World Geography

Basic Law

Required World History

Required US History

Psychology

Government

Advanced World Geography

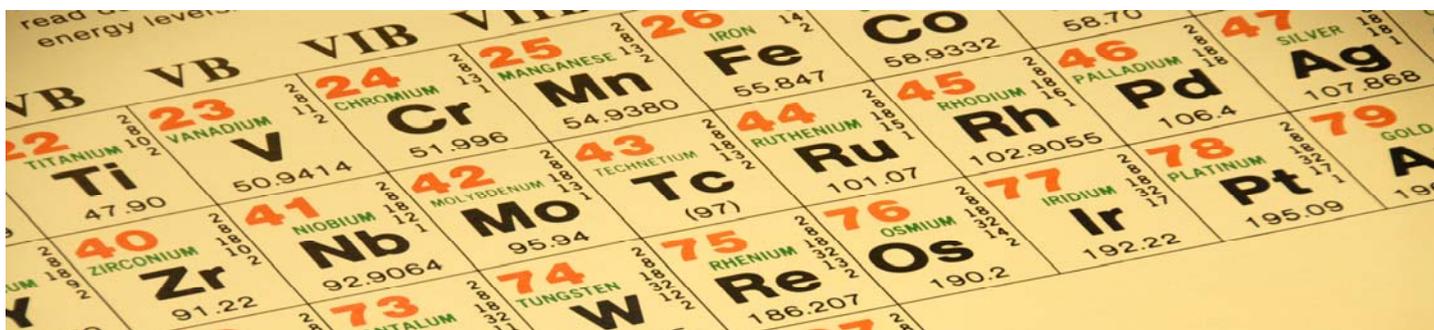
Economics

Advanced Placement European History

Advanced Placement U.S. History

Advanced Placement Psychology

Advanced Placement Government



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Language Arts

Decatur Public Schools and the State of Illinois have five Language Arts Goals and 13 Learning Standards for all students in the areas of: **Reading, Literature, Writing, Listening and Speaking, and Research.**

To meet these standards by the end of Twelfth Grade, your student should know and be able to:

- Select strategies to analyze and interpret specialized vocabulary, terminology, and abstract concepts to facilitate comprehension.
- Analyze and compare author strategies and organizational patterns in a variety of text for purpose, structure, content and effect.
- Critique the author's style and evaluate how the author uses literary elements and techniques to achieve the intended effect.
- Employ appropriate format and structure that effectively address a variety of real-life situations.
- Elaborate idea and adjust tone, vocabulary and grammatical conventions according to both purpose and audience.
- Apply appropriate format and structure that effectively address a variety of real-life situations.

As a parent, how can you help?

You can encourage your student to...

- read daily from books and magazines you provide for them.
- discuss current events they have read about in the daily newspaper.
- attend school regularly.
- participate in the summer reading program.
- start a diary or a journal including thoughts about school and friends.
- visit the local library and participate in book clubs.
- attend after school tutoring sessions and 21st Century School After School.
- read to younger brothers and sisters.

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Mathematics

Decatur Public Schools and the State of Illinois have five Mathematics Goals and 18 Learning Standards for all students in the areas of: **Number Sense, Measurement, Algebra, Geometry, and Data Analysis/Probability.**

To meet these standards by the end of Twelfth Grade, your student should know and be able to:

- Solve problems involving decimals, fractions, percents, exponents, logarithms, radical/rational exponents, absolute value and scientific notation.
- Identify, compare, and locate real numbers on a number line.
- Determine the effects of operations on the magnitudes of quantities.
- Determine and calculate to an indicated precision length, width, height, perimeter/circumference, area, surface area, volume and angle measures.
- Change from one unit to another and use measures expressed as rates, products, and use dimensional analysis to solve problems.
- Represent mathematical relationships using symbolic algebra and solve problems that include nonlinear functions and quadratic equations over the complex number system.
- Recognize and describe the general shape and properties of functions from graphs, tables, or equations.
- Recognize and apply mathematical and algebraic axioms, theorems of algebra, and deductive reasoning.
- Identify, apply and solve problems involving geometric properties of plane figures and circles.
- Create bar, circle and line graphs.

As a parent, how can you help?

You can encourage your student to...

- make decisions about spending their income, including ideas on what percent to save for college, and how much to spend to purchase something they want.
- learn more about savings accounts, checking accounts, and credit cards.
- estimate the costs of maintaining a vehicle (gasoline, insurance, maintenance and repairs).
- determine the most affordable plan for a cell phone by making graphs and/or tables of the costs.
- figure out how much money is made in sales jobs that are paid by commission.
- learn about investing money and compound interest.

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Science

Decatur Public Schools and the State of Illinois have three Science Goals and 10 Learning Standards for all students in the areas of: **Inquiry and Design, Concepts and Principles, and Science, Technology and Society.**

To meet these goals by the end of Twelfth Grade, your student should know and be able to:

- Follow procedures relating to scientific investigations, including the design and procedures used to test a hypothesis, organizing and analyzing data accurately and precisely, producing and interpreting data tables and graphs, performing calculations, applying basic statistical methods to the data, identifying conclusions, making predictions, and evaluating competing models.
- Give a description of a test to be performed on a model, select from a list of options what are the possible sources of error in conducting the test.
- Know Mendel's law of segregation. Understand natural selection, meiosis, genes, chromosomes, DNA, RNA, and that plants and animals descend from common ancestors and that biological classifications are based on how organisms are related. Be able to analyze fossil evidence.
- Understand the magnitude of force, velocity, motion, gravity and electrical energy.
- Understand the causes of ecosystem disruptions, fluctuations in population, concentrations of non-biodegradable pollutants and that an ecosystem is the stability of its producers and decomposers
- Understand how to use the periodic table, know parts of the atom, different states of matter, and the gas laws. Know the first two laws of thermodynamics, concept of entropy, the flow of electrons, superconductors, and magnetism.
- Identify the various features of the ocean floor, types of volcanoes, earthquakes, rocks and minerals, and the non-uniformity of heating effects on weather and climate.

As a parent, how can you help?

You can encourage your student to...

- build a bigger science vocabulary by practicing words at home.
- research careers in sciences and technology.
- follow news stories about controversial issues and discuss them as a family.
- learn about maintenance of computers and cars.
- watch television programs about science phenomena.
- discuss what they have learned in his/her science classes.
- use the computer to find related articles about science that they are studying in school.
- read the newspaper or listen to the news on television about daily scientific phenomena that is happening worldwide.
- recycle and conserve our natural resources.

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Social Studies

Decatur Public Schools and the State of Illinois have five Social Studies Goals and 23 Learning Standards for all students in the areas of: **Political Science, Economics, History, Geography, and Social Systems.**

To meet these standards by the end of Twelfth Grade, your student should know and be able to:

- Understand political systems, with an emphasis on the United States.
- Understand economic systems, with an emphasis on the United States.
- Understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States and other nations.
- Understand world geography and the effects of geography on society, with an emphasis on the United States.
- Understand social systems, with an emphasis on the United States.
- Explain the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions.
- Adhere to the American Flag etiquette.



As a parent,
how can you help?

You can encourage your student to...

- become actively involved in politics.
- create a budget.
- read different stories about an historical figure and tell how they relate to the understanding of history.
- read a newspaper and watch the news daily to see how the United States plays an important role in the world.



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Health

Decatur Public Schools and the State of Illinois have three Health Goals and nine Learning Standards for all students in the areas of: **Health Promotion, Prevention and Treatment, Human Body Systems, and Communications and Decision Making.**

To meet these goals by the end of Twelfth Grade, your student should know and be able to:

- Compare and contrast communicable, chronic and degenerative illnesses
- Analyze possible outcomes of effective health promotion and illness prevention.
- Demonstrate basic procedures in injury prevention and emergency care that can be used at home, in the workplace, and community.
- Research and report about careers involved in health promotion, health care, and injury prevention.
- Explain social and economic effects of health problems on individuals and society.
- Analyze how environmental conditions can affect health on a large scale.
- Explain how body system functions can be maintained and improved.
- Explain immediate and long-term effects of health habits on the body systems.
- Describe changes in physical health and body functions at various stages of the life cycle.
- Explain how decision making affects the achievement of individual health goals.

As a parent, how can you help?

You can encourage your student to...

- understand how to avoid diseases and the spread of germs.
- eat balanced meals and exercise.
- follow a daily hygiene regiment.
- understand the responsibility of respectful dating, abstinence, and the consequences of sexual intercourse.
- read several articles about how their body systems functions as it matures.
- resolve difference with their friends.
- talk about the effects of alcohol, tobacco and drugs on their body, and what to do in situations where they need help.
- evaluate the progress of the health goals they have made.
- understand the impact that media has on health issues by talking about them.

Physical Education is required for eight semesters unless excused by a physician or school administrator. (Health is one semester of the total eight.)

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Additional High School Subject Areas

Students may choose from the following courses to complete their graduation requirements.

Art— Introduction to Art I and II, Drawing and Design I and II, Sculpture and Ceramics I and II, Studio Art, Advanced Portfolio, and Art and Life

Business Education— Accounting 1, 2, Business and Technology Concepts 1, 2 (BTC), Business, Marketing and Management 1, 2, Computer Applications 1, 2, Consumer Education, Co-op Occupations Education (COE) 1, 2, Keyboarding 1, 2, Multimedia 1 and 2, Video Production 1, 2, Video Production 3, 4, Web Design and Media Development 1,2, and Yearbook 1, 2, 3, and 4

Family and Consumer Science— Food and Nutrition 1, 2, 3, Foreign and Gourmet Foods, Sports Nutrition, Clothing and Fashion Merchandising 1, 2, 3, 4, Housing and Interior Design 1, 2, Career Exploration, Child Care and Development, Parenting, Adult Living, and Independent Living

Foreign Language— French 1, 2, and 3, 4, Intermediate French 5 and 6, Intermediate French 7 and 8, Advanced Intermediate French 9, and 10, German 1, 2, 3, 4, Intermediate German 5 and 6, Intermediate German 7 and 8, Advanced Intermediate German 7 and 8, Latin 1, 2, 3, 4, Intermediate Latin 5, 6, 7, and 8, Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4, Intermediate Spanish 5 and 6, Intermediate Spanish 7 and 8, Advanced intermediate Spanish 9, and 10, and Cultural Diversity and Language Exploration



Additional High School Subject Areas

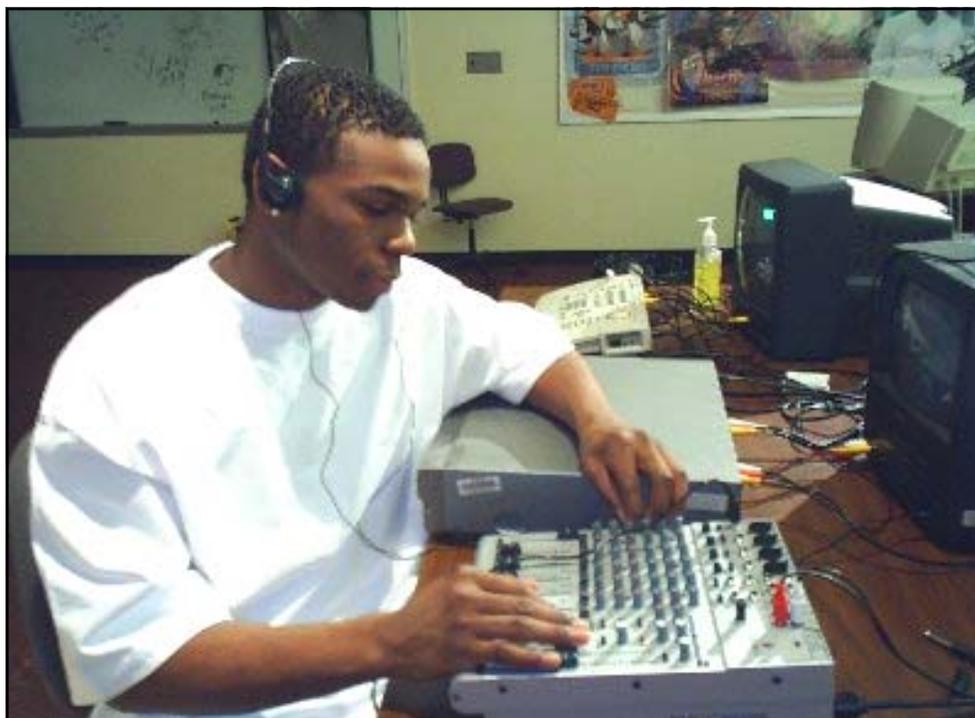
Students may choose from the following courses to complete their graduation requirements.

Industrial Technology— Applied Technology, Electrical Energy, Residential Wiring, Metal Technology 1, 2, and Basic Wood Production 1, 2

Music— Music Theory 1, 2, 3, 4, Choral Music, Instrumental Music, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band

Driver's Education— Driver Education, Behind—The—Wheel Driving

Decatur Area Technical Academy Courses— There are approximately 37 courses offered and many are in conjunction with Richland Community College which provide dual credit.





Resource Guide

How to get help at school:

1. Talk to your student's Teacher
2. Talk to the school Principal or Assistant Principal
3. Call the Family Resource Center
4. Call the Assistant Superintendent's office
5. Call the Superintendent's office
6. Talk to the Board of Education

You can email questions, concerns, and compliments to WeListen@dps61.org



How to get help in our community?

- First Call for Help, 475-2255
- Project Success, 421-8074

We need you! You can volunteer at your student's school by:

- Helping with school events or activities
- Working with students
- Helping in the library or office
- Assisting during lunch hours
- Helping with fundraising
- Helping from home

To volunteer,
contact your
student's school
today.

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Central Office

Superintendent, 424-3010
Asst. Supt's., 424-3019
Student Services, 424-3026
Human Resources, 424-3051
Business Affairs, 424-3044
Special Education, 424-3023
Special Programs, 424-3200
Teaching & Learning, 424-7288
Research & Information,
424-3017
Purchasing & Transportation,
424-3045
Management Information
Systems, 424-3085
Buildings & Grounds,
424-3080
Community Engagement,
424-3425
DPS Foundation, 424-3300
Kindergarten Readiness
Coordinator, 429-3000

Elementary (K-6)

Baum, 424-3259
Brush College, 424-3185
Dennis, 424-3236
Durfee, 424-3255
Enterprise, 424-3245
Franklin, 424-3220
French, 424-3240
Harris, 424-3230
Muffley, 424-3194
Oak Grove, 424-3217
Parsons, 876-8778
South Shores, 424-3243
Stevenson, 876-8749

K-8 Schools

Garfield Montessori,
424-3244
Hope Academy,
424-3333
Johns Hill, 424-3196

Pre-K

Pershing, 876-8327
Garfield Montessori,
424-3244
Hope Academy, 424-3333
Wee Folk I, 422-5437
Wee Folk II, 423-3655
YMCA, 872-9922

Middle (7-8)

Stephen Decatur,
876-8017
Thomas Jefferson,
424-3190

High (9-12)

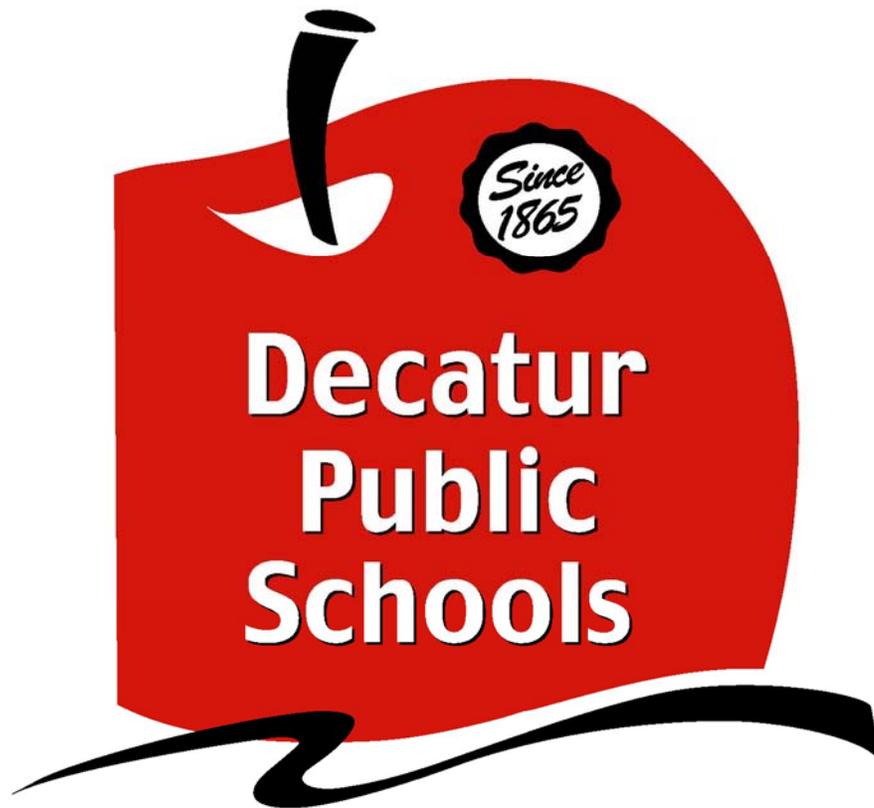
Eisenhower, 424-3100
MacArthur, 424-3156
Decatur Area Technical
Academy, 424-3070

Alternative

Phoenix Academy,
424-3090

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ADMINISTRATION
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101 W. Cerro Gordo St. | Decatur, IL 62523

www.dps61.org

This booklet is a publication of the Decatur Public School District's Teaching & Learning Department, Community Engagement Office, and Project Success.

HACC offers dual enrollment options for high school students looking to enhance their academic profile, save money on a future bachelor's degree or just get a jump start on life after graduation. Depending on which dual enrollment option you select, you can earn college credit at your high school, at a HACC campus or online. College in the High School (CHS). Are you a high school junior or senior who wants to take college classes at your high school? We offer the courses at a reduced cost - only \$75.00 per credit!