

Guam Department of Education

For Immediate Release

Monday, July 24, 2017

Guam Department of Education comes into compliance with the College and Career Readiness Act

Guam Education Board updates High School Graduation Requirements

On Tuesday, July 18, 2017, during their regular monthly meeting, the Guam Education Board updated Board Policy 351.4- High School Graduation requirements to come into compliance with Public Law 31-156 otherwise known as the College and Career Readiness Act or CCaRe Act which mandates that the Department "...align and integrate the Department of Education required academic subjects and Career and Technical Education (CTE) methods to prepare every student for a higher education and a broad career field." Previously the department ran a two track system with one path for students who wish to pursue a college education and one path for students who wish to go directly into the work force. Throughout the country, however, states and districts have recognized that the demands of the workforce and college entrance have become more and more similar, thus raising the expectations for all students.

"This change in board policy reflects the fact that we don't ask our students to choose between college or career," said Superintendent Jon Fernandez. **"We want our students to be prepared for both options when they graduate and to make the most of their options."**

The world of work has become more diverse, and the same goes for the needs of our students. Our new unified track and the individual course of study will allow us to help all students to succeed."

-Jon Fernandez, Superintendent of Education

Important points: The new policy takes effect immediately with the course requirements implemented with the following guidelines:

- ✓ New course requirements will automatically apply to all incoming 9th graders for SY2017-18. This is the graduating class of 2021.

- ✓ All returning students who were previously on the College Path will see No CHANGE in their course schedules as the new requirements are more flexible and allow for more advanced coursework.

- ✓ All returning students who were previously on the Career Path will have THE OPTION to follow the math progression, inclusive of the Geometry and the 4th year math requirement. Though this route is optional for current students, it is highly encouraged since a solid background in both algebra and geometry is needed for both college entrance and the work force.

Previous Policy	New Policy
Two tracks for graduation: one track for College Prep and one track Career Prep	One single unified track for College and Career Readiness
Career or site-based courses may or may not be coherent	College, Career, Life (CCL) courses will be designed through an individualized Course of Study (COS) similar to a college major
Algebra II or Geometry Required	Algebra I and Geometry Required
Remedial math courses limited for incoming 9 th graders and students who need additional preparation in math	More developmental math courses available to incoming 9 th graders and students who need additional preparation that can count toward their overall math requirement
4 th year of math required only for College Path	4 th year of math required for all students with more options for 4 th year (Applied Math, Practical Math, Consumer Math, Personal Financial Management)
Guam History required and only available in High School	Guam History may now be taken in Middle School, students may choose another social studies course to take in High School
Ability of the department to adjust course requirements to address students with special circumstances is limited and ambiguous	The Superintendent has the authority to review special cases and may waive or replace required courses to meet the specific needs of students. Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) may have a specialized set of courses planned through their IEP teams
Ability of the department to adjust requirements to address administrative or technical errors that affect a student's ability to fulfill graduation requirements is limited and ambiguous	The Superintendent or school administrator now have the authority to address administrative and technical errors that affect a student's ability to fulfill graduation requirements

- End of Statement -