While not a uniform development across all states, many states are increasing the number of science units a student must complete to earn a high school diploma through the class of 2011. This document provides an overview of this trend. Listed requirements do not take into account the differentiated diplomas that exist in some states, and instead focus on the minimum requirements needed to earn a high school diploma. The District of Columbia is treated as a state for the purposes of this document.

Current Requirements for the Class of 2006:

Required Units

- Local (8 States)
- 1 (1 State)
- 2 (20 States)
- 3 (21 States)
- 4 (1 State)
Requirements to Take Effect by the Class of 2011:

Required Units
- Local (5 States)
- 2 (15 States)
- 3 (30 States)
- 4 (1 State)

Source:

Kyle Zinth, researcher in the ECS Information Clearinghouse, compiled this report. Email: kzinth@ecs.org

© 2006 by the Education Commission of the States (ECS). ECS is a nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps state leaders shape education policy.

ECS encourages its readers to share our information with others. To request permission to reprint or excerpt some of our material, please contact the ECS Communications Department at 303.299.3669 or e-mail ecs@ecs.org.

Helping State Leaders Shape Education Policy