

Your Question:

You requested information on the governance of high school graduation requirements.

Our Response:

States vary in who sets high school graduation requirements. In general, states fall into four categories:

- **State Board of Education** (26 states) includes states where the state board of education sets high school graduation requirements. These requirements are usually outlined in state regulation or administrative rules.
- **Legislature** (nine states) includes states where the state general assembly sets high school graduation requirements. These requirements are outlined in state statute.
- **Legislature directs the State Board of Education** (13 states) includes states where the state general assembly has charged the state board of education with setting and administering the requirements for high school graduation. These requirements are usually outlined in state statute and in state regulations or administrative rules.
- **Administrative Oversight** (two states and the District of Columbia) includes states where offices or administrative officials are charged with setting high school graduation requirements. For example, in the District of Columbia, regulations are set under the Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

Below is information on the governance of high school graduation requirements in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

State	Governance	Citation	Notes
Alabama	State Board of Education	Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education’s regulations. The state department of education is charged with authorizing any petitioned changes to the state graduation requirements.
Alaska	State Board of Education	Alaska Admin. Code tit. 4, § 06.075	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education’s regulations. Each local school system may establish graduation requirements beyond the state’s minimum requirements.
Arizona	State Board of Education	Ariz. Admin. Code R7-2-302	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education’s regulations.
Arkansas	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	Standards Ark. Code Ann. § 6-11-105	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set high school graduation requirements.

California	Legislature	Cal. Educ. Code § 51225.3	High school graduation requirements are set in statute.
Colorado	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-106	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set high school graduation requirements. Each local school system may establish graduation requirements beyond the state's minimum requirements.
Connecticut	Legislature	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-221a	High school graduation requirements are set in statute.
Delaware	State Board of Education	Code Del. Regs. 505	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations.
District of Columbia	Administrative Oversight – Office of the State Superintendent of Education	D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 5-A, § 2203	High school graduation requirements are set in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education's regulations.
Florida	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1003.4282	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set high school graduation requirements.
Georgia	State Board of Education	Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-4-2-.48	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations.
Hawaii	State Board of Education	Policy 102-15	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations.
Idaho	State Board of Education	Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.03.105	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations. A local school district may establish graduation requirements beyond the state's minimum requirements.
Illinois	Legislature	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/27-22	High school graduation requirements are set in statute. The State Board of Education has the authority to make changes under certain conditions, including during state emergencies.
Indiana	State Board of Education	511 Ind. Admin. Code 6-7.1-4	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations.
Iowa	State Board of Education	Iowa Code Ann. § 256.7	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations.
Kansas	State Board of Education	Kan. Admin. Regs. 91-31-35	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education regulations. Each governing body must adopt a written policy specifying that pupils are eligible for graduation only after

			completion of the state’s minimum requirements.
Kentucky	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 156.160 704 Ky. Admin. Regs. 3:305	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set recommended statewide graduation guidelines.
Louisiana	State Board of Education	Louisiana Department of Education	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education’s regulations.
Maine	Legislature	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 4722	High school graduation requirements are set in statute.
Maryland	State Board of Education	Md. Code Regs. 13A.03.02.01	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education regulations. Each local school system may establish graduation requirements beyond the state’s minimum requirements.
Massachusetts	State Board of Education	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 69, § 1D	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education’s regulations.
Michigan	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1278a Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1278b	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set high school graduation requirements.
Minnesota	Legislature	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 120B.024	High school graduation requirements are set in statute.
Mississippi	State Board of Education	7 Code Miss. R. Pt. 3, R. 36.1, et seq.	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education’s regulations.
Missouri	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 161.092 Mo. Code Regs. Ann. tit. 5, § 20-100.190	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set high school graduation requirements.
Montana	State Board of Education	Mont. Admin. R. 10.55.905	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education’s regulations.
Nebraska	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-729	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set recommended statewide graduation guidelines.
Nevada	State Board of Education	Nev. Admin. Code 390.440	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education’s regulations.
New Hampshire	State Board of Education	N.H. Code Admin. R. § 27	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education’s regulations.

New Jersey	State Board of Education	N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:8-5.1	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations. Each local education authority must develop, adopt, and implement local graduation requirements that meet the state's minimum standards.
New Mexico	Legislature	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-13-1.1 N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-2	High school graduation requirements are set in statute.
New York	Administrative Oversight – New York State Education Department	N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 8, § 100.5	High school graduation requirements are set in the Commissioner of Education's Regulations.
North Carolina	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-12	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set high school graduation requirements.
North Dakota	Legislature	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-21-02.2	High school graduation requirements are set in statute.
Ohio	Legislature	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.603	High school graduation requirements are set in statute.
Oklahoma	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	70 Okla. Stat. Ann. § 11-103.6	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set high school graduation requirements.
Oregon	State Board of Education	Or. Admin. R. 581-022-2000	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations.
Pennsylvania	State Board of Education	22 Pa. Code § 4.24	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations. Each local school system may establish graduation requirements beyond the state's minimum requirements.
Rhode Island	State Board of Education	200 R.I. Code R. 20-10-2.3	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations.
South Carolina	State Board of Education	S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-234	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations. Each local education authority is charged with ensuring quality and offering curriculum that meets the standard graduation requirements.
South Dakota	Administrative Oversight – South Dakota	S.D. Admin. R. 24:43:11:01	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Department of Education's regulations. Each local school system may establish graduation requirements beyond

	Department of Education	S.D. Admin. R. 24:43:11:02	the minimum requirements established by the State Board of Education.
Tennessee	State Board of Education	Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0520-01-03-.06	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations.
Texas	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 28.025 19 Tex. Admin. Code § 74.12	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set high school graduation requirements. Minimum high school graduation requirements are set in statute.
Utah	State Board of Education	Utah Const. art. X, § 3 Utah Code Ann. § 53E-3-501	The Utah State Constitution gives the State Board of Education authority over public education. High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations.
Vermont	State Board of Education	7-1 Vt. Code R. § 2	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations. Each secondary school board is responsible for setting graduation requirements in accordance with the state's minimum requirements.
Virginia	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-253.13:3 8 Va. Admin. Code 20-131-50	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set high school graduation requirements.
Washington	State Board of Education	Wash. Admin. Code 180-08-001 Wash. Admin. Code 180-51-210	High school graduation requirements are set in the State Board of Education's regulations.
West Virginia	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	W. Va. Code R. 126-42-1 W. Va. Code R. 126-42-6	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set high school graduation requirements.
Wisconsin	Legislature	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.33	High school graduation requirements are set in statute.
Wyoming	Legislature directs the State Board of Education	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-2-304	Statute gives the State Board of Education the authority to set high school graduation requirements.

Additional Resources:

Additional resources on high school graduation requirements include:

- A [50-State Comparison](#) on high school graduation requirements.

- A state information request on [state profile-of-a-graduate policies](#) and proficiency-based graduation requirements.