



High School Transition Guide

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Welcome to the BIA Charter School, High School Transition Guide

High school is around the corner, and with that, a lot of new and exciting opportunities are on the way.

So, what does that mean for you? For one thing, it means more choices. This High School Transition Guide is a preview of all that is available to you as you enter 9th grade. You will discover a range of academic options and a host of elective classes to Career Pathways and dozens of extracurricular opportunities for you to choose from over the next four years. While you will have lots of choices to make now and in high school, you are not alone in this task. You will have advisors, a school counselor, teachers and your family helping you all along the way by answering your questions and offering you support.

You may be wondering, “What will I find in the ‘High School Transition Guide’?”

- *If you are like most kids, you are probably wondering what to expect in high school. This guide will explain this to you.*
- *High school has its own language, so you will find a few terms that may be new to you.*
- *You will find specifics on graduation requirements, the grading scale, report cards, testing, and attendance.*
- *Learn about Career Clusters/ Pathways*
- *You will find eligibility requirements for competitions.*
- *Next fall, you will be looking ahead and working out a four-year plan, but you can get started now with this guide.*

As part of your transition, your family will be your biggest support. Go ahead and let them know what your plans are for high school.

We hope you will use it to develop your plan

for high school and beyond. It is your future!

Wishing you the best in your transition to high school!

Frequently Asked Questions

❖ How do I decide what classes to take?

The best advice....challenge yourself to take the toughest classes in which you can be successful. You will be better prepared for success in college, and many colleges consider the difficulty of an applicant's high school curriculum.

❖ How will I decide which courses will be most challenging for me?

For some courses, you will see that the school may offer an accelerated format or a more in-depth approach for students who excel in the area of study. Students who take these college -level courses, and do well on the AP exams, may earn college credits or skip the required entry level classes in college. Talk to your family, teachers, advisor, and your school counselor about which option best suits your academic strengths and prepares you for the courses you will take in college.

❖ How can I make sure I will do well in my classes?

Your teachers, counselor, advisor and family will all be behind you and encouraging you to do your best work from the first day. However, a lot of your success in high school depends on you! Never be afraid to ask for help!

❖ What are some things I can do at home?

Be organized and keep up with homework assignments and projects. Study class lecture notes to review what was taught in class, even when you do not have assigned homework in the subject. Study for a test several days ahead, so you have time to review the material and retain it.

❖ If I am failing a class, can I drop it mid-semester?

No. Dropping a class mid-semester is not an option.

❖ How do I make up a course I fail?

Courses can be made up during Summer School.

Words You Need to Know!

- **Academy:** A program at designated high schools that allows students to pursue core and elective coursework in specific, career-focused areas.
- **Advisement Program:** A structured, non-graded portion of the day in which students receive school information and discuss grade-level appropriate topics with their advisor.
- **Agenda Book:** An organizational tool for students that includes the school handbook, calendar of school events, assignment book, and reference information.
- **AP (Advanced Placement):** Rigorous, college-level coursework taken in high school. Students who make a 3 or better (1–5 scale) on an optional AP exam at the end of the school year may earn college credit or skip entry level college classes.
- **Career and Technical Education:** Elective courses focusing on knowledge and skills that prepare students for postsecondary studies and for work in business and technical fields.
- **Career Cluster/Pathway:** A concentration of three to four designated career and technical and/or academic courses that offer a seamless path to postsecondary work in college or technical school in a designated field. 9th graders, with help from their family and school advisors, will select a Career Pathway to explore during high school, with the possibility of real-life experience in the field before graduation.
- **Class Rank:** A student's standing based on his or her cumulative grade percent average as compared with that of other members of the class. In a class of 100, the student with the highest grade-percent average would be Number 1 and the lowest Number 100.
- **Core Courses:** Refers to both required and elective courses in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.
- **Credits/Units:** The terms "credits" and "units" (or Carnegie Units) are used interchangeably to identify how much each course passed counts toward meeting the 23 credits/units required for graduation from high school.
- **Elective Courses:** Classes that may be selected by the student and are included in the 23 credits/units required for high school graduation.
- **Eligibility:** The mandatory guidelines for students participating in sports and extracurriculars. The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) is the governing body for competitive interscholastic teams.
- **End of Course (EOC) assessments:** Tests that measure learning of the statewide curriculum in designated courses to ensure that high academic standards are being met in all Georgia high schools, as required by the Georgia Board of Education.
- **Four-Year Plan:** An outline of the courses a student plans to take while in high school. The plan will take into consideration the student's academic history, career goals, interests, and plans for additional education beyond high school.
- **Georgia Standards of Excellence:** State performance standards that help to define the knowledge and skills students should have during their K–12 education careers so that they will graduate from high school fully prepared for college and careers. Adopted at the state level, Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) are in place for grades K–12 in Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies, as well as Career and Technical Education (6–12).

Words You Need to Know!

- **Gifted Courses:** Rigorous coursework for students who qualify for Gifted Education services. Gifted sections are designated in selected subjects by local schools.
- **Grades:** Understanding GPA and CGPA
Grade Percent Average (GPA): The average of all student's course GPAs in every high school course he or she has taken. For example, a student with A's and B's might have a total GPA of 94%.
Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA): The average of all of a student's course GPAs in every high school course the student has taken, using 4 for an A, 3 for a B, etc. For example, a student with A's and B's might have a CGPA of 3.4.
- **Honors Courses:** Coursework designed at an advanced level for students who excel in that content area. Honors sections are designated in selected subjects by local schools.
- **HOPE Scholarship Program:** (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) An educational funding program through the Georgia Lottery, offering three funding options. Learn more at www.gafutures.org.
- **HOPE Grant:** As of 2019, the HOPE Grant pays a portion of tuition for qualified students who are enrolled in eligible diploma or certificate programs at selected technical colleges in Georgia.
- **HOPE Scholarship:** As of 2019, the HOPE Scholarship pays a portion of tuition for qualifying students who are enrolled at eligible public colleges and universities in the state of Georgia. The amount of the award will be adjusted annually, based on lottery revenue.
- **The Zell Miller Scholarship:** As of 2019, students who meet more rigorous GPA, coursework, and testing standards qualify for full tuition at Georgia's public institutions and the full private HOPE award at private Georgia colleges and universities
- **Postsecondary:** Referring to college or technical college coursework, and career plans.
- **Prerequisites:** Courses, test scores, recommendations, and/or grade level that must be completed before taking the next sequential course, grade, etc.
- **Required Courses:** Specific courses that must be successfully completed prior to high school graduation. These courses must be retaken if not passed the first time
- **Semester:** An 18-week instructional period during which students earn .5 credits (traditional schedule) or 1.0 credits (block schedule) for each course passed. The school year is comprised of two semesters.
- **Summer School:** A shorter, more intensive session offering students the opportunity to repeat or take additional courses required for high school graduation, either face-to-face at a school or through Online Campus.
- **Transcript:** The complete record of all high school courses taken and grades earned. A student's transcript contains his or her cumulative record along with scores on required tests.

State of Georgia Graduation Requirements

Areas of Study Required	Units
Language Arts	4*
Mathematics	4*
Science (3 required, 1 Elective)	4*
Social Studies	3*
Health/Physical Education	1
Electives	4
Modern Language and/or Career and Tech Education and or Fine Arts	3*
Total Units (Minimum)	23

***For admission to a University System of Georgia college or university, students are required to pass specific courses in each academic area, including two units of the same Modern or Classical Language. Core academic courses, are both required, and elective are included calculation of the HOPE GPA for HOPE Scholarship eligibility.**

Grading Scale

Grade	Average Range	CGPA Value
A	90% and above	4.0
B	80% - 89%	3.0
C	74% -79%	2.0
D	70% - 73%	1.0
F	Below 70%	0.0

This is the standard grading scale. Keep these numbers in mind and start keeping up with the number of credits you have at the end of each semester.

*** Remember you need 23 credits to graduate High School.***



Attendance Policies

State law requires attendance at school from ages 6 to 16. **Excused absences** are defined by state law and include only the following:

- Personal illness, or when attendance in school endangers the health of other;
- Serious illness or death in immediate family;
- Recognized religious holidays;
- Student under orders from court or other government agency;
- Service as a page in the General Assembly;
- Condition rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to health or safety;
- Registration to vote or voting in public election;
- Up to five excused absences per year for students whose parent/legal guardian is in military service and is being sent overseas for active duty, on leave from active duty, or returning from active duty;

- Foster care students attending court proceedings relating to the student's foster care; and
- Service in the Student Teen Participant (STEP) program.

In most cases, absences are **unexcused** for all other reasons, including but not limited to:

- a. Missing the bus, oversleeping, power outages;
- b. Vacations, trips, family visits, college visits, non-school sponsored competitions and events; and
- c. Car trouble, babysitting, running errands, traffic accidents/problems.

*** Students who miss 30 minutes or more of class will be considered absent from that class.**

Reports to Parents

Parents Access

Parents will be offered an online portal to access their student's school information. Parents can access:

- Grades for projects, tests, homework, and quizzes for current courses, including missing work.
- An overview of grades, attendance, discipline record, bus route, course history, and program information.
- Results on standardized tests.
- A summary of the student's library materials and textbooks.
- The current balance in the student's account for payments. Parents also can email the student's teacher via portal.

Progress Reports and Report Cards

- High school teachers give each student a written progress report of his or her status at the end of each six-week or nine-week period, depending on the student's school.
- Parents may request a student's grades at other times as well and may access grades 24/7 on parent portals.

Course Descriptions

Language Arts

9th Grade and Literature and Composition are required for 2 semesters. This year-long, one-credit course focuses on the acquisition of reading, writing, speaking, listening and language skills.

Science

Biology is required for 2 semesters in grade 9. Students will investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry.

Physical Education

Physical Education is required for 1 semester. This course is a graduation requirement and prerequisite to all elective physical education courses.

Mathematics

Students will take one of the required 9th grade mathematics courses based on their achievement in their 8th grade math course. Algebra 1 is required for 2 semesters.

Health

Health is required for 1 semester. This course is a graduation requirement designed to offer a practical approach to health topics that concern adolescents.

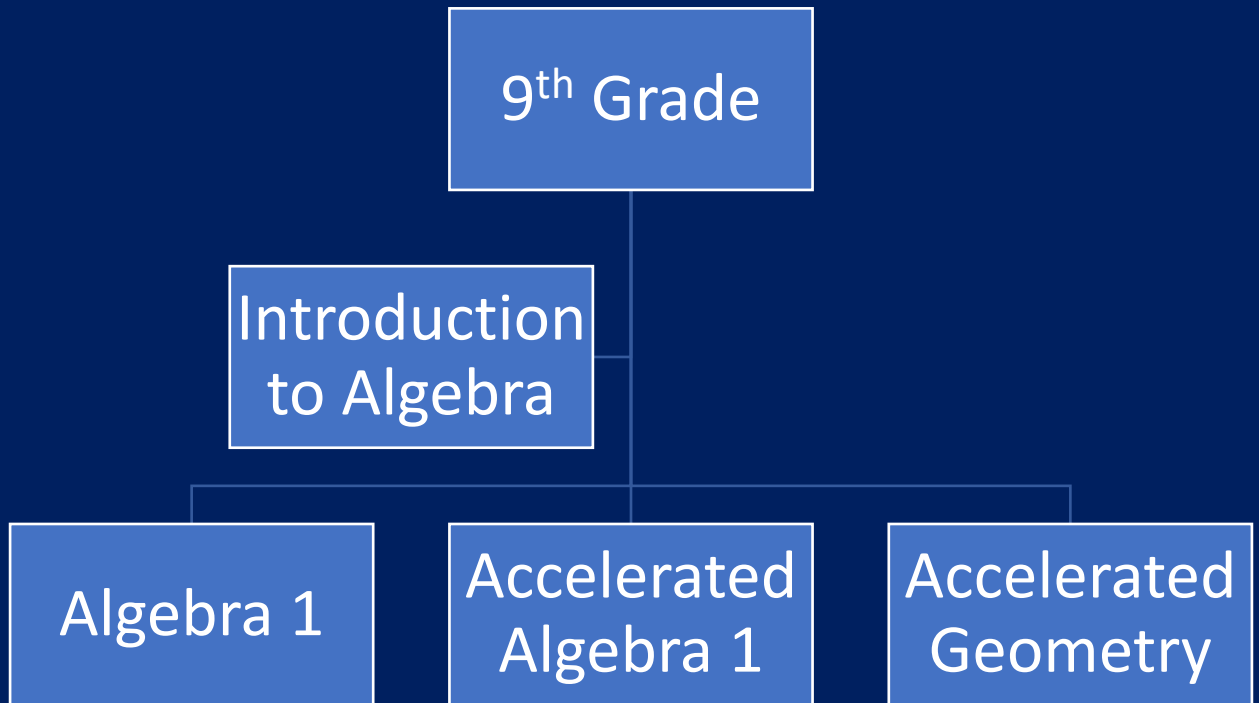
Fine Arts

Students may pursue a Fine Arts Pathway in any one of five areas: Dance Theatre Arts, Music, Visual Arts, and Journalism. A Fine Arts Pathway includes three or more full credits in one of the five designated areas

Modern/Classical Languages

This language course is required for 2 semesters. Students may pursue a World Language Pathway. Some examples of languages that can be pursued including Chinese, French, German, Latin, Spanish, and Spanish for Native Speakers.

Recommended Math Sequence Chart



- **Four units of mathematics are required for all students for graduation, including Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2, or their equivalent.**
- **Students will be placed in mathematics courses based on their achievement in the prerequisite course or local school decision.**
- **Students are required to participate in state-mandated End of Course assessments (indicate by EOC assessment) to earn credit for designated high school courses.**
- **Gifted sections are designated by local schools.**
- **Special education students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) should discuss math sequence options with their counselor.**

Career Cluster/ Pathways

Georgia high school students can test drive a possible career by pursuing a Career Pathway, a concentration of three to four designated technical and/or academic courses that offer a seamless path to postsecondary work in college or technical school in a designated field.

Georgia requires 9th graders, with help from their family and school advisors, to select a Career Pathway to explore during high school, with the possibility of real-life experience in the field before graduation.

Cluster and Pathways in Traditional High Schools

Courses needed to complete about half of the currently designated Pathways are available in most traditional high schools. Not all Pathways are available in all high schools.

Academic Pathways

- *Advanced Academics-* Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies (must indicate a progression and growth of knowledge and skills in the area and include four credits in the core area (three credits in Social Studies) with at least one advanced course.
- *World Language-* Chinese, French, German, Latin, Spanish, and Spanish for Native Speakers (Must indicate a progression and growth of knowledge and skills in area and include three credits in one world language.)
- *Fine Arts-* Visual Arts, Theatre, Dance, Music and Journalism (Must indicate progression and growth of knowledge and skills in area, and include three full credits in one of five areas, either general within the area or with a specialized focus.)

Career Cluster/Pathways

- **Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources**
- **Architecture and Construction**
- **Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications**
- **Business Management and Administration**
- **Education and Training**
- **Energy**
- **Finance**
- **Government and Public Administration**
- **Health Science**
- **Hospitality and Tourism**
- **Human Services**
- **Information Technology**
- **Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Marketing**
- **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)**
- **Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics**

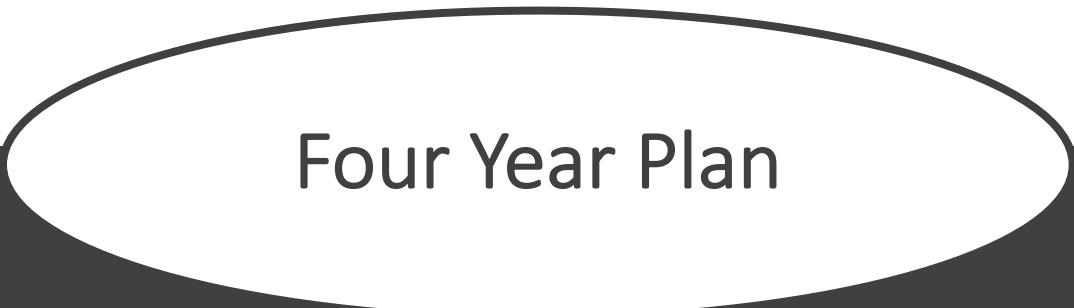
Pathways in Specialized Schools

Additional Career and Technical Education Pathways may be pursued through specialized programs.

BIA Charter School Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) for the Class of 2024

Student: _____ Year Entered High School: _____ MS: _____ HS: _____

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>M.I.</i>		
Course Name (Use Transcript)	9th Grade (Circle or write in course) 8 Credits Worth of Courses are Requested	10th Grade (Circle or write in course) 8 Credits Worth of Courses are Requested	11th Grade (Circle or write in course) 8 Credits Worth of Courses are Requested	12th Grade (Circle or write in course) 8 Credits Worth of Courses are Requested
ENGLISH: 4 UNITS REQUIRED	9th Grade Literature	World Literature	American Lit/Com	British Lit
9th Grade Lit/Comp (EOC)				
World Lit/Comp				
American Lit/Comp (EOC)				
British Lit/Comp or Advanced Comp.				
MATHEMATICS: 4 UNITS REQUIRED	GSE Algebra I	GSE Geometry	GSE Algebra II	GSE Pre-Calculus
GSE Algebra I or Honors Course (EOC)				
GSE Geom. (EOC) or Honors Course (EOC)				
GSE Algebra II or Honors				
GSE Pre- Calculus				
SCIENCE: 4 UNITS REQUIRED	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	4th Year Science
Biology (EOC)				
Physical Science (EOC) or Physics				
Chemistry, Earth Systems or Environmental Science				
1 Additional Science				
(AP Courses Senior Year in Bio./Chem./Env. Sci. Physics)				
SOCIAL STUDIES: 4 UNITS REQUIRED	World Geography	World History	U.S. History	Government/ Economics
World History				



	Term 1-1 (08/05/19- 10/09/19)	Term 2-1 (01/06/20- 03/12/20)
1	23.0610001-1 LIT/COMP 9 A TEACHER Rm: 2121	23.0610002-1 LIT/COMP 9 B TEACHER Rm: 2121
2	17.0110000-3 HEALTH 9 TEACHER Rm: 1304 FNART	36.0510000-3 PERSONAL FITNESS 9 TEACHER Rm: GYMR
3	45.0570000-11 AMER GOVT/CIVICS TEACHER Rm: 2118	45.0711000-12 WORLD GEOGRAPHY TEACHER Rm: 2118
4	60.0710001-5 SPANISH I A TEACHER Rm: 1112	60.0710002-3 SPANISH I B TEACHER Rm: 1112
5	54.0211001-1 BEG MIXED CHORUS I A TEACHER Rm: 1206 FNART	54.0211002-1 BEG MIXED CHORUS I B TEACHER Rm: 1206 FNART
6	27.0971001-5 GSE COORDINATE ALGEBRA A TEACHER Rm: 1111	27.0971002-5 GSE COORDINATE ALGEBRA B TEACHER Rm: 1111
7	40.0810001-10 PHYSICS I A TEACHER Rm: 2113	40.0810002-10 PHYSICS I B TEACHER Rm: 2113
HR	ATTDS-10 Daily Attendance TEACHER Rm: 2116	ATTDS-10 Daily Attendance TEACHER Rm: 2116
DD	90.0000000-10 Digital Dreamers Orientation TEACHER Rm: 2116	90.0000000-10 Digital Dreamers Orientation TEACHER Rm: 2116

Sample High School Schedule

Extracurricular Opportunities

Outside of the regular school day, students have many opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities. For several reasons, you're encouraged to participate in one or more extracurricular activity while you are in high school.

- When you are involved in extracurricular activities, you are more connected to your school. Also, extracurricular competitions allow you to represent your school and earn recognition for your achievements.
- Extracurricular activities offer you a chance to learn something new or learn more about something that interests you, to develop a talent, or perform with your peers.
- Extracurricular activities also give you an opportunity to develop and demonstrate leadership. Following is a general introduction to extracurricular options that may be available. However, offerings vary from school to school. Explore the options available at your school and get involved!

Extracurricular Opportunities: Athletics

Athletic programs focus on the importance of teamwork, how to cope with success and disappointment, and the necessity of physical well-being. High schools may offer the following athletic teams:

Athletics

High schools may offer the following athletic teams:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Competitive Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Flag Football
- Football
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Precision Rifle Team
- Soccer Softball (fast-pitch) Swimming and Diving Tennis
- Track
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

Eligibility for Competition

- The governing body for all competitive interscholastic teams is the Georgia High School Association (GHSAA).
- The GHSAA by-laws state, "All students establishing eligibility as entering 9th graders are automatically eligible for the first semester."
- All entering 9th graders are eligible to try out for all GHSAA sanctioned activities at the high school. Students participating in GHSAA events must meet GHSAA eligibility requirements.

Extracurricular Opportunities: Fine Arts/Clubs

Fine Arts

Fine Arts Students have numerous opportunities in the following visual and performing arts areas:

- Band
- Chorus
- Dance
- Media Arts
- Music Technology
- Orchestra
- Theater
- Visual Art

Clubs

Each school's website has a list of available clubs.

Examples of clubs found in high schools include:

- Academic and co-curricular clubs that focus on math, science, writing, foreign language, technology, business and marketing, and other areas of interest.
- Service and leadership groups, and honor societies.
- Special-interest clubs, such as debate, chess, broadcast, publications, the environment, sports, and more

Extracurricular Opportunities: Academic Competition

High schools have a strong tradition of success in academic competitions. Here are just a few in which students compete as teams or individuals:

- Academic Decathlon
- Debate
- DECA (marketing)
- Future Business Leaders of America
- FIRST Robotics
- FIRST LEGO League
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
- HOSA (future health professionals)
- Literary
- Mock Trial
- Model UN
- Odyssey of the Mind
- One-Act Play
- ProStart
- Quiz Bowl
- Readers Rally
- Science Olympiad
- SkillsUSA
- Technology Student Association (TSA)



We hope this guide was helpful to you and your family. For any school or specific district information, please feel free to visit the school website of your selected school.

Be Strong. Be Brave. Be Bears.

Best wishes from your BIA Family!