

TOPS University Diploma – AP[®] Physics I and II

At its meeting of June 21, 2017, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved changes to the TOPS University Diploma as it pertains to AP[®] Physics I and AP[®] Physics II such that a student can meet high school graduation requirements by taking either course and that each course will be given a full Carnegie Unit of credit.

PLEASE BE ADVISED that this change does not apply to TOPS eligibility requirements. Students who chose to use AP Physics I and AP Physics II to fulfill their TOPS Core science requirements for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors award must take and earn credit for **both AP Physics I and AP Physics II**. Students completing and earning credit for both courses will receive 2 units of the required 4 units of science required for TOPS. If a student only takes one of these courses, he/she will not receive any credit towards the two units of science electives required for TOPS.

Below are **options for satisfying science requirements for both the TOPS University diploma and the TOPS Core Curriculum** for students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year, if AP Physics I is successfully completed as a standalone course.

Required Action	Meets Graduation Requirements?	Meets TOPS Core Curriculum Requirements for Science?
OPTION 1: In addition to satisfying the Biology I and Chemistry I requirement, student also earns credit in both AP Physics I and AP Physics II	Yes	Yes
OPTION 2: In addition to satisfying Biology I and Chemistry I requirement, student earns credit by way of proficiency exam for Physics I or Physics I (Honors) and successfully completes one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of: Chemistry II, AP Chemistry II, IB Chemistry I, IB Chemistry II • One of: AP Environmental Science, IB Environmental Systems • One of: AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C – Mechanics, IB Physics II • One of: Biology II, AP Biology, IB Biology I, IB Biology II, Human Anatomy and Physiology 	Yes	Yes*
OPTION 3: In addition to satisfying Biology I and Chemistry I requirement, student earns credit in two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of: Chemistry II, AP Chemistry II, IB Chemistry I, IB Chemistry II • One of: AP Environmental Science, IB Environmental Systems • One of: Physics I, IB Physics I • One of: AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C – Mechanics, IB Physics II • One of: Biology II, AP Biology, IB Biology I, IB Biology II, Human Anatomy and Physiology 	Yes	Yes

**NOTE: For calculation of the TOPS GPA, AP, IB, gifted, talented, and honors courses are graded on a 5.0 scale. "P" (proficiency exam) is not a grade and therefore will not receive any points. The TOPS GPA is calculated based on 19 qualifying credits, except in cases where a student has "P" grades. With a "P" test grade, the GPA will be determined based on grades for 18 courses instead of 19.*

What is being done to address TOPS eligibility? The Department will pursue legislation in Spring 2018 to retroactively approve AP Physics I and AP Physics II as standalone courses for the purpose of satisfying the TOPS Core Curriculum science requirement for students entering ninth grade in 2014-2015 and beyond. The Department will inform school systems if/when this legislation is approved.