

BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bloomfield, Connecticut

BOARD POLICY

No. 6146(a)

**RE: Graduation Requirements
Instructions**

Adopted: April 15, 2010

Revised: June 14, 2016

Graduation from our public school implies (1) that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study for the several grade levels in accordance with their respective abilities to achieve, (2) that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and satisfactorily demonstrated the district's performance standards, assessed in part by the statewide mastery examinations, established by the faculty and approved by the Board of Education, and (3) that they have fulfilled the legally mandated number and distribution of credits. Graduation shall not be held until 180 days and 900 hours of actual school work are completed. The adopted school calendar shall indicate a graduation date which is no earlier than the 185th day. This may be modified after April 1 in any school year in conformity with applicable statute.

The Board of Education conforms with state regulations and statute regarding credits for graduation from high school.

~~The following minimum credits and course requirements, for classes graduating *PRIOR TO AND INCLUDING 2021*, are necessary:~~

● English	4.0 Credits
● Mathematics	3.0 Credits
● Science (includes Biology)	3.0 Credits
● Social Studies (incl. World History, U.S. History & Civics)	3.0 Credits
● Arts or Vocational Education	1.0 Credits
● Physical Education	1.5 Credits
● Health	.5 Credits
● Electives	7.0 Credits
● Mathematics Competency	.1 Credit
● Writing Competency	.1 Credit
● Reading Competency	.1 Credit
● Science Competency	.1 Credit
	23.4 Credits

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Commencing with the graduating class of 2022, in order to graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits, including not fewer than the following minimum credits and course requirements:

Humanities (9 Credits):

English (including Composition)	4.0 Credits
Social Studies (includes World History, U.S. History & Civics and American Government)	3.0 Credits
Fine Arts	1.0 Credits
Humanities Elective	1.0 Credits

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (8 Credits)

Mathematics (including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or Probability/Statistics)	4.0 Credits
Science (including Life Science and Physical Science)	3.0 Credits
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics elective	1.0 Credit

Career and Life Skills (3.5 Credits)

Physical Education	1.0 Credit
Health and Safety Education	.5 Credit
Career and Life Skills electives (such as Career and technical education, eEnglish as a second language, community service, personal finance, public speaking, and nutrition and physical activity)	2.0 Credits

WORLD languages (2 credits)

2.0 credits

Senior demonstration project or its equivalent,
as approved by the State Board of Education
electives

1.0 Credits

1.5 credits

end of school year examinations for the

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following courses:

- (A) Algebra I
- (B) Geometry
- (C) Biology
- (D) American History
- (E) Grade Ten English

TOTAL

25 Credits

The Board of Education, in recognition of its responsibility for the education of all youths in the school system, including those who do not successfully complete the assessment criteria listed above, and those who drop out of school, shall make available to all the school district's youths a course of study or alternative programs for meeting standards that will enable them to acquire a high school

diploma.

The following minimum credits and course requirements, for classes graduating *PRIOR TO AND INCLUDING 2021*, are necessary:

• English	4.0 Credits
• Mathematics	3.0 Credits
• Science (includes Biology)	3.0 Credits
• Social Studies (incl. World History, U.S. History & Civics)	3.0 Credits
• Arts or Vocational Education	1.0 Credits
• Physical Education	1.5 Credits
• Health	.5 Credits
• Electives	7.0 Credits
• Mathematics Competency	.1 Credit
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	<u>23.4 Credits</u>

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In addition, also beginning with the graduating class of 2022, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students beginning in grade seven (2016-2017 school year). Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements, previously listed, or end of the school year examinations, if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

Credits

A credit is defined as the equivalent or one forty minute class period for each day of a school year. One-half credit is awarded for courses that compile work in one semester. If physical education is not taken because of a medical excuse, another subject may be substituted.

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Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a student may be granted credit for the successful completion of coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, shall equal one-half high school credit. A student may also be granted credit toward meeting a specified course requirement in grades six, seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive.

A credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or State Board of Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line course work, or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.

The Board of Education shall grant a student credit towards meeting high school graduation requirements for (1) completing a world-language course provided by a non-profit organization and (2) passing a subject area proficiency test identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education. Up to four credits for a private non-profit world language course shall be granted if the student achieves a passing grade on a test prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. In other

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subject areas, credit shall be granted, based upon successful passage of the subject area proficiency tests prescribed or identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education,* regardless of the number of hours spent by the student in a public school classroom learning the subject matter.

**The Commissioner, per statute, must prescribe or identify and approve the examinations within available appropriations.*

The fulfillment of the mandated two credit foreign language requirement, beginning with the class of 2022, can include the successful completion of a world language online course, or the successful completion of a course offered privately through a nonprofit provider, WHICH MUST BE APPROVED BY HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.

ALL CREDITS EARNED TOWARD MEETING ANY OF THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ONLINE COURSES MUST BE APPROVED BY HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.

The Board shall create a student success plan for each enrolled student, beginning in grade six. Such plan shall include a students' career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.

THE ABOVE exceptions to earning credits, at other than grades 9 through 12, is discretionary, not mandated. A board of education may allow, as above, an unlimited number of credits to be earned prior to high school or at a higher institution OF LEARNING.

Awards of High School Diplomas

Students who complete all graduation requirements shall receive a diploma at the June commencement. Individuals residing in the town of Bloomfield for more than five (5) consecutive years may satisfy graduation requirements by the satisfactory completion of the following:

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- 2.1. Successful completion of a summer course or summer courses comparable (as determined by the Principal) to the subject(s) in which the student was deficient.
- 3.2. Honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces after a minimum of ninety days of active service during World War II for individuals who withdrew from school to join the Armed Forces and for veterans of the Korean Hostilities and for veterans of the Vietnam Era.
- 4.3. Honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces for individuals who left high school prior to graduation and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

5.4. Withdrawal from high school prior to graduation to work on a job that assisted the war effort during World War II, December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946, not receiving a diploma as a consequence of such work and has been a resident of Connecticut for at least fifty (5) consecutive years.

6.5. Academic Advancement Program

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The Board of Education permits students in grades eleven and twelve to substitute (1) achievement of a passing score on an existing national examination, as determined by the State Department of Education, or series of examinations approved by the State Board of Education, (2) a cumulative grade point average determined by the State Board of Education and (3) at least three letters of recommendation from school professionals (defined in 10-66dd), for the required high school graduation requirement. The State Board of Education will issue an Academic Advancement Program Certificate to any student successfully completing such program. The Academic Advancement Program Certificate shall be considered in the same manner as a high school diploma for purposes of determining eligibility of a student for enrollment at a Connecticut public institution of higher education.

The Board of Education shall permit a student to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the above described academic advancement program.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-5c Board examination series pilot program. Issuance of certificate (as amended by P.A. 13-247)

10-14n State-wide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results. (as amended by Section 115 of PA 14-217)

10-16(l) Graduation exercises. (as amended by P.A. 96-108, An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates)

10-221a High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, P.A. 10-111, An Act

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Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut, P.A. 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform, P.A. 13-57, An Act Concerning Honorary Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans, P.A. 13-122, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes and P.A. 13-247, Budget Implementer Bill.

10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by PA 01-166) P.A. 13-108, An Act Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools.

P.A. 13-247, An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget.