SHIPMAN

Series 5000
Students

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to satisfy the high school graduation requirements within _____ Public Schools, a student must have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study; demonstrated proficiency in basic skills identified by the _____ Board of Education (the "Board"); satisfied the legally mandated number and distribution of credits required to graduate from high school; and if graduating in 2027 and thereafter, satisfied the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA") requirements detailed below.

Required Coursework and Credits for Graduation

The Board conforms with state law regarding credits for graduation from high school.

Classes Graduating in 2025 and 2026

For classes graduating in 2025 and 2026, the following [**insert #**] credits are required: [***Note: Current state law requires a minimum of 25 credits to graduate from any public high school for classes graduating in 2023 or thereafter.***]

Humanities	**[insert # of credits,** ***law requires a minimum of 9 credits, including civics and the arts***]
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)	**[insert # of credits,** ***law requires a minimum of 9***]
Physical Education and Wellness	**[insert # of credits,** ***law requires a minimum of 1***]
Health and Safety Education	**[insert # of credits,** ***law requires a minimum of 1***]
World Languages	**[insert # of credits,** ***law requires a minimum of 1***]

[***Note: Add any other subject areas necessary for graduation. Any eligible mandatory or optional credits beyond those listed above are subject to the discretion of the Board of Education.***]

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accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line coursework that is completed satisfactorily in accordance with Board policy, or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.]

Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve inclusive, and that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards, adopted by the State Board of Education, shall satisfy the above graduation requirements, except that the Board will grant a student credit:

[*Note: Each of the following provisions in boldface are optional at the Board's discretion:*]

[*Optional*] High school graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful demonstration of mastery of subject matter achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including:

- **Cross-curricular graduation requirements,**
- **Career and technical education,**
- **Virtual learning,**
- **Work-based learning,**
- **Service learning,**
- **Dual enrollment and early college,**
- **Courses taken in middle school, and**
- **Internships and student-designed independent studies;**

Provided that such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards.

[*Optional*] High school graduation credit will be granted to students for courses successfully completed with a [*B*] or better in grades seven and eight so long as the primary focus of the course corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement at the high school level.

[*Optional*] High school graduation credit will be granted to students for World Language courses successfully completed with a [*B*] or better in grades six, seven or eight. In addition, high school graduation credit will be granted to students for World Language courses successfully completed with a [*B*] or better, or its equivalent, as determined by the Superintendent or designee, through on-line coursework or upon achievement of a passing grade, as determined by the Superintendent or designee, in a course offered privately through a nonprofit provider.

[*Optional*] High school graduation credit will be granted to students who pass a subject area proficiency examination identified and approved by the Commissioner

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of the Department of Education, regardless of the number of hours a student spent in an instructional setting authorized by the Board learning the subject matter.

[*Optional*] High school graduation credit will be granted to students for coursework completed during the school year or summer months at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for purposes of this policy.

[*Optional*] High school graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful completion of on-line coursework in accordance with the Board's on-line coursework policy.

[*Optional*] A student may be granted one-half credit for documented community service provided it is supervised by an administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty (50) hours of actual service that may be performed at times when school is not regularly in session and not less than ten (10) hours of related classroom instruction.]

[*Optional*] High school graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful completion of a credit recovery program approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Demonstration of Proficiency in Basic Skills

[***Note:** Connecticut law requires boards of education to specify the basic skills necessary for graduation and include a process to assess a student's level of competency in such skills. The assessment criteria must include, but not be exclusively based on, the results of the mastery examination for students in grade ten or eleven. Boards of education must also identify a course of study for those students who have not successfully completed the assessment criteria to assist such students to reach a satisfactory level of competency prior to graduation.*]

In addition to meeting the coursework and credit graduation requirements listed above, to graduate high school, each student must demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills.

[***Insert basic skills necessary for graduation***]

Students may demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills described above by achieving satisfactory results on the following:

[Insert district-selected methods of demonstrating proficiency and/or a combination thereof, e.g., mastery examinations (but which cannot be the sole measure), standardized testing such as AP tests, portfolio review, passing required grade 10 or 11 classes, teacher review committee of student's body of work, or any other assessment method determined by the Board or Administration.]

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FAFSA Requirement for Classes Graduating in 2027 and Thereafter

Students graduating in 2027 and beyond are required to have satisfied one of the following prior to graduation:

(1) completed a FAFSA;
(2) for students without legal immigration status, completed and submitted to a public institution of higher education an application for institutional financial aid; or
(3) completed a waiver of completion of the FAFSA and/or financial aid application, as applicable, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, signed by the student's parent or guardian or signed by the student if the student is eighteen or older.

On and after March 15 of each school year, a principal, school counselor, teacher, or other certified educator may complete the waiver on behalf of any student who has not satisfied the above requirements if such principal, school counselor, teacher, or other certified educator affirms that they have made a good faith effort to contact the parent/guardian or student about completion of such applications.

Graduation During Period of Expulsion

A student may graduate during an expulsion period if the Board determines that the student has completed the necessary credits required for graduation.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-14n

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16b

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221a

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221z

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223a

Public Act No. 24-45, "An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief, School Discipline, and Disconnected Youth"

ADOPTED: _____
REVISED: _____

8/28/2024

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