

Vicksburg Community Schools Bylaws & Policies

5460 - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program or a personal curriculum appropriate to the achievement of District goals and objectives as well as personal proficiency, by the awarding of a diploma at graduation ceremonies.

The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this District who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and as provided by State law.

Credit with administrative approval may be earned by:

- A. traditional course work;
- B. demonstrating mastery of subject area content expectations or guidelines for the credit;
- C. related course work in which content standards are embedded;
- D. non-traditional course work;
- E. independent teacher-guided study;
- F. testing out;
- G. dual enrollment;
- H. advanced placement courses;
- I. international baccalaureate or other "early college" programs; or
- J. on-line class.

Special Education students who properly complete the programs specified in their I.E.P. and have received the recommendation of the I.E.P.C. may participate in graduation activities as recommended by the student's I.E.P.C. Reasonable accommodation shall be made for the students with disabilities as defined under State or Federal law, to assist them in taking any required tests or assessments for graduation.

For State-mandated curriculum requirements, a student shall be granted credit toward graduation if s/he successfully completes the subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit. A student may also receive credit if s/he earns a qualifying score, as determined by the State on the assessments developed or selected for the subject area by the State or the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the District on one or more assessments developed or selected by the School District that measure a student's understanding of the subject area content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit. For subject areas and courses in which a final examination is used as the assessment for successful attainment of the subject area content, a grade of seventy-seven percent (77%) or better is required.

The Board shall grant credit toward high school graduation for any student who successfully completes, prior to entering high school, a State-mandated curriculum requirement, provided s/he completes the same content requirements as the high school subject area, and the student has demonstrated the same level of proficiency on the material as required of the high school students.

~~There shall be only one (1) diploma awarded by this District and no distinctions shall be made between various programs of instruction.~~

For elective courses, which are not State-mandated curriculum requirements, the Board shall grant credit to any high school student who is not enrolled in the course, but has exhibited a reasonable level of knowledge of the subject matter of the course has exhibited a reasonable level of mastery of the subject matter of the course, regardless of enrollment in the course. Mastery includes by achieving seventy-seven percent (77%) or better in the final exam for the course, or, if there is no final exam, through the basic assessment used for the course, which may consist of a portfolio, paper, project, presentation or other established means.

Such credit shall be counted toward the required number of credits needed for graduation. Credits earned through demonstration of mastery shall be counted toward any subject area requirement and any course sequence requirement. Once credit is earned in a subject area, a student may not receive further credit for a lower sequence course in the same subject area.

A high school student shall be granted credit in any foreign language not offered by the District providing the student meets the competency criteria established by the Superintendent.

Graduation ceremonies will include only those students who have successfully completed requirements as certified by the high school principal. No student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure. A student may be denied participation in the ceremony of graduation, however, when personal conduct so warrants.

An alternative high school established by the District may create a set of graduation requirements that at least meet the standards established by the Michigan Merit Curriculum, but demand fewer elective credits than are necessary for the regular Vicksburg High School diploma. Completion of these optional requirements would enable the student to earn a Vicksburg Alternative Education Diploma, which would be so designated in the transcript and the diploma itself.

M.C.L.A. 380.1166, 380.1278a(1), 380.1278a(2), 380.1278a(4)(c), 380.1278b

M.C.L.A. 380.1279

20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.

20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.

29 U.S.C. 794

42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.

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