



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Second Reading by Board
Title	GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
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5460 - **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

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

A student must earn **23.5 credits**, including the credit requirements set by State statute, to be eligible to receive a diploma, provided all other requirements as determined by the State and the Board are met. The Board requires the following credit requirements for a diploma:

English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Health	0.5 credits
Physical Education	1.5 credits
Personal Financial Literacy	.5 credits (Class of 2028 and beyond)

In order to earn a high school diploma, a student must successfully complete a civics assessment and have participated in curriculum relating to financial literacy in accordance with State Statute.

A student graduating prior to 2028 must also have participated in curriculum relating to financial literacy in order to earn a diploma.

In accordance with State law, a Board may not grant a high school diploma to any student unless, during the high school grades, the student has been enrolled in a class or has participated in an activity approved by the Board during each class period of each school day, or the student has been enrolled in an alternative education program (defined in s. 115.28(7) (e)1) or is participating in a Board-approved program that allows a student enrolled in the high school grades who has demonstrated a high level of maturity and personal responsibility to leave the school premises for up to one (1) class period each day if the student does not have a class scheduled during that class period.

A student must successfully complete the community service requirement in order to receive a high school diploma. **[END OF OPTIONAL PARAGRAPH]**

The Board may approve a course or courses in career and technical education that it determines may satisfy up to a total of one (1) credit of mathematics and/or science credit. **[END OF OPTIONAL PARAGRAPH]**

The Board may waive graduation requirements, except for the core requirements, in exceptional cases to suit the needs of a student subject to Wis. Admin Code, §§-PI 18.03 and PI 18.04.

[DRAFTING NOTE: ANY OF THE FOLLOWING STATUTORY OPTIONS MAY BE INCLUDED IN THIS POLICY.]

[OPTION #1 – The State statute permits, but does not require, the Board to allow students to use a physical activity to substitute for a 0.5 credit of physical education with the completion of a 0.5 credit of academic subjects.]

Physical Education Credits

Students who have participated in interscholastic athletics, () marching band, () cheerleading, or () _____ **[END OF OPTIONS]** **[additional activities may be added]** for at least _____ **[specify period of involvement required]** as defined in the _____ handbook, while enrolled in grades () nine (9), () ten (10), () eleven (11) and () twelve (12) **[END OF OPTIONS]**, and as documented by the _____ **[athletic director, assistant principal, school counselor, etc.]** () and approved by the principal **[END OF OPTION]**, may be excused from 0.5 credits of the high school physical education requirement, provided they take an additional 0.5 credit in English, social studies, mathematics, science, or health education, at their choosing. **[END OF OPTIONAL PARAGRAPH]**

The Board may grant, upon a student's request, permission for that student to take an additional 0.5 credit in English, social studies, mathematics, science, or health education towards high school graduation requirements in lieu of 0.5 credits in physical education based on the students' participation in an organized physical activity the Board deems appropriate for this purpose. The student's participation in such organized school activity must meet the stated requirements of the Board in terms of duration of participation and verification of same. **[END OF OPTIONAL PARAGRAPH]**

[END OF OPTION #1]

[OPTION #2: The State statute permits, but does not require, the Board to allow students to earn high school graduation credits while enrolled in middle school.]

Graduation Credit as a Middle School Student

The Board permits students in 7th or 8th grade to earn credit towards a high school diploma in any class taken that is approved by the Board for such purpose, provided that the student is academically prepared based on performance on approved student assessments. Any course designated for high school credit at the middle school level must be taught by a teacher with high school certification in the subject matter and must be taught using curriculum and assessments equivalent to those used in the subject at the high school level.

Credit may be earned in **(must select one (1) of the following):** () any subject area meeting the requirements under this policy () any of the core required course areas of English, social studies, mathematics, science, physical education, or health () any course qualifying for credit in an elective area.

Courses taken by middle school students for high school credit shall appear on the students' high school transcript, along with the grade received () **[RECOMMENDED]** however the grade and class will not be factored into the students' high school grade point average () and the class will be factored into the students' high school grade point average.

When classes are held at the high school, appropriate transportation shall be arranged **[CHOOSE ONE]** () by the student's parent () by the middle school principal () by the District **[END OF OPTIONS]** prior to a student being enrolled in an approved course at the high school.

The Board directs the District Administrator to develop appropriate courses after determining annually whether sufficient student interest and appropriate staffing justifies offering such course(s). The District Administrator shall establish procedures to determine whether a middle school student is academically prepared to take any course approved for high school credit.

[END OF OPTION #2]

[OPTION #3 – This option should be selected only if the Board does pass a resolution as required that permits credits to be earned in this fashion. The law then requires that the Board adopt policies and procedures setting forth the criteria.]

Portfolio Credits

Board resolution adopted _____ **[date of adoption]** permits students to earn credit by demonstrating competency or by creating a learning portfolio. If a student meets the criteria established, the course will be listed on the student's high school transcript and be used to meet the requirements for high school graduation.

A student may not earn more than half (1/2) of the credits required for high school graduation through this process.

~~[] The District Administrator shall develop procedures for how students may qualify for credit under this process.~~

[END OF OPTION #3]

Alternative Education Diploma

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish an alternative diploma program for students who meet the requirements of State law but not the additional elective credit requirements established for attainment of a regular high school diploma from the District. An alternative education program is defined as an instructional program, approved by the Board, that utilizes successful alternative or adaptive school structures and teaching techniques and that is incorporated into existing, traditional classrooms, or regularly scheduled curricular programs or that is offered in place of regularly scheduled curricular programs. "Alternative educational program" does not include a private school or a home-based private educational program. (See Policy 2451 - Program or Curriculum Modifications)

The IEP team and any other necessary members will review the student's academic progress and the alternative achievement standards for graduation criteria.

Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities who properly complete the programs specified in their I.E.P. and have received the recommendation of the I.E.P. Committee may participate in graduation activities and may be awarded a diploma (provided the student satisfied the District's high school graduation requirements). (see Policy 5460.01)

Graduation Activities and Ceremony

A student may be denied participation in graduation activities for disciplinary reasons and/or for non-payment of fees. The Superintendent and high school principal may establish additional requirements for participation in the graduation activities and may organize said activities to have the appearance and decorum deemed reflective of the District.

Policy Reporting and Review

The principal of the high school shall prepare a report describing the District's policies on high school graduation standards, including a list of courses required under State law and the number of hours in each school term required to earn one (1) credit for those courses. Additionally, any change to the District's policies shall also be reported to the Department of Public Instruction or other appropriate agency after it has been approved by the Board and signed by the Board president, the Superintendent, and the principal.

It shall be the policy of the Board to periodically review and revise this policy specifying the criteria for awarding a diploma.

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Legal 115.28, 118.30, 118.33, Wis. Stats.
Wis. Admin. Code PI 18 - PI 5

Last Modified by Ellen Suckow on December 2, 2024