



## NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Qaiyaan Harcharek, President  
Members of the School Board

**THROUGH:** Stewart McDonald, Superintendent

**FROM:** Linda Saito, Asst. Superintendent, Jana Harcharek, Director of Iñupiaq Education,  
Liz Noble, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

**DATE:** December 6, 2017

**SUBJECT:** High School Graduation Requirements

**MEMO#: BP 6146.1**  
**Action Item**

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**NSBSD Strategic Plan Goal: ACADEMIC SUCCESS/WHOLE CHILD:** All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success through integrating Iñupiaq knowledge systems into the core content areas and focusing on the development of the Whole Child.

**1.4 Academic Achievement:** Ensure all students are proficient or advanced in academic areas measured by state and district standards.

**Recommendation:** Board Policy 6146.1(b) titled “High School Graduation Requirements” shall be amended by substituting “bi-annual review” for “regularly” and adding “audit and” and “graduation plans, transcripts” to the language so it reads, “The site administrator and school counselor shall audit transcripts bi-annually and inform high school students and parents/guardians of current student status and progress toward attaining graduation credits by use of graduation plans, transcripts, report cards, student profiles, parent conferences and other means as appropriate.”

**Issue Summary:** The School Board accepted first reading October 13, 2017.

### **Background:**

Currently Board Policy does not require transcript audits nor does it state parents must be notified and or included in the student Graduation Plan. Therefore, because students are identified as 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade parents assume students are meeting grade level expectations whereas the opposite may occur.

**Motion:**

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education accept the revised High School Graduation Requirement as a second reading.”

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_

Advisory Vote\_\_\_\_\_ Vote\_\_\_\_\_

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Students shall receive diplomas of graduation from high school only after meeting the following graduation requirements:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Units of Credit</b>
Language Arts	4
Social Studies	
(.5 required to be in US Government;*	
.5 required to be in Alaska Studies;	3
.5 required to be in North Slope Government;*	
.5 required in North Slope History*	
(*Freshman class beginning Fall 2017)	
Mathematics	3
(1 required to be in Algebra I <b>OR</b> Geometry)	
<b>Required for 2019 graduation:</b>	
One credit must be from Algebra I <b>AND</b>	
<u>one credit must be from Geometry</u>	
Science	3
Health	1
Physical Education	1
Electives	7
Total Required:	22 credits

Note: The requirements for a .5 unit in North Slope Government and a .5 unit in North Slope History become effective for students graduating in 2021.

The requirement for a .5 unit of Alaska Studies does not apply to a student who transfers into the District from another state after the student's second year of high school. Students who transfer into the District after their second year of high school are encouraged to complete the .5 unit of Alaska Studies as their schedule allows.

Students must also meet the requirements for participating in a college- and career- readiness assessment unless they fall into a waiver category. Students must complete at least six (6) semesters of high school attendance in order to qualify for graduation. Students who meet all the district and state graduation requirements but have completed less than eight (8) semesters of high school attendance must submit a letter of endorsement signed by the student's parent/guardian to the site administrator in order to qualify for graduation.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The site administrator and school counselor shall regularly audit transcripts bi-annually to inform high school students and parents/guardians of current student status and progress toward attaining graduation credits by use of graduation plans, transcripts, report cards, student profiles, parent conferences and other means as appropriate.

Site administrators and counselors shall review student status at regular intervals to determine whether students are “at-risk” of not earning a high school diploma. A student who is “at risk” may be considered for enrollment at an NSBSD alternative high school.

**Quarter Credits**

One-quarter (1/4) credit for the physical education requirement may be earned for each full season of participation in interscholastic sports. The student’s participation must include attendance for at least 90% of the season’s scheduled practices and games. The site administrator must verify student participation. The total credit earned shall not exceed 1.0 credit. This credit shall be awarded as a “pass” and shall not be included in the calculation of the student’s GPA. The “Verification of Interscholastic Sports Credit” form must be submitted to the Student Records Office during the school year of participation.

Quarter credits shall be given only for elective classes, for interscholastic sports participation as described above, and for transfer students, when approved by the Superintendent or designee.

**Credit from Universities or Distance-Delivered Education Programs**

Students may earn district high school graduation credit(s) by taking courses from an accredited college or from a distance-delivered Education program.

Credit(s) earned through a postsecondary institution or a distance-delivered education program and applied towards graduation from a school within the North.

Slope Borough School District must meet or exceed requirements for graduation detailed in this policy and evaluation of student achievement (AR 5121) set by the District for earning credit. Students are responsible for providing the district with an official transcript reflecting their grades if students wish for the Outside Credit and course to be included on their transcript. In addition, students may be asked to provide a full course

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

description, course syllabus, competencies, requirements, grading rubric, and number of contact hours to the approving administrator.

Pass/No Pass grades cannot be applied in the calculation of Grade Point Average (G.P.A.). Additionally, credits earned prior to high school and applied to the high school transcript may count for credit towards graduation but will not be included in the calculation of the Grade Point Average (GPA).

Students considering taking courses through a postsecondary institution or a distance-delivered education program should consult with their school counselor or administrator prior to registering for a course in order to complete a pre-approval form.

The site administrator and the Superintendent or his/her designee must grant approval for credit(s) earned from a postsecondary institution or distance-delivered education program outside of the North Slope Borough School District for the credit(s) earned to fulfill District requirements for graduation.

Payment by, or reimbursement from, the North Slope Borough School District for course credit costs may be possible when the class is initiated by the School District or agreed to by the Site Principal and the Superintendent or his/her designee. Any District authorization for payment of courses taken from an institution “outside” of the North Slope Borough School District must be in writing and have the signature of the Site Principal and the Superintendent or his/her designee.

**Alternative Credit**

Students with senior (12th grade) status may earn district high school graduation credit in elective subjects for alternative coursework, with pre-approval of the site administrator. A maximum of two (2) alternative credits may be accumulated toward the total elective requirement for graduation.

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)  
(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)  
(cf. 6146.3 - Competency Testing)  
(cf. 6146.4 - Reciprocity on Graduation Requirements)  
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance and Counseling Services)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.075 College and career readiness assessment

# **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

## ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 06.075 High school graduation requirements

Revised 9/2000- AASB

Adopted 6/02

Revised 4/04

Revised 04/06

Revised 5/11

Revised 3/13

Revised 10/14

Revised 11/14

Revised 12/16