

20-credit State of New Hampshire Diploma Option BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL

History

The New Hampshire Department of Education has endorsed and strongly encourages all high schools to adopt a dual diploma system. Each high school would offer two diploma options from which to choose. Berlin High School would offer its current 26-credit Berlin High School diploma as well as a 20 credit State of New Hampshire diploma issued through Berlin High School.

Considerations

We want students, parents and high school staff to make informed and thoughtful decisions with the students' optimal educational interest in mind. Therefore, the following conditions will apply to students choosing the 20-credit diploma option:

- A recommendation for the 20 credit state diploma option must come from the high school's PBIS Targeted Team, PBIS Intervention Team, Special Education IEP Team or Administrative Student Support Team.
- Parents and students must meet with the high school Administrative Team to explore the benefits of the 20 credit diploma option for an individual student.
- Once the Administrative Team has approved a 20 credit diploma option for an individual student, a contract will be signed by all parties involved.
- The 20 credit diploma option must be chosen following the student's sophomore year and prior to the beginning of the student's junior year only if that student has 9 credits or less by the end of their sophomore year.
- Students enrolled in a Career & Technical Education two year program must complete the program before being considered for early graduation.
- Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors will only be granted to students receiving a 26 credit Berlin High School diploma.
- Students who are approved for a 20 credit State of New Hampshire diploma can walk with their graduating class if that student has 9 credits or less by the end of their sophomore year and applied for 20 credit waiver at that time.
- A student transferring to Berlin High School as a 12th grader will be eligible for a 20 credit State of NH Diploma if the following conditions were met:
 - The student was on schedule to be a senior at his/her previous school.
 - The student has less than 18 credits when transferring into Berlin High School.
 - The student was made aware of their right to stay at Berlin High School and receive a 26 credit Berlin High School diploma.

Exception

A student who fails to earn the 26 credits needed to receive a Berlin High School diploma, and did not apply for a 20 credit state diploma before their Junior year, may be *considered* for a 20 credit state diploma by applying after July 1st following his/her scheduled graduation date.

First Reading: September 6, 2012

Second Reading: September 20, 2012

Adopted: September 20, 2012