

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

A minimum of twenty-six (26) credits are required to graduate and earn a high school diploma. The required subjects and credits for high school graduation are:

<u>Required Subjects</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Art Education	½ credit
Information & Communications Technologies	½ credit (or demonstrate proficiency)
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits*
Physical Sciences	1 credit
Biological Sciences	1 credit
US and NH History	1 credit
US and NH Government/Civics	½ credit
Economics	½ credit
World History, Global Studies, or Geography	½ credit
Health Education	½ credit
Physical Education	1 credit
Open Electives	12 credits

*including Algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential, integrated, or applied program.

The Board reserves the right to require additional academic requirements necessary to graduate from high school.

Awarding of Credit

Credit will be awarded in accordance with *Policy IK, Earning of Credit*. Additionally, a unit of credit or fraction thereof shall be given upon satisfactory completion of a course or learning

experience in compliance with the district-specified curriculum and assessment standards. In some cases, course credit may also be awarded based on demonstrated mastery of the required competencies for the course. Assessment of mastery will be the responsibility of the Principal and will be in accordance with *Policy ILBAA, High School Competency Assessments*. Credit will be awarded only once for a specific required course with the same content during the secondary school experience.

Alternative Credit Options

The Superintendent may approve the granting of credit earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction. Such alternative methods of instruction may include extended learning opportunities distance education alternative learning plans, or others approved by the Superintendent or designee. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation requirements will be determined by the high school Principal in consultation with the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis. Such credit will be granted pursuant to the provisions of Policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options and other applicable Board policies.

Alternative Learning Plans

As an alternative to satisfying the provisions of this policy and related State requirements, students may also graduate from high school and obtain either a high school diploma or its equivalent by participating in an alternative learning plan or program. The provisions of Policy IHBI, alternative Learning Plans, shall apply in such an event.

Passage of Civics Exam

The district will develop a competency assessment of United States government and civics, consistent with pertinent and applicable law. This assessment will be administered to students as part of the high school course in history and government of the United States and New Hampshire. Students must attain a passing grade on the assessment.

The Board supports early graduation as a means to earn a high school diploma. Parental involvement for students under the age of 18 is required. The high school principal shall approve such requests if he/she determines that all state and local graduation requirement will be met and that early graduation is related to career and/or educational plans of the student making the request. Upon approval by the high school principal, the minimum 4-unit requirement per year for enrolled students shall be waived and the student shall be awarded a high school diploma.

Participation in Graduation

Students who are approved for a 20 credit State of New Hampshire diploma can walk with their graduating class if the that student has 9 credits or less by the end of their sophomore year and applied for 20 credit waiver at that time. Students will be allowed to march at graduation without a diploma only if they have been approved to do so by an IEP team and the student has a level of disability that requires returning to high school to complete a vocational transition program. The

student will receive a “certificate of completion” when the IEP team determines that services are no longer needed or they reach their 21st birthday.

Legal Reference:

RSA 189:11, Instruction in national and State History and Government

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