

**NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

- I. To graduate from Northwestern Regional High School a student must earn a minimum of twenty-three (23) credits and must have met the district's credit distribution requirements.
- A. Students must also meet four performance standards: writing, reading and mathematics, and science. These performance standards will take effect with the class of 2016.
- II. A. Required subjects by credits:

<u>CLUSTERS</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
<u>STEM</u>	
Math	3.0
Science	3.0
Elective	0.0
<u>Humanities</u>	
English	4.0
Social Studies	3.0
Fine Arts	0.0
Humanities Electives	0.0
<u>Career and Life</u>	
Health	1.0
Physical Education	1.0
Electives	2.0
<u>Other</u>	
Open Electives	6.0
Capstone	<u>0.0</u>
TOTAL	23.0

- B. A student must take a minimum of five (5) credits plus Physical Education and Health each year unless excused from this requirement by the principal. A senior must earn a minimum of four (4) credits and pass Physical Education and Health in his/her senior year to graduate.

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- C. Up to two (2) credits from an accredited post-secondary institution may be counted toward a diploma.
 - D. Students transferring into Northwestern Regional High School must have met the school's graduation requirements and earn at least three (3) credits of work at Northwestern Regional High School to be awarded a diploma.
 - E. EARLY GRADUATION--Only situations of extreme and unusual circumstance will be considered by the school administration for possible early graduation. Petition for such early graduation must be made to the school principal prior to June 1 of the student's junior year.
- III. Students must meet four performance standards in order to qualify for a diploma from Regional School District No. 7.
- A. **STANDARD I: Writing Across the Disciplines**
This assessment is designed for students who have not met the proficiency goal in CAPT **WRITING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES** and who are not otherwise exempt from this performance expectation (see Exemptions, Section IV). The writing assessment requires that students write a draft of a persuasive essay on a topic of contemporary interest as presented in a variety of publications.
 - B. **STANDARD II: Reading Across the Disciplines**
The assessment associated with Standard II is for students who have not met the proficiency goal on the CAPT in **READING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES** (see Exemptions, Section IV) and who are not otherwise exempt from the performance expectation. This performance assessment requires students to respond to a fiction-based question (in writing that is focused, organized, elaborated, and edited for standard English convention) and/or to interpret, explain, and evaluate nonfiction information (drawn from a variety of sources, such as texts, newspapers, or magazines) in writing that is focused and organized.

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C. STANDARD III: Mathematics

Standard III is for students who have not met the proficiency goal in the mathematics section of CAPT and who are not otherwise exempt from the performance expectation (see Exemptions, Section IV). In this assessment students will be expected to satisfactorily complete two out of three multi-step mathematical problems that require basic math operations including decimals or fractions and conceptual understandings and explain in writing or in a pictorial, graphical, or algebraic representation either how he/she arrived at each answer or justify each answer.

D. STANDARD IV: Science

Standard IV is for students who have not met the proficiency goal on the science portion of the CAPT and who are not otherwise exempt from the performance expectation (see Exceptions, Section IV).

If a student does not meet the proficiency goal in science the following options are available in order for the student to meet Northwestern's Science Graduation Requirement.

1. As a junior the student must retake the CAPT test science section and attempt to achieve the proficiency goal.
2. A student may earn a third credit in science with at least a C- average in either their junior or senior year (NOTE: however, the student must retake the science portion of the CAPT test).
3. In the first semester of their senior year, the student must participate and successfully complete a CAPT science review course.
4. In the second semester of their senior year, the student must pass a CAPT like assessment.

A student who does not meet the requirements described above does not meet Northwestern Regional High School's science requirement for graduation.

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IV. EXEMPTIONS

Conditions under which students may be exempt from a performance standard:

A. **Writing Across the Disciplines**

Achieved a scaled score on the CAPT of 210 or better or achieved a score equivalent to or better than the national average on the SAT or on a SAT Subject Test.

B. **Reading Across the Disciplines**

Achieved a scaled score on the CAPT of 217 or better or achieved a score equivalent to or better than the national average on the Verbal /Critical Reading section of the SAT.

C. **Mathematics**

Achieved a scaled score on the CAPT of 223 or better or achieved a score equivalent to the national average on the Mathematics section of the SAT or on a SAT Subject Test.

D. **Transfers:** A student who transfers into Northwestern Regional High School after completing at least three years in a high school in another district may be exempted from Northwestern's performance standards for graduation. That determination will be made by the student's counselor and school administration when that student is admitted to Northwestern Regional High School.

E. **Special Needs:** Students with special needs may be exempt from district performance standards for graduation as described in this policy if so indicated in their IEP.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes 10-221a & 10-76a
Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 IDEA - 1997
Public Act 01-166

Adopted 03/09/88; Revised/Approved 01/13/98;
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