

Lower Merion School District

Policy No.: 217
Section: STUDENTS
Title: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS
Date Adopted: 9/73; 7/15/02; 12/83
Date Last Revised: 3/18/24; 3/3/23; 5/16/22; 9/28/15; 12/8/06 Reviewed – no changes

217 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

For graduation from high school, students must meet all subject and credit requirements established by state law including the Pennsylvania School Code, Pennsylvania State Board of Education Regulations and Pennsylvania Department of Education Standards (collectively “state law”). Students must also satisfy all policies and regulations established by the Lower Merion School District. Effective with the 2024-25 school year, before a diploma will be awarded by the Board of School Directors, a student must earn at least 21.5 credits as specified below. Any requirements imposed by state law in excess of the requirements set forth below must also be met.

The minimum (21.5 credit) high school program shall include: Four credits in English, three credits in Mathematics, three credits in Science, four credits in Social Studies, one credit in the Arts and Humanities, one credit in Physical Education, one half credit in Health, one half credit for Senior Project, and a sufficient number of elective courses to meet the credit requirement for graduation.

The English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health, Physical Education, and Senior Project requirements may be met by satisfactory completion of courses that are authorized by the Superintendent and designated in the high school program planning guide.

Lower Merion and Harriton High School courses in the Arts and the Humanities are found under the headings of Art, Music, World Languages, English, and Social Studies. The credit may be earned by satisfactory completion of any course in the Arts and Humanities. (In the regulations of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education, the Arts are defined as Visual Arts, Music, Dance, Film Studies, Theater, Practical Arts and Crafts; the Humanities are defined as subjects that embrace literature, languages, history, philosophy, or additional courses in English and Social Studies.) Courses that will satisfy the requirement in the Arts or the Humanities are recommended by the high school principal for approval by the Superintendent or his designee.

For students enrolled in an approved Career and Technical School Program, high school students are permitted to substitute appropriate Career and Technical School courses to satisfy the foregoing graduation requirements (for example a credit in math or a credit in science). Approval for these substitutions will be granted by building level teams to the extent necessary for scheduling the student into the Career and Technical program.

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Obtaining A High School Diploma in Less Than Four Years

The Board of School Directors, in an effort to increase the options available to students with regard to the receipt of a high school diploma, sets forth the following requirements for obtaining a District high school diploma in less than four years.

A high school diploma will be awarded by the Lower Merion Board of School Directors in less than four years under either of the following plans:

1. A student who is admitted to an accredited college at the end of the student's third year in high school may receive a diploma after the student successfully completes the student's first year in college.
2. A student may complete the student's requirements for a high school diploma by attending regular and summer sessions at Lower Merion or Harriton High Schools or at other accredited high schools.

In order to qualify for a diploma as specified above, a student must:

- A. Submit to the student's guidance counselor a letter of request signed by both the student and the student's parents. The letter of request must specify the purpose of the request and outline a tentative program for fulfilling all graduation requirements.
- B. Obtain program approval from the student's guidance counselor.
- C. Receive final approval from the Principal.