

Section: Instruction

Subject: Graduation Requirements

P-6146

**Board Policy
Milford Public Schools
Milford, CT**

Graduation Requirements

I. Introduction

Graduation from Milford Public Schools implies (1) that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study, (2) that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and satisfactorily demonstrated the district's performance standards, assessed in part by the statewide mastery examinations, as well as those established by the District and approved by the Superintendent, and (3) that they have fulfilled the legally mandated number and distribution of credits.

After April first in any school year, the Milford Board of Education (the Board) shall establish a firm graduation date for that school year, which at the time of such establishment provides for at least 180 days and 900 hours of school.

II. Credit Distribution Requirement for Graduation

Graduating Classes of 2019-2022

To graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits, including not fewer than:

- 4 Credits in English
- 4 Credits in Mathematics including 1 credit of Algebra
- 3 Credits in Social Studies including 1.0 in United States History, 0.5 in Global Studies and 0.5 credit in Civics
- 3 Credits in Science
- 1 Credit in Physical Education
- .5 Credit in Health
- 1.5 Credits in Business, Technology Education, Family and Consumer Science, Art or Music Performance Standards: 0.1 credit Writing Performance Standard, 0.1 credit Math Performance Standard, 0.1 credit Reading Performance Standard

Graduating Class of 2023 (beginning with the incoming Grade 9 Class of School Year 2019-2020 and for each graduating class thereafter)

To graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits, including not fewer than:

- 9 credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts;
- 9 credits in science, technology, engineering and Mathematics

- 1 credit in physical education and wellness;
- 1 credit in health and safety education;
- 1 credit in world languages and
- 1 credit in a mastery-based diploma assessment

Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, and that are in accordance with the statewide subject matter content standards, adopted by the State Board of Education shall satisfy the graduation requirements. The District may grant a student credit toward meeting the high school graduation requirements upon the successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter content described in this section achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, work-based learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college, courses taken in middle school, internships and student designed independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide content standards.

A credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a typical class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or State Board of Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line course work or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.

All credits earned toward meeting any of the graduation requirements through the successful completion of online courses must fulfill the requirements established in policy 6172, "On-Line Learning."

III. Communicating Graduation Requirements

To ensure that every student and family has the information and resources they need to appropriately plan and sequence the student's educational decisions, our schools, educators, and staff will clearly and consistently communicate to these stakeholders prior to entering high school and throughout the student's educational career the graduation standards and diploma requirements that must be met to earn a high school diploma.

The Superintendent or his/her designee, through the High School Principal or other designee, shall be responsible for ensuring that accurate, up-to-date information concerning all graduation standards and diploma requirements are (1) readily available to all incoming students and their families in the spring preceding the start of each school year, and (2) published on the District and High School websites. A detailed guide to graduation standards, academic expectations, and diploma requirements will be disseminated to all incoming ninth-grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be referenced in each edition of the High School Student Handbook and on the District and High School websites.

As soon as it is practical and feasible, the Board expects the Superintendent or designee to inform all students and their families of any modifications made to the district's graduation requirements, which extends to all applicable changes in relevant state law, rules, or regulations.

IV. Transfer Students and Home School Students

For students who transfer to Milford Public Schools from another state, country, school, program, or home schooling situation, including educational programs that are not aligned with the District's High Schools' cross curricular and content area graduation standards, the Principal shall evaluate the value of the student's prior educational experiences and determine to what degree the student has met the school's graduation requirements.

After enrolling in the District, these students will need to satisfy all assessment, proficiency, and graduation requirements in the appropriate subject areas, as determined by the Principal or his/her designee. The Superintendent will ultimately determine whether these students are eligible to receive a diploma.

V. Options If Requirements are Not Met

Seniors who fail to meet the district graduation requirement, as per policy, in one or more subjects as described above, may select one of the following options:

- A. Return in September as a fifth year student (See Policy 6146.3)
- B. Enroll in summer school and pass the graduation requirement
- C. Enroll in courses to be designated through the Milford Adult Education Program and pass the graduation requirement

VI. Students Receiving Special Education and/or Remedial Services

The District will provide adequate student support and/or remedial services for students and shall provide an alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements as determined by state statute.

Students who successfully meet the district's cross-curricular and content-area graduation standards, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP), will be awarded diplomas.

VII. Exemption from Physical Education Credit Requirement

Any student who presents a certificate from a physician stating that the student's participation in physical education is medically contraindicated shall be excused from the physical education requirement. In such a case, the physical education credit requirement shall be fulfilled by an elective as determined by high school administration. Students shall not be excused from the physical education requirement based on a medical condition that the School Medical Advisor determines is temporary in nature. In such cases, the student shall be expected to satisfy the physical education credit requirement after he or she is no longer medically restricted.

VIII. Awarding of Diplomas

Students who meet all the graduation requirements of this policy shall receive a diploma at the end of year commencement ceremony.

A diploma shall be awarded from the Milford Public Schools upon request to any honorably discharged veteran who left high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States during World War II or the Korean hostilities and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

A student who is under expulsion from the Milford Public Schools but has satisfactorily completed all of the graduation requirements shall receive a diploma. That student shall not, however, attend the commencement ceremony.

IX. Student Success Plans

The District shall create a student success plan for each enrolled student, beginning in grade six. Such plan shall include a students' career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.

X. Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy

Commencing with the graduating class of 2018, and for each graduating class thereafter, the Board, utilizing criteria established by the State Board of Education, may/shall affix the "Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy" to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in English and one or more foreign languages. "Foreign language" means a world language other than English and includes American Sign Language and any other language spoken by a federally recognized Native American tribe. The Board shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student received the "Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy."

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

(cf. 6172 - On-line Learning)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-5 State high school diploma; "honors diploma." Payment of fees; exceptions. (as amended by PA 17-29)

10-5c Board examination series pilot program. Issuance of certificate (as amended by P.A. 13-247 and P.A. 15-215)

10-14n State-wide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results. (as amended by Section 115 of PA 14-217)

10-16(l) Graduation exercises. (As amended by P.A. 96-108, An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates)

10-221a High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut, P.A. 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform, P.A. 13-57, An Act Concerning Honorary Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans, P.A. 13-122, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes P.A. 13-247, Budget Implementer Bill and P.A. 15-237, An Act Concerning High School Graduation, PA

17-42, An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements and PA 17-29, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Seal of Biliteracy.)

10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by PA 01-166)

P.A. 13-108 An Act Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools.

Mastery-Based Learning-Guidelines for Implementation, Connecticut State Department of Education, June 3, 2015.

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