

Darien Public Schools
Darien, CT
POLICY

Series 6800 : Instruction
Policy 6840

I. Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2020 through 2022

- A.** In order to graduate from Darien High School, and participate in the graduation ceremony, a student must acquire a minimum of 22 academic credits as shown in the Credit Distribution Requirements listed below, unless otherwise determined by a student's Planning and Placement Team (PPT) in accordance with state and federal law. In addition, a student must demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills as described in II.
- B.** A student will be required to take a minimum of six subjects per semester in addition to physical education and Health, except for a senior who is taking three or more 400 level courses, who may take a minimum of five courses per semester, and except as otherwise determined by a student's PPT or Section 504 team in accordance with state and federal law.

C. CREDIT DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

English	4 Credits	
English 9		1
English 10		1
American Literature		1
Senior Literature		.5
English Senior Capstone		.5
History & Social Science	3.5	
Western Civilization (Grade 9)		1
World Studies (Grade 10)		1
American History (Grade 11)		1
Law & Government (Grade 12)		.5

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Laboratory Science 2

Biology (Grade 9)	1
Earth Science or Chemistry(Grade 10)	1

Mathematics 3

Fine and/or Practical Arts

Art, Music, Drama, Humanities, Technology, Video	1
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Physical Education/Health 1

Including Jogging, Weight Training, CPR, and Health

Elective Credits 7.5

Total Credits for Graduation 22.0

D. . Demonstration of Proficiency in Basic Skills

In addition to meeting the coursework and credit graduation requirements listed above, to graduate high school, each student must demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics

Evidence-Based Reading & Writing

Proficiency is measured by meeting the “college readiness benchmark” score on the School Day SAT Assessment in Reading and Writing.

Mathematics

Proficiency is measured by reaching the “college readiness benchmark” score on the School Day SAT Assessment in mathematics

Basic Skills Equivalent Tasks

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Students who do not meet this standard on the School Day SAT Assessment may also demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills described above by achieving satisfactory results on the following:

- Earning a passing grade in the grade 11 English course, American Literature.
- Earning a passing grade in Algebra 2 or College Math Topics.

E. TRANSFER OF CREDITS

Credits awarded by secondary public and private high schools that have been accredited by state accrediting agencies in accordance with Board Policy 6845 will be accepted toward fulfillment of the required twenty-two (22) credits.

E. ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

Students, to be eligible to receive a Darien High School diploma and participate in the graduation ceremony, must have been fully enrolled and meet the attendance requirements of Darien High School for the full and final semester before graduation. This requirement may be waived for seniors whose families moved to Darien after the start of the final semester. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the Superintendent of Schools after reviewing each case with the high school administration.

In the event the student is unable to participate in physical education classes due to illness or injury for more than 3 classes per quarter, the student must submit written documentation from their health care provider or advanced practice registered nurse. The note should include: the reason for exclusion from physical activity, the specific physical activities the student is restricted from, and the start date of the physical activity restriction. Further, the student's health care provider or advanced practice registered nurse must also provide written documentation stating the date a student is medically cleared to resume all athletic activities. Students who are unable to participate in Physical Education classes will also be restricted from participating in high school athletic activities. Students must meet with their P.E. teachers to arrange for appropriate use of class time in the event of an extended absence from P.E.

Any student who is deaf or hearing impaired may be exempted from any world language graduation requirement if his or her parent or guardian requests such exemption in writing.

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Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve inclusive, and that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards, adopted by the State Board of Education, shall satisfy the above graduation requirements, except that the Board will grant a student credit

II. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2023 AND BEYOND

- A. In order to graduate from Darien High School, and participate in the graduation ceremony, a student must acquire a minimum of 25 academic credits as shown in the Credit Distribution Requirements listed below, unless otherwise determined by a student’s PPT in accordance with state and federal law. In addition, a student must demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills as described in II.
- B. A student will be required to take a minimum of six subjects per semester in addition to physical education and health, except for a senior who is taking three or more 400 level courses, who may take a minimum of five courses per semester with the prior **approval** of the student’s school counselor and provided that the student will meet the credit requirements for graduation, and except as may be determined by a student’s PPT or Section 504 team in accordance with state and federal law.

C. CREDIT DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

HUMANITIES **9 credits**

English	4
English 9	1
English 10	1
American Literature	1
Senior Literature elective	.5
English Senior Capstone	.5
History	3.5
Western Civilization (Grade 9)	1
World Studies (Grade 10)	1
American History (Grade 11)	1
Law & Government (Grade 12)	.5
Fine Arts/Practical Arts	1

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Elective Credit in Humanities .5

(World Languages, Independent Studies, English, Social Studies, Art, Music, Business, Drama)

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS **9 credits**

Laboratory Science **3**

Biology (Grade 9) 1

Earth Science or Chemistry (Grade 10) 1

Elective Science (preferred in grade 11) 1

Mathematics **3**

Elective Credits in STEM **3**

(Science, Math, Technology Education, Computer Science, Economics, Business, Media, Graphic Design, Digital Photograph, Music Technology, Independent Studies)

WORLD LANGUAGES **1 Credit**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS **1 Credit**

HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION **1 Credit**

MASTERY BASED DIPLOMA ASSESSMENT **1 Credit**

OPEN ELECTIVE CREDITS **3**

Total Credits Required to Graduate ***25 credits***

D. Demonstration of Proficiency in Basic Skills

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In addition to meeting the coursework and credit graduation requirements listed above, to graduate high school, each student must demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics

Evidence-Based Reading & Writing

Proficiency is measured by meeting the “college readiness benchmark” score on the School Day SAT Assessment in Reading and Writing.

Mathematics

Proficiency is measured by reaching the “college readiness benchmark” score on the School Day SAT Assessment in mathematics.

Basic Skills Equivalent Tasks

Students who do not meet this standard on the School Day SAT Assessment may also demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills described above by achieving satisfactory results on the following:

- Earning a passing grade in the grade 11 English course, American Literature.
- Earning a passing grade in the grade 11 math course taken.

A student who presents written documentation from a physician or advanced practice registered nurse stating that participation in physical education is not advisable because of the physical condition of the student, shall be excused from the physical education requirement. In such a case, another subject must be substituted.

Any student who is deaf or hearing impaired may be exempted from any world language graduation requirement if his or her parent or guardian requests such exemption in writing.

Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve inclusive, and that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards, adopted by the State Board of Education, shall satisfy the above graduation requirements, except that the Board will grant a student credit.

E. TRANSFER OF CREDITS

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Credits awarded by secondary public and private high schools that have been accredited by state accrediting agencies will be accepted toward fulfillment of the required twenty-two (22) credits.

F. ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

Students, to be eligible to receive a Darien High School diploma and participate in the graduation ceremony, must have been fully enrolled and meet the attendance requirements of Darien High School for the full and final semester before graduation. This requirement may be waived for seniors whose families moved to Darien after the start of the final semester. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the Superintendent of Schools after reviewing each case with the high school administration.

G. Graduation During Period of Expulsion

A student may graduate during an expulsion period if the Board determines that the student has completed the necessary credits required for graduation.

Legal References:

Public Act 17-42, An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-5c

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-14

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16b

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221a

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223a

ADOPTED: _____