

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Students
Title	Graduation Requirements
Code	217
Status	
Legal	1. 22 PA Code 4.24 2. 22 PA Code 4.51 3. 22 PA Code 4.52 4. 24 P.S. 1611 5. 24 P.S. 1613 6. Pol. 102 7. Pol. 127 8. Pol. 213 9. 24 P.S. 1614 10. 22 PA Code 4.12 11. 22 PA Code 11.27 12. 34 CFR 300.102 13. 34 CFR 300.305 14. Pol. 113 15. 22 PA Code 11.4 16. 22 PA Code 11.8 20. Pol. 100 22 PA Code 11.5 34 CFR Part 300 Pol. 212 Pol. 216 Pol. 233
Adopted	October 11, 2007
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Purpose

The Board will acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program appropriate to the student's interests and needs by awarding diplomas and certificates at graduation ceremonies.

Authority

The Board shall adopt the graduation requirements students must achieve, which shall include course completion and grades, completion of a **post-secondary first choice college/career portfolio and presentation, and results of district and state assessments aligned with academic standards which must align with at least one of the five PDE graduation pathways set forth by Act 158** graduation experience, and results of district and state assessments aligned with academic standards which include meeting proficiency standards related to Keystone Exams as outlined in Chapter 4 of the School Code.[\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]](#)

The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this district who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board as part of the district's Comprehensive Plan.[\[4\]\[5\]\[1\]\[20\]\[6\]\[7\]\[8\]](#)

The Board shall permit a student with a disability, who has attended four (4) years of high school, to participate in commencement ceremonies with his/her graduating class and receive a certificate of attendance, even if the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) prescribes continued educational services. The student may receive a high school diploma when s/he completes his/her Individualized Education Plan (IEP).[\[9\]\[10\]\[1\]\[11\]\[12\]\[13\]\[14\]](#)

A list of all candidates for the award of a diploma shall be submitted to the Board for its approval.[\[5\]](#)

A requirement for graduation shall be the completion of required assessments, work and studies representing the instructional program assigned to grades 9 through 12, which are aligned to established academic standards and the PA Core Standards.[\[6\]\[7\]](#)

The fourth year of high school shall not be required for graduation if a student has completed all requirements for graduation and attends a postsecondary institution as a full-time student.[\[15\]\[16\]](#)

Additional High School Credits

At his/her own cost, a student may earn additional credits towards high school graduation via an approved online program or other educational institution if the course is not offered by the Pequea Valley School District. The grade earned for the additional course(s) will only count toward the student's GPA if it is taught by a Pequea Valley teacher using Pequea Valley's curriculum, unless it is a high school level course sponsored by the Pequea Valley High School.

Additional courses must be approved by the principal or his/her designee.

If a senior satisfies the district's graduation requirements prior to the end of his/her senior year, the student will have the option of continuing as a part-time student, full-time student, or being considered "graduated". In order to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must be enrolled in a full-time curriculum and be passing four full-credit subjects. Students who graduate early will still be permitted to attend the prom and participate in other non-athletic extra-curricular activities unless the Principal deems otherwise on a case-by-case basis.

Exceptions of this policy may be made by the principal after considering the needs of the student.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for planning and executing graduation ceremonies that appropriately recognize this important achievement and the PA Core Standards.

Guidelines

Accurate recording of each student's achievement of academic standards shall be maintained, as required by law and state regulations.[\[10\]\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]\[6\]\[7\]\[8\]](#)

Students shall be informed of graduation requirements they are required to complete.

Periodic warnings shall be issued to students in danger of not fulfilling graduation requirements.

A student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall not be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure, but the student may be denied participation in the graduation ceremony when personal conduct so warrants. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension.

Diplomas for Eligible Veterans

In order to honor and recognize eligible veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in World War II or the Korean War, the Board shall grant a diploma to a veteran who meets the applicable requirements of law and completes the required application.[\[4\]](#)

Upon proper application, the Board may award a diploma posthumously to a veteran who meets the stated requirements.

The Superintendent shall submit to the Board for its approval the names of veterans of World War II and the Korean War who are eligible for a high school diploma.