Series 6000 – Instruction

1. Elementary and Secondary

D. Curriculum

(6) Graduation Requirements

Graduation from our public schools implies (1) that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study for the grade levels in accordance with their respective abilities to achieve, (2) that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and satisfactorily demonstrated the district's performance standards, assessed in part by the statewide mastery examinations, established by the faculty and approved by the Board of Education**,** and (3) that they have fulfilled the legally mandated number and distribution of credits.

The school district may not require achievement of a satisfactory score on the statewide proficiency examination or statewide mastery examination, or any subsequent retest on a component of such examinations as the sole criterion of promotion or graduation.

The Board of Education may establish a firm graduation date at any time during the school year; however, the graduation date shall not be scheduled prior to the 180th day of school of the adopted school calendar.

The following credits are necessary:

~~Students graduating in years 2020-2022~~

~~In order to graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 24 credit hours, including not fewer than:~~

~~9 Credits in Humanities:~~

- ~~Four (4) credits in English~~
- ~~Three (3) credits in Social Studies, including at least one (1) credit in United States\American History and one (1) credit in American Government and Civics~~
- ~~One (1) credit in Vocational/Fine Arts~~
- ~~One (1) credit in a Humanities elective~~

~~8 Credits in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics~~

- ~~Four (4) credits in Math - including Algebra I, Geometry, and either Algebra II or Statistics~~
- ~~Three (3) credits in Science~~
- ~~One (1) credit in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics elective~~

~~2 Credits in Career and Life Skills, including not fewer than:~~

- ~~One (1) credit in Physical Education~~
- ~~One-half (1/2) credit in Life Education~~
- ~~One-half (1/2) credit in Personal Finance or Economics~~

~~1 Credit in World Languages~~

~~4.0 Credits in Additional Electives~~

Students graduating in the year 2023 and beyond

In order to graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 25 credit hours, including not fewer than:

9~~.05~~ Credits in Humanities, including:

- Four (4) credits in English
- Three (3) credits in Social Studies, including one (1) credit in Civics
- One (1) credit in the Arts
- ~~One (1)~~ ~~One (1)~~ credit identified as a Humanities elective in the SHS ~~Program of Studies~~Course Selection Manual, including half (0.5) credit in Personal Finance/Literacy (Class of 2027 and beyond)
- ~~Half (.5) Credit in Personal Finance/Literacy (Class of 20257 and beyond)~~

9 Credits in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, including:

- Four (4) credits in Math
- Three (3) credits in Science
- Two (2) credits identified as a STEM elective in the ~~SHS Program of Studies~~SHS Course Selection Manual

2 Credits in Career and Life Skills, including:

- One (1) credit in Physical Education
- One (1) credit in Life Education (Health)

1 Credit in World Languages

~~**1 Credit in Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment**~~

4 ~~3.53~~ **Credits in Additional Electives**

~~For students in the classes of 2023 and 2024, credits for high school level courses in mathematics and World Language taken during middle school will be awarded upon successful demonstration of mastery of the high school subject matter content.~~

Beginning with the class of 2025 and beyond, middle school students may earn one (1) credit in mathematics and one (1) credit in World Language upon the successful demonstration of mastery of the high school subject matter content for courses taken in middle school. For example, middle school students who demonstrate mastery following the fulfillment of high school level mathematics or World Language courses will be given the option to apply up to one (1) credit for math and one (1) credit for World Language toward meeting graduation requirements.

If physical education is not taken because of medical excuse, another course may be substituted.

~~In addition, also beginning with the graduating class of 2023, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students beginning in grade seven. (2017-2018 school year).~~

~~Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements, previously listed, if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial~~

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~~services shall include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through online courses; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education; (3) allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4)~~ (3) ~~allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency through success on an alternate assessment.~~

All credits earned toward meeting any of the graduation requirements through the successful completion of online courses must fulfill the requirements established in policy #6172.6, "Virtual/Online Learning."

The District shall create a student success plan for each enrolled student, beginning in grade six. Such plans shall include a students' career and academic choices in grades six to 12, inclusive. Beginning in grade six, such student success plans shall provide evidence of career exploration in each grade including, but not limited to, careers in manufacturing. The Board shall utilize the Department of Education's issued and revised guidance regarding changes to such student success plans.

Credits

Per statute (C.G.S. 221a(f)) the determination of eligible credits is at the discretion of the Board of Education, provided the primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter of the specified course requirements. The Board may permit a student to graduate during a period of expulsion if the Board determines the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits. The graduation requirements shall apply to any student requiring special education except when the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) determines the requirement not to be appropriate.

A credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a 40-minute class period for each school day of a school year, and one-half credit is given for courses that compile work in one semester, 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 online course work, or (3) for the mastery-based diploma assessment.

Only courses taken in grades six through 12, 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.

Academic Advancement Program

The Board of Education permits students in grades 11 and 12 to substitute (1) achievement of a passing score on an existing nationally recognized examination as determined, by the State Department of Education, or series of examinations approved by the State Board of Education, (2) a cumulative grade point average determined by the State Board of Education and (3) at least three letters of recommendation from school professionals (defined in 10-66dd), for the required high school graduation requirement. The State Board of Education will issue an Academic Advancement Program Certificate to any student successfully completing such program. The Academic Advancement Program Certificate shall be considered in the same manner as a high school diploma for purposes of determining eligibility of a student for enrollment at a Connecticut public institution of higher education.

The Board of Education shall permit a student to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the above described academic advancement program.

Awards of High School Diplomas
Students who complete all graduation requirements shall receive a diploma at commencement. Individuals also may satisfy graduation requirements by the satisfactory completion of the following:

1. Successful completion of a summer course or summer courses comparable (as determined by the principal) to the subject(s) in which the student was deficient.
2. Honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces after a minimum of 90 days of active service during World War II, the Korean hostilities, or the Vietnam Era for individuals who withdrew from school to join the Armed Forces and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy

Commencing with the graduating class of 2021, and for each graduating class thereafter, the Board of Education, utilizing criteria established by the State Board of Education, may/shall affix the "Connecticut 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 of Education shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student received the "Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy."

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

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, P.A. 15-237, An Act Concerning High School Graduation P.A. 17-42 and P.A. 16-4(SS), section 310), and P.A. 19-58, An Act Promoting Careers in Manufacturing to Public School Students.)

10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by P.A. 01-166)
P.A. 13-108 An Act Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools.
P.A. 13-247 An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget.
P.A. 15-237 An Act Concerning High School Graduation.

Policy adopted: July 9, 2002
Policy revised: February 3, 2004, July 14, 2009
July 27, 2010, August 21, 2012
August 19, 2014, June 5, 2017
July 8, 2019, December 5, 2019
March 2, 2020, June 15, 2020
~~June 2, 2023~~May 17, 2024

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut