

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to satisfy the high school graduation requirements within Regional School District 17 Public Schools, a student must have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study; demonstrated proficiency in basic skills identified by the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education (the “Board”); satisfied the legally mandated number and distribution of credits required to graduate from high school; and if graduating in 2025 and thereafter, satisfied the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”) requirements detailed below.

Required Coursework and Credits for Graduation

The Board conforms with state law regarding credits for graduation from high school.

Classes Graduating in 2024, 2025, and 2026

For classes graduating in 2024, 2025, and 2026, the following 25 credits are required:

Humanities	9 Credits (including Civics and the Arts)
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)	9 Credits
Physical Education and Wellness	1 Credit
Health and Safety Education	1 Credit
World Languages	1 Credit
Mastery-Based Diploma	1 Credit
Electives	3 Credits
Community Service	30 Hours

Classes Graduating in 2027 and Thereafter

For classes graduating in 2027 and thereafter, the following **25 credits** are required:

Humanities	9 Credits (including Civics and the Arts)
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)	9 Credits
Physical Education and Wellness	1 Credit
Health and Safety Education	1 Credit
World Languages	1 Credit
Mastery-Based Diploma	1.0
Electives	3 Credits (including 0.5 Credit in Financial Management and Financial Literacy)
Community Services	30 Hours

Note: Required courses in each area are detailed in the High School Opportunities Book.

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 the student’s parent or guardian requests such exemption in writing.

A credit is defined as not less than the equivalent of a forty (40) minute 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 Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line coursework that is completed satisfactorily in accordance with Board policy, or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.

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:

High school graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful demonstration of mastery of subject matter 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, and
- Internships and student-designed independent studies;

Provided that such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards.

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.

1. Literacy Basic Skills Standard

- a. Achieve the College and Career Readiness Benchmark for the PSAT/NMSQT taken in the junior year OR
- b. Achieve the College and Career Readiness Benchmark for the SAT OR
- c. Portfolio review and assessment of student work

2. Mathematics Basic Skills Standard

- a. Achieve the College and Career Readiness Benchmark for the PSAT/NMSQT taken in the junior year OR
- b. Achieve the College and Career Readiness Benchmark for the SAT OR
- c. Portfolio review and assessment of student work

3. Science Basic Skills Standard

- a. Achieve a score of 3 or better on the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) exam taken in the junior year
- b. Portfolio review and assessment of student work

FAFSA Requirement for Classes Graduating in 2025 and Thereafter

Students graduating in 2025 and beyond are required to have satisfied one of the following prior to graduation:

- (1) completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”);

- (2) for students without legal immigration status, completed and submitted to a public institution of higher education an application for institutional financial aid; or
- (3) completed a waiver of completion of the FAFSA and/or financial aid application, as applicable, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, signed by the student's parent or guardian or signed by the student if the student is eighteen or older.

On and after March 15 of each school year, a principal, school counselor, teacher, or other certified educator may complete the waiver on behalf of any student who has not satisfied the above requirements if such principal, school counselor, teacher, or other certified educator affirms that they have made a good faith effort to contact the parent/guardian or student about completion of such applications.

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:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-14n

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16b

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221a

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223a

Public Act No. 23-21, "An Act Concerning Financial Literacy Instruction"

Public Act No. 23-204, "An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget"

Public Act No. 23-167, "An Act Concerning Transparency in Education"

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