

**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**

Series 6000  
Instruction

Policy 6840

**Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2025 and 2026**

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 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.

**I. CREDIT DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS**

**HUMANITIES**

**9 credits**

<b>English</b>	English 9	1
	English 10	1
	American Literature	1
	Senior Literature elective	.5
	English Senior Capstone	.5
<b>History</b>	Western Civilization (Grade 9)	1
	World Studies (Grade 10)	1
	American History (Grade 11)	1
	Law & Government (Grade 12)	.5

**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**

**Fine Arts/Practical Arts** 1

**Elective Credit in Humanities** .5

(World Languages, Independent Study, 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 Photography, 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 credits

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**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**

***Total Credits Required to Graduate***

***25 credits***

**II. 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**

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.

**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-five (25) credits.

**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

**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**

semester. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the Superintendent of Schools after reviewing each case with the high school administration.

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.

**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.

**Academic Advancement Program**

Notwithstanding the graduation requirements in this policy, students shall be permitted to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the academic advancement program established by the State Board of Education.

**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.

**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**

**Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2027 and Beyond**

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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.

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**HUMANITIES**

**9 credits**

<b>English</b>	English 9	1
	English 10	1
	American Literature	1
	Senior Literature elective	.5
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	Law & Government (Grade 12)	.5
<b>Fine Arts/Practical Arts</b>		1

**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**

**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

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**Mathematics** 3

**Elective Credits in STEM** 3

(Science, Math, Technology Education, Computer Science, Economics, Business, Media, Graphic Design, Digital Photography, 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**

**PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT and FINANCIAL LITERACY**

*Within STEM, Humanities, or Open Electives, all students must earn 0.5 elective credit in personal financial management and financial literacy; the following courses meet this requirement:*

**Investing and Personal Finance, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics**

**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**

**OPEN ELECTIVE CREDITS**

**3 Credits**

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- Earning a passing grade in the grade 11 math course taken.

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**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**

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- (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.



**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**

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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”

ADOPTED: May 28, 2024