

Title

Graduation Requirements

Code

211

Status

Active

Adopted

April 27, 2005

Last Revised

April 25, 2012

Proposed

May 2022

Purpose

It shall be the policy of the Board to establish graduation requirements in the educational interests of students and acknowledge successful completion of the instructional program and the graduate profile by awarding diplomas and certificates at graduation ceremonies.

Authority

The Board recognizes its responsibility to adopt the graduation requirements students must achieve in accordance with state regulations. The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in the School District who meets the requirements of graduation established by the Board and set forth in this policy. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

Guidelines

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (*Grades 9 through 12 with the exception of Algebra and World Language courses. These courses may receive high school credit, pending the passing of the course and/or equivalent pathway outlined in Act 158.)

Each student shall complete the course credit requirements; the student portfolio requirements set forth in this policy or meet the requirements of his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP) to meet the minimum requirements for graduation. IEPs should include the graduation requirements set forth by this policy to the maximum extent the requirements are appropriate.

Course Credit Requirements

Beginning with the graduating class of 2028, each student shall be required to meet the minimum requirements of twenty-four (24) credits or to meet the requirements of his/her IEP for graduation.

UNITS TO BE EARNED IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12*

English Language Arts	Four units to include:	Units
	English I	1
	English II	1
	English III	1
	English IV	1
English Language Arts eligible options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses/ CAS (Honors)/ Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/ postsecondary courses		
English Language Arts Total Units		4
Mathematics	Three units to include:	Units
	Algebra I	1
	Geometry	1
	Algebra II	1
	Mathematics eligible options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses/ Career and Technical Education/ CAS (Honors)/ Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/ postsecondary courses	
Mathematics Total Units		3
Science ✚ Includes laboratory science	Three units to include:	Units
	Biology	1
	Physical Science (Chemistry or Physics)	1
	Elective Science	1
	Science eligible options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses/ Career and Technical Education/ CAS (Honors)/ Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/ postsecondary courses	
Science Total Units		3
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)	One unit from:	Unit
	STEM Course	1
	STEM eligible options may include: Career and Technical Education/ postsecondary courses	
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Total Units		1
Social Studies ✚ All courses integrate geography, history, civics &	Four units to include	Units
	Civics	1
	World History	1
	American History	1
	African American History or Ethnic Studies Course	1

government, and economics	Social Studies eligible options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses/ CAPSTONE Course (Ethnic Literature .5 + Ethnic Studies .5)/ CAS (Honors)/ Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/ postsecondary courses	
Social Studies Total Units		4
Economics with Financial Literacy	Half a unit from:	Unit
	Economics with Financial Literacy	.5
	Economics with Financial Literacy eligible options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses/ Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/ postsecondary courses	
Economics with Financial Literacy Total Units		.5
Physical Education ✚ Yearly in grades 9-12		1
Health Education		1
World Language, Fine Arts, and/or Practical Arts ✚ World Language (WL) Requirement- Must complete at least Level II in one language (Level 1 may be taken in MS) ✚ Fine and Practical Arts: eligible options include: visual arts, performing arts, practical arts associated with media, business and home (may substitute CTE coursework toward career credential)		2
Academic Electives (add language) ✚ One must be a designated CTE-related course ✚ One must be a designated Fine Arts course if the student elects 2 credits in WL		4.5
Total Units		24

UNITS TO BE EARNED IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12 FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
A CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

English Language Arts	Four units to include:	Units
	English I	1
	English II	1
	English III	1
	English IV	1
	English Language Arts eligible options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses/ CAS (Honors)/ Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/ postsecondary courses	
English Language Arts Total Units		4
Mathematics	Three units to include:	Units
	Algebra I	1
	Geometry	1
	Algebra II	1

	Mathematics eligible options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses/ Career and Technical Education/ CAS (Honors)/ Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/ postsecondary courses	
Mathematics Total Units		3
Science + Include laboratory science	Three units to include:	Units
	Biology	1
	Physical Science (Chemistry or Physics)	1
	Elective Science	1
	Science eligible options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses/ Career and Technical Education/ CAS (Honors)/ Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/ postsecondary courses	
Science Total Units		3
Social Studies + All courses integrate geography, history, civics & government, and economics	Three units to include	Units
	Civics	1
	World History	1
	American History, African American History, or Ethnic Studies	1
	Social Studies eligible options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses/ CAPSTONE Course (Ethnic Literature .5 + Ethnic Studies .5)/ CAS (Honors)/ Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/ postsecondary courses	
Social Studies Total Units		3
Physical Education + Yearly in grades 9-12		1
Health Education		1
Academic Electives + Academic Electives, Practical Art Electives, Career Development Electives and/or Physical Education Electives (one must be Economics with Financial Literacy)		9
Total Units		24

Assessment Requirements

Students in the 2022-2023 Graduation cohort shall meet statewide graduation requirements set forth by Act 158, Act 6, and Act 1 beginning in 2023. However, students in the 2022 cohort may utilize the Alternate Assessment Pathway to meet the graduation requirement as set forth by Act 158 and Act 6

Other Credits

Credit may be given for courses taken in licensed and/or accredited private schools where such courses meet the criteria adopted by the Board, Pennsylvania School Code, and/or State Board of Education. The number of credits may be limited.

Deficiencies

The Superintendent may require students to make up deficiencies in school-based credit recovery programs at any time prior to graduation.

A student and parent should be notified upon failure of a course that the student is no longer on track for graduation as early as the beginning of the student's second semester in grade nine. However, parents/ guardians must be notified no later than the end of the first semester by the appropriate counselor if there is evidence of deficiencies for graduation that have not been remedied through a credit recovery program.

If the deficiencies can be made up in summer school, a student may receive his/ her diploma in the school office a week after successfully completing summer school.

If the deficiencies are so extensive that they cannot be made up in summer school, a student may:

- a) Enter an approved alternative secondary option listed below: Make up some work in summer school
- b) Make up some work or all through a District credit recovery program during the school year following the student's fourth year of high school. If a student completes the graduation requirements through a District credit recovery program in the year immediately following his/her fourth year of high school, s/he may still receive the diploma from the home high school.
- c) Take the General Education Development (G.E.D.) test. A passing score will enable the student to earn a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania diploma. Note that passing the G.E.D. does not qualify a student for a regular high school diploma.

Specific Program Requirements

In addition to meeting the minimum requirements for graduation, students may strive to complete a specific program certificate. Program certificates (i.e. CAS/Honors, IB) indicative of completion of the program may be issued with the diploma in accordance with program guidelines.

The specific program certificates and applicable program requirements shall be set forth in the Student Guide to Graduation Requirements. Any exceptions to the requirements for a specific program must be approved by the Superintendent or their designee.

ESL Students

- All English Learners (ELs) are required to participate in the Mathematics PSSA or Algebra I Keystone Exam and the Science PSSA or Biology Keystone Exam with accommodations as appropriate regardless of enrollment date. Note: All ELs are required to take the WIDA ACCESS for ELs English Proficiency Test.
- An EL may be exempted only once from participation in the PSSA ELA or Keystone Literature Exam. For example, if an EL student was exempt from participation during a previous test administration, the student must participate during the current testing window regardless of length of enrollment.

- An EL student who does not participate in the Keystone Literature Exam as an 11th or 12th grade student must satisfy the requirements of Act 158 and Act 6 through a pathway other than the Keystone Proficiency or the Keystone Composite Pathways. The CTE Concentrator, Alternative Assessment, and Evidence-Based Pathways require EL students to complete locally established grade-based requirements for academic content associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student did not demonstrate proficiency.

Additional Guidelines

The Superintendent shall develop a Student Guide to Graduation Requirements that sets forth the requirements of this policy and any additional guidelines that are consistent with this policy.

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1611

2. 24 P.S. 1613

3. 22 PA Code 4.13

4. 22 PA Code 4.24

5. 22 PA Code 4.26

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