

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Graduation Requirements
Code	211
Status	Active
Adopted	April 27, 2005
Last Revised	2024

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. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

The Board requires graduation requirements to be published and distributed to students and parents/guardians, and made available in each school building and on the District’s website. All changes to graduation requirements shall be published and distributed to students and parents/guardians, and made available in each school building or on the District’s website immediately following approval by the Board. [\[4\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

Guidelines

The Board hereby establishes minimum requirements for graduation from the District, as outlined below. Requirements outlined apply to students in Grades 9 through 12. However, should a student elect to take either Algebra or World Language prior to entering Grade 9, the student may receive high school credit so long as they pass the course or meet criteria of an equivalent graduation pathway by state law or regulations. Each student shall complete the course credit requirements or meet the requirements of their 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. [\[8\]](#) The transcripts of students who have transferred to the District will be reviewed on an individual basis to ensure proper allocation and award of credits earned prior to attendance at the District.

Course Credit Requirements

Beginning with the graduating class of 2028, each student shall be required to meet the minimum requirements of twenty-four and a half (24.5) credits or to meet the requirements of their IEP for graduation.

UNITS TO BE EARNED IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12

English Language Arts	Four (4) 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 included in the PPS Course catalog/CAS (Honors)/Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/ Dual enrollment courses Courses that have similar requirements that can be used for students transferring in credits, will be approved by Curriculum and Instruction.	
English Language Arts Total Units		4
Mathematics	Three (3) units to include:	Units
	Algebra I	1
	Geometry	1
	Algebra II	1
	Mathematics eligible options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses included in the PPS Course catalog/Career and Technical Education/CAS (Honors)/ Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/ dual enrollment courses approved by the Office of Curriculum and Instruction Courses that have similar requirements that can be used for students transferring in credits, will be approved by Curriculum and Instruction.	
	Mathematics Total Units	
Science Includes laboratory science	Three (3) 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 included in the PPS Course catalog/Career and Technical Education/CAS (Honors)/ Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/ dual enrollment courses approved by the Office of Curriculum and Instruction Courses with similar requirements for students transferring in credits will be approved by Curriculum and Instruction.	
	Science Total Units	
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)	One (1) unit from:	Unit
	STEM Course	1
	STEM eligible options may include: Career and Technical Education that fall under the Business and Technical Education categories. Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses included in the PPS Course Catalog (including Advanced Placement) and dual enrollment courses. Courses with similar requirements for students transferring in credits will be approved by Curriculum and Instruction.	
	Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Total Units	
Social Studies All courses integrate geography, history, civics & government, and economics	Four (4) units to include:	Units
	Civics	1
	World History	1
	American History	1
	African American History or Ethnic Studies Course	1
	Social Studies eligible options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses included in the PPS Course Catalog (CAS (Honors)/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/Dual enrollment courses. Courses that have similar requirements that can be used for students transferring in credits, will be approved by Curriculum and Instruction.	

		Social Studies Total Units	4
Personal Financial Literacy	Half a unit from:		Unit
	Personal Financial Literacy		0.5
		Personal Financial Literacy Total Units	0.5
Physical Education			2
• 4 semesters, 1 annually in grades 9-12			
Health Education			1
• 2 semesters			
World Languages	Two (2) units to include:		2
	• <u>World Language Courses</u>		
	• World Language (WL) Requirement - Must complete at least Level II in one (1) language (Level I may be taken in MS)		
	World Languages Total Units		2
• Academic Electives .5			
			2
Fine Arts			2
• Fine Arts - Eligible options include: visual arts and performing arts			
		Total Units	24.5

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

English Language Arts	Four (4) 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 (3) units to include:	Units
	Algebra I	1
	Geometry	1
	Algebra II	1
	Mathematics eligible .5 options may include: Curriculum and Instruction approved equivalent courses included in the PPS Course catalog/Career and Technical Education/	
Mathematics Total Units		3
Science • Includes Laboratory Science	Three (3) 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 included in the PPS Course catalog/Career and Technical Education/CAS (Honors)/ Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/ dual enrollment courses approved by the Office of Curriculum and Instruction Courses that have similar requirements that can be used for students transferring in credits, will be approved by Curriculum and Instruction.	
Science Total Units		3
Social Studies • All courses integrate geography, history, civics & government, and economics	Three (3) 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/ CAS (Honors)/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/ postsecondary courses	
Social Studies Total Units		3

Physical Education • Two (2) semesters		1
Health Education • Two (2) semesters		1
Personal Financial Literacy	Half a unit	Unit
	Personal Financial Literacy	0.5
Financial Literacy Total Units		0.5
Career & Technical Education Programs		9
Exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering which is a 2-year program (6 units) • Three year programs when students, due to circumstances like joining after their 10th grade year, are only able to complete two years of the program. (6 units) 		
Total Units		24.5

If a student leaves CTE and returns to the non-CTE track for graduation, they must have completed fifty percent (50%) of their CTE program to qualify for CTE graduation criteria.

Graduation Requirements Legal Compliance The Class of 2023 and beyond shall meet statewide graduation requirements set forth by state law and regulations (e.g., Act 158 of 2018, Act 6 of 2017, and Act 55 of 2022) beginning in 2023

Act 158 of 2018 provides students with multiple pathway options to demonstrate academic proficiency and fulfill the state requirements. Those pathways include: Keystone Proficiency, Keystone Satisfactory Composite, Alternative Assessment, Career and Technical Pathway, and Evidence-Based Pathways. [3]

In an effort to ensure students who are experiencing educational instability receive the necessary resources to graduate from high school in a timely manner, Act 1 of 2022 was signed into law. Educational instability is defined as one or more school changes in a year due to homelessness, an adjudication of dependency or delinquency, or a court ordered under a voluntary placement or custody agreement. It applies to students returning to their former school, starting a new school or engaging in school after an extended absence. In accordance with Act 1 of 2022, A graduation plan shall be developed to facilitate this process for students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) who are experiencing educational instability. Each school shall have an established “point of contact” to assist in the transition to the school. [9]

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.

The District shall give full or partial credit to any student who has experienced education instability for coursework that is satisfactorily completed at, and reflected in the student’s records received from, a prior school entity. A student-specific plan detailing the courses necessary for a student to graduate high school and to successfully transition to postsecondary education or the workforce shall further be completed for such students.[9]

Failure to Meet Graduation Requirements

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/guardian 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 9. 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 their 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:

1. 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 their fourth year of high school, they may still receive the diploma from the home high school.
2. 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 work 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.

English Learners

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.[10]

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 state law and regulations (e.g., Act 158 of 2018, Act 6 of 2017, and Act 55 of 2022) through a pathway other than the Keystone Proficiency or the Keystone Composite Pathways.

Children of Active Duty Military Families

The District shall provide support to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of active-duty military families in accordance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, state law and Board policy. [11]

Additional Guidelines

The Superintendent or a designee 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. [24 P.S. 121](#)
 4. [22 PA Code 4.24](#)

5. [22 PA Code 4.51](#)
6. [22 PA Code 4.52](#)
7. [24 P.S. 510.2](#)
8. Pol. 108
9. [24 P.S. 1331.1](#)
10. Pol. 118
11. [24 P.S. 7302](#)
[24 P.S. 1614](#)

