

# ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 7.37 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### (1) GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The total number of units required for graduation shall be 22. Of the 22 units, the following are required:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Units</u>
English/Language Arts.....	4.0
Mathematics (including courses at or above the level of Algebra 1) .....	3.0
Science .....	3.0
Social Studies (including state and local government) .....	3.0
Physical Education (no more than 0.5 credit per school year) .....	1.5
<p style="margin-left: 40px;">A waiver of the final 0.5 credit in physical education during the junior or senior year of high school may be an option for a student, based on participation in an organized sport or athletic program in accordance with district procedures developed by the superintendent. Pursuant to Wis. Stat, §118.33(1)(e), a student must replace this 0.5 credit with an additional English, social studies, mathematics, science, or health course.</p>	
Health.....	0.5
Fine Arts .....	1.0
World Language .....	2.0
<p style="margin-left: 40px;">English Language learners may substitute English as a Second Language courses in place of world language courses.</p>	
College-and-career-readiness coursework (from the following).....	1.0
<p style="margin-left: 40px;">Any combination of approved college and career readiness coursework totaling 1 credit.*</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Beginning with the class of 2026 at select high schools, 0.5 credit of personal finance will be required as one of the college and career readiness courses.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">*For example, if a student takes an AP or IB course to meet another requirement (e.g., English), that course will count for the college and-career-readiness requirement and the core-content requirement.</p>	
Electives.....	3.0/4.0
Total Credits .....	22.0

(b) In addition to the above requirements, students must also have completed one of the following three course-embedded options, to be appropriately noted on a transcript:

1. online learning
2. community-service experience
3. service learning.

(c) All MPS schools must adhere to the core credit requirements as shown in 1(b) above, and no school will be allowed to require additional credits in order to earn an MPS diploma. Individual schools, however, may require additional courses or projects for completion of specific program certifications (e.g., Honors, International Baccalaureate, career and technical education) which may be designated on the MPS diploma.

(d) Students shall be required to have earned the units as described above and shall be required to meet the state’s requirement for passing the district’s civics test.

(e) Students shall complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) unless waived by the Chief Academic Officer for students who are unable to access parental financial information, are undocumented, or whose parents allow them to abstain.

(f) Academic and Career Planning (ACP). Students shall successfully complete the necessary requirements documented in the state approved software (Wis Stat §115.28(59)), as well as the required activities for their academic and career plan from when they enter an MPS high school.

(g) Each school that seeks to substitute course offerings for courses specifically stated in 1(a) above must obtain formal approval from the superintendent or a designee. The alternate course must meet or exceed the rigor of the original required course.

(h) Each student must meet the credit graduation requirements and have their transcript validated by the school counselor prior to participation in their high school's graduation ceremony.

## **(2) PLANNING PROVISIONS FOR GRADUATION**

(a) All students shall follow identified academic and career plans developed in the high schools in which the students are enrolled. The high-school plans for students in the regular program shall ensure that students meet graduation requirements and shall be developed on the basis of individual career interests, plans for post-high-school education, or other life goals, using a variety of available program plans. Student may earn diplomas only from schools in which they are enrolled and in which they will earn their final credits during the semester in which they intend to graduate.

(b) A "senior" is a student who has earned a minimum of 16 units or the number required for senior status and who is on track for graduation after the successful completion of no more than two additional semesters.

(c) High-school students from the Milwaukee Public Schools are encouraged to complete four years of study resulting minimally in completion of the prescribed graduation requirements at the district and school levels.

(d) The following minimum number of units, or the equivalent, is required for high-school students to be promoted at the end of the school year:

1. If a student is to be promoted from 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade (sophomore), 5 units or more shall be required.
2. If a student is to be promoted from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> grade (junior), 10 units or more shall be required.
3. If a student is to be promoted from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade (senior), 16 units or more and enrollment in at least the fourth year of high school shall be required.

(e) To be considered for senior-class rank, students must meet the definition of a senior and must complete one year and a minimum of 5 units at the schools from which they intend to receive their diplomas.

## **(3) COMMON MPS DIPLOMA AND SCHOOL-BASED RECOGNITION OF PROGRAM COMPLETION**

- (a) Schools may, with formal approval from the superintendent or a designee:
- implement additional requirements for participation in, or completion of, specific programs and include this endorsement on the diploma;
  - award an additional certificate indicating completion of this special program and/or document this endorsement on the transcript.
- (b) Some of the recognized endorsements include:
- Advanced Placement Capstone diploma or certificate
  - International Baccalaureate certificate and/or diploma
  - Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Seal of Biliteracy
  - Wisconsin Global Education Achievement Certificate.
  - M3 College Connections Program
- (c) Schools may not create additional requirements for graduation.

**(4) COMPLETION CREDENTIALS**

**(a) Regular Diplomas**

1. Students completing the unit and district’s civics-test requirements described above, including alternative programs and schools, shall receive regular diplomas signed by the principal, the superintendent, and the Board’s president. Signatures other than that of the principal/school leader may be photocopied.

2. Students with disabilities who successfully complete high-school graduation requirements established by MPS Administrative Policy 7.37, Graduation Requirements, shall receive regular MPS diplomas upon graduation through the age of 21.

3. Students with disabilities who do not meet high-school graduation requirements as outlined in Administrative Policy 7.37, Graduation Requirements, but who participate in a curriculum aligned to the alternate achievement standards may receive a regular diploma if they have passed all courses aligned with the alternate achievement standards and have met all criteria as determined by an IEP team as outlined in Procedure 7.37 (3a).

**(b) Certificates of Completion**

1. Students with disabilities who do not meet high-school graduation requirements as outlined in Administrative Policy 7.37, Graduation Requirements, but who participate in a curriculum aligned to the alternate achievement standards and who have aged out of eligibility for services will be awarded certificates of completion at the end of the academic year in which they turn twenty-one (21). Students may choose to participate in one graduation ceremony with either their entry or exit class. Certificates of completion cannot be awarded to students in four-year or five-year graduation cohorts.

2. English learners who have not completed unit requirements for graduation, may also be awarded certificates of completion.

**(c) District Approved Alternative Programs and School**

1. Students who successfully complete the graduation requirements for district-approved alternative programs and schools shall be awarded MPS diplomas from the MPS schools in which they are enrolled.

2. Students enrolled in select alternative programs within a high school shall not be included in senior-class rank.

<b>History:</b>	Adopted 10-26-82; Revised 9-26-84, 6-25-86, 6-18-87, 12-21-92, 2-22-95, 6-18-97, 3-30-99, 06-30-99, 02-29-00, 05-30-00, 08-29-00, 06-26-01, 08-2-01, 01-31-02, 02-27-03, 09-25-03, 12-16-08, 07-29-10, 06-28-12, 7-29-13, 02-25-16, 02-22-18, 05-31-2018, 05-27-21, 06-30-22; 11-21-24	
<b>Previous Coding:</b>	Admin. Policy IKF, prior to May 1995; Admin. Policy 9.37, May 1995-August 1996	
<b>Legal Ref.:</b>	W.S. 115.28(59), 119.18(20), 118.30(4)(c), 118.33(1)(e), 120.13(37)	
<b>Cross Ref.:</b>	Admin. Policy 7.38	Balanced Assessment System
	7.07	Physical Education
	7.36	Promotion and Retention of Students
	Admin Proc 7.34	Final Examinations