Merchantville Board of Education 130 South Centre Street Merchantville, NJ 08109	File Code : 6146 Adopted : 08/10/1976 Revised : 04/25/2017 Reviewed : 07/15/2024

Graduation Requirements

In order to be graduated from the Merchantville School District, and receive a state-endorsed board of education diploma, a pupil must:

A. Meet both state and district proficiency standards in the core curriculum content areas; achieve or exceed passing grade on the NJ standardized tests;

B. Complete successfully any course requirements stated in the administrative code, unless those of the district are greater, in which case the district's standard must be met. The proficiencies required must include the New Jersey Student Learning Standards approved by the state board of education;

Successful completion means that the pupil has demonstrated the degree of proficiency required by the district to indicate achievement of the district goals for the particular course, and has attended the required number of school days.

Transfer pupils must meet all state and local requirements in order to receive an elementary school diploma.

The chief school administrator shall put into effect the procedures necessary to assess each pupil upon entry into the system, and, annually thereafter, to identify those pupils not meeting the state or district proficiency requirements. He/she shall develop the programs necessary to remedy these deficiencies at the lowest possible grade level.

Remediation and Basic Skills

Pupils who do not pass the New Jersey Department of Education approved statewide proficiency assessment, the elementary assessment component for grades three through five and the middle school components for grades six through eight shall be provided appropriate remediation.

Pupils with Limited English Proficiency

Pupils with limited English proficiency must be provided with the program opportunities required by law, and must fulfill the regular state and district requirements for graduation.

Special Education Pupils

A disabled pupil must meet all state and local graduation requirements in order to receive a state-endorsed elementary school diploma unless exempted in his/her IEP with the written approval of the chief school administrator.

A pupil who qualifies may take the New Jersey Department of Education approved alternative proficiency assessment, if alternate requirements for graduation have been specified in his/her IEP.

By June 30 of a disabled pupil's last year in the elementary program, the pupil's case manager, parent/ guardian and teacher(s) shall meet to review the instructional guide and basic plan of the pupil's IEP in view of the transition to the secondary program. Input from appropriate staff from the secondary school shall be part of the review.

The basic plan of the IEP for the pupil exiting the elementary program will address all the elements required in the administrative code. The description of the educational program will include exemptions, if any, from regular education program options or state and local graduation requirements along with the rationale for the exemptions. The exemptions must be approved in writing by the chief school administrator.

Required reviews of the IEP shall continue to address graduation requirements and shall explain why the proficiencies required for graduation are not part of the IEP.

Because graduation with a state-endorsed diploma is a change of placement that requires written notice, all procedures described in the administrative code shall be followed scrupulously. Procedures shall include written notice to parents/guardians that includes a copy of procedural safeguards published by the State Department of Education and opportunity for mediation or a due process hearing.

Proficiency

In consultation with appropriate professional staff, the chief school administrator shall develop and present to the board for adoption indicators of achievement and standards of proficiency and attendance demonstrating successful completion of elementary school requirements.

The subject matter and standards of proficiency shall be articulated with the district's elementary schools and with sending elementary districts.

In accordance with law, the board of education shall have copies of this policy distributed to all ninth-grade or otherwise entering pupils) and their parents/guardians.

They shall also be informed as to the examinations, demonstrated proficiencies, course and credit hour requirements, attendance policies, and any other state and local requirements.

Proficiency requirements for each individual course shall be given to pupils upon registering for the course.

The yearly program of studies for each pupil in the high school must be approved and signed by the parent/guardian, except in the case of 18-year-old pupils.

Early Graduation

Pupils who have clearly demonstrated a scholastic aptitude, an unusual readiness for the world of work, a financial need, or a serious health or family concern may be considered for early graduation. Minimal graduation requirements must be completed early. Approval must be obtained from the parents/guardians and the administration.

Individualized Student Learning Opportunities

The board shall establish a process to approve individualized student learning opportunities that meet or exceed the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

A. Individualized student learning opportunities areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Independent study;

2. Online learning;

3. Study abroad programs;

4. Student exchange programs; and

5. Structured learning experiences, including, but not limited to, work-based programs, internships, apprenticeships, and service learning experiences.

B. Individualized student learning opportunities based upon specific instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the New Jersey Student Learning Standards shall:

1. Be based on student interest and career goals as reflected in the Personalized Student Learning Plans;

2. Include demonstration of student competency;

3. Be on file in the school district and subject to review by the Commissioner or his or her designee.

To earn credit toward high school graduation for individualized student learning opportunities, the student shall successfully complete assessments that verify student achievement in meeting or exceeding the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Achievement may be verified by assessments including standards achieved by means of the individualized student learning opportunities. Such programs or assessments may occur all or in part prior to a student's high school enrollment.

No assessments administered shall preclude or exempt student participation in applicable Statewide assessments at grades three through 12.

Pupil Enrollment in College Courses – Option 2

The board shall make reasonable efforts to develop articulation agreements with New Jersey colleges and universities to facilitate the delivery of college credit courses to qualified pupils.

The board shall establish a process to approve post-secondary learning opportunities that may consist of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), or concurrent/dual enrollment at accredited higher education institutions. Students shall receive credit for successful completion of an approved, accredited college course that assures achievement of knowledge and skills that meets or exceeds the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

The board shall determine eligibility requirements for these pupils and monitor the quality of the courses offered and college faculty who teach the courses.

This information shall be reported to the board at a public meeting prior to the date prescribed by law.

The board shall review this policy annually and shall adopt all regulations required by law.

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Key Words

Graduation Requirements

Legal References

N.J.S.A. 18A 4-25: Prescribing minimum courses of study for public schools; approval of courses of study
N.J.S.A. 18A 7C-1 et seq: Commissioner of education to develop a program of standards and guidelines
N.J.S.A. 18A 7C-2: Establishment of standards for graduation from secondary schools
N.J.S.A. 18A 7C-4.1: "Operation Recognition."
N.J.S.A. 18A 7C-5.1: Graduation, yearbook costs for pupils with financial hardship
N.J.S.A. 18A 7F-46: Review, update of core curriculum content standards; Educational Adequacy Report, development of T & E standards.
N.J.S.A. 18A 33-1 District to furnish suitable facilities; adoption of courses of study

N.J.S.A. 18A 35-1 et seq. Curriculum and courses
N.J.S.A. 18A 36-17 Credit of seniors in active military and naval service, etc.
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-1.1 Purpose
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-1.2 Scope
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-2.1 Authority for educational goals and standards
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-3.1 Curriculum and instruction
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-3.3 Enrollment in college courses
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-4.1 Statewide assessment system
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-4.2 Documentation of student achievement
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-4.3 Accountability
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-5.1 Graduation requirements
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-5.2 High school diplomas
N.J.A.C. 6A 14-3.7 Individualized education program
N.J.A.C. 6A 14-4.11 Graduation
N.J.A.C. 6A 15-1.11 Graduation requirements for English language learners
N.J.A.C. 6A 23A-9.5 Commissioner to ensure achievement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards; corrective actions
N.J.A.C. 6A 30-1.1 Purpose and scope
N.J.A.C. 6A 32-14.1 Distribution
N.J.A.C. 6A 32-2.1 Definitions
20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq Every Student Succeeds Act (Formerly NCLB)

Cross References

1120 - Sample Policy: Board of Education Meetings
5113 - Sample Policy: Attendance, Absences and Excuses
5120 - Sample Policy: Assessment of Individual Needs
5127 - Sample Policy: Commencement Activities
6010 - Sample Policy: Goals and Objectives
6122 - Sample Policy: Articulation
6140 - Sample Policy: Curriculum Adoption
6142 - Sample Policy: Subject Fields
6142. 2 - Sample Policy: English as a Second Language, Bilingual Programs
6142. 6 - Sample Policy: Basic Skills
6145 - Sample Policy: Extracurricular Activities
6147 - Sample Policy: Standards of Proficiency
6154 - Sample Policy: Homework, Makeup Work
6171.4 - Sample Policy: Special Education
6200 - Sample Policy: Adult Community Education