

**P-6146
Instruction**

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to satisfy the high school graduation requirements within Northwestern Regional School District No. 7, a student must have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study; demonstrated proficiency in basic skills identified by the Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education (the "Board"); satisfied the legally mandated number and distribution of credits required to graduate from high school; and if graduating in 2025 and thereafter, satisfied the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA") requirements detailed below.

Required Coursework and Credits for Graduation

The Board conforms with state law regarding credits for graduation from high school.

Requirements of classes graduating in 2025 & 2026, and from 2027 and beyond:

Minimum State Requirements (<u>PA 17-42</u>) 25 Credits	Region 7 Class of 2025 and 2026 25 Credits	Region 7 Class of 2027 and Beyond 25 Credits
Humanities <i>9 credits, including: 1.0 U.S. History 0.5 Civics</i>	English - 4 Credits Social Studies - 3 Credits (1.0 must be in U.S. History and 0.5 must be in Civics) Humanities Electives - 2 Credits	English - 4 Credits Social Studies - 3 Credits (1.0 must be in U.S. History and 0.5 must be in Civics) Humanities Electives - 2 Credits
STEM (<i>Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math</i>) <i>9 credits</i>	Math - 3 Credits Science - 3 Credits (1.0 must be in Biology) STEM Electives - 3 Credits	Math - 3 Credits Science - 3 Credits (1.0 must be in Biology) STEM Electives - 3 Credits (0.5 must be in Personal Finance)
Physical Education & Wellness <i>1 credit</i>	Physical Education - 1 Credit	Physical Education - 1 Credit
Health & Safety	Wellness & Safety - 1	Wellness & Safety - 1

World Language <i>1 credit</i>	World Language - 1 Credit	World Language - 1 Credit
Other Coursework	Mastery Based Diploma Capstone Assessment - 1 Credit	FAFSA Completion*
Electives <i>3 or 4 credits</i>	Electives - 3 Credits	Electives - 4 Credits
Total Credits - 25		Total - 25

*Pursuant to sections 319 and 320 of Public Act 23-204, starting with the class of 2027, all students and their families must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or related CSDE waiver in order to be eligible for graduation. School counselors will assist in facilitating the completion of the FAFSA or waiver during a student's 12th grade year. Please visit the [CSDE website](#) for more information regarding this requirement and waiver.

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 the student's parent or guardian requests such exemption in writing.

A credit is defined as the equivalent of one forty (40) minute class period for each school day of a school year. One-half credit is granted for a course with a forty (40) minute class period each school day for one semester or ninety (90) days.

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:

High school graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful demonstration of mastery of subject matter achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including:

- Cross-curricular graduation requirements,
- Career and technical education,
- Virtual learning,
- Work-based learning,

- Service learning,
- Dual enrollment and early college
- Courses taken in middle school, and
- Internships and student-designed independent studies;

(Provided that such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards.)

High school graduation credit will be granted to students who successfully complete a high school aligned world language course during 8th grade. In addition, a high school graduation credit will be granted to 8th grade students who earn a C- or better in the high school aligned Algebra I course.

High school graduation credit may also be granted to students for coursework that is pre-approved by the high school principal, for successful completion of courses not offered at Northwestern Regional Schools. Such courses must be completed during the school year or summer months at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited.

FAFSA Requirement for Classes Graduating in 2027 and Thereafter

Students graduating in 2027 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.

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.

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: FEBRUARY 26, 2025

9/25/2023

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1. Credits earned in Accounting I and/or Accounting II may be applied toward fulfilling the mathematics or STEM requirement. Credit for Personal Finance may be applied toward graduation requirements in either mathematics or STEM.
2. A maximum of one credit may be earned for graduation requirements in Social Studies by successfully completing the following courses: Economics, Business Law, UConn Microeconomics, and UConn Macroeconomics.
3. Agricultural Education students who successfully complete certain approved courses in Agricultural Education will receive science credit.
4. The credit earned in Contemporary Issues, Law and Justice or AP US Gov and Politics may be applied toward fulfilling the Civics requirement.
5. Sequential courses in all subject areas require the student to pass the first course in the sequence before he or she may take the next course. For instance, English II may not be taken until English I has been passed.
6. One credit will be awarded for the successful completion of a full year study of a World Language at the middle school. This credit will count towards the graduation requirements and will display on the high school transcript, however, it is not included in the GPA calculation.
7. One credit will be awarded for the successful completion of Algebra I at the middle school, provided the student earns a grade of C- or better. This credit will count towards the graduation requirements and will display on the high school transcript, however, it is not included in the GPA calculation.
8. Upon prior approval of the Principal, credits earned from an accredited post-secondary institution may be counted toward the credits required to earn a diploma. A typical college course is worth 3 credits. By statute, a high school can award one half credit for successfully completing a college course approved by the principal. These credits will not however be included in the accumulated GPA.

In pursuit of the above graduation requirements, a student should follow the minimums in making course selections:

Grade 10	<i>6.5 Credits</i> (English, Math, Social Studies, Science, PE, Health, 1.5 add'l electives)
Grade 11	<i>6.0 Credits</i> (English, Math, U.S. History, PE, Health, Personal Finance, 2 add'l electives)
Grade 12	

PROGRESSION TOWARDS GRADUATION:

Successful progression to each grade will be determined by the number of credits earned. Acquisition of these minimum number of credits each year will ensure that the student is on track to graduate with their class.

Progression to Grade 11	<i>12.5 Credits</i>
Progression to Grade 12	

TRANSFER STUDENTS:

A student who transfers into Northwestern Regional High School must meet the school's graduation requirements and earn at least three (3) credits of work at Northwestern Regional High School to be eligible to graduate with a NWR7 High School diploma. Only course work completed at Northwestern Regional High School is calculated into the student's GPA. Course work completed in other secondary schools will be included in the student's permanent record as copies of that school's transcript. These courses will be displayed on the Northwestern transcript for college application purposes even though they are not factored into the GPA. Students who transfer after the 1st semester of their freshman year are excluded from class rank.

EARLY GRADUATION COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Some Northwestern Regional students, through consistent academic commitment and extra effort, may be able to complete high school graduation requirements in less than four full years. Students who have earned this opportunity may petition for early graduation through their school counselor prior to June 1 of the student's junior year. Consideration and approval of requests for early graduation will be made by the high school principal.