



Looking ahead to graduation?

**We're here to help you
put all the pieces together.
And celebrate your success!**

At PPS, we are committed to helping you graduate on time and be prepared for future success.

Now, new graduation requirements give you multiple pathways to show your readiness to graduate. This flexible approach ensures that your needs are met, whether you excel in traditional or non-traditional assessments or career-based education.



Your path to graduation.

Graduating high school is like completing a puzzle—each milestone is a piece that brings you closer to seeing the big picture. Here's what you need to do:

Earn the minimum number of required credits.

- 26.5 credits for the Classes of 2025, 2026 and 2027.
- 24.5 credits for the Class of 2028 and beyond.

and

Meet the PA Department of Education requirement through one of these five ACT 158 pathways:

Keystone Proficiency

- Achieve passing scores on all three Keystone Exams—Algebra I, Biology and Literature.

Keystone Composite

- Attain a combined average score across the three Keystone Exams.

Career & Technical Concentration

Complete a CTE program aligned with career readiness standards.

Alternative Assessment Pathway

Meet graduation requirements through qualifying scores on the SAT, ACT or ASVAB or gain acceptance into an accredited, non-profit Institution of higher education 4-year program for college-level coursework.

Evidence-Based Pathway

Complete a combination of career-focused experiences such as internships, service learning, or post-secondary coursework.



School counselors are with you every step of the way!

- They will meet with you regularly to make course selections, review your transcript and help you stay on track to complete credit and Act 158 requirements.
- They will work with you if you are struggling in class, communicate with your family regarding your progress and celebrate key milestones with you.
- They will create individualized plans for academic success.
- They will connect you with resources for college and career readiness.

Attendance matters!

- If you attend class regularly, you are more likely to graduate on time.
- You build on the knowledge from the previous day and build confidence in your abilities.
- Employers and college admissions representatives look at attendance as a sign of responsibility.



If you are falling behind in class, you should:

- Reach out to teachers and counselors for strategies and support.
- Stay organized to keep track of assignments and due dates.
- Stay positive and focus on improvement.

If you fail a class, you should:

- Work with your counselor and teacher so you can make up credits as soon as possible.
- Take advantage of Credit Recovery opportunities such as Period 10 during the school year or Summer School during the summer in order to successfully regain the credit and stay on track to graduation.

When you put all the pieces together, you'll graduate ready for college, career and life.

Questions? Visit pghschools.org/graduation

What courses and how many credits do you need?

As you can see from these charts, it all depends on your program and year of graduation. The changes allow for more opportunities and flexibility.



Side by side comparison:

Traditional graduation credit and course requirements.

Subject	2025, 2026	2027	2028
Literacy/English Language Arts	4	4	4
Science	4	4	3
Mathematics	4	4	3
Social Studies	4	4	4
Personal Finance	0	.5	.5
STEM (CTE Credit that falls under Business and Technical Education, or additional math or science credit)	0	1	1
Academic Electives: World language (Classes 2 years recommended), Arts Electives, Career Development and/or Physical Education Electives	7.5	7	2
World Languages (become required courses for Class of 2028 and beyond)			2
Fine Arts (become required courses for Class of 2028 and beyond)			2
Health	1	1	1
Physical Education	2	2	2
Total Credits	26.5	26.5	24.5

What is a credit?

Each credit is a piece of the puzzle. You earn one credit every time you complete a year-long class, such as English or Math. You earn one-half credit (0.5) when you pass a class that is only one semester long, such as Personal Finance.

Credits become part of your school transcript. Your transcript will also include your grades, your weighted and unweighted GPA (grade point average), and the rigor of your curriculum. Course weights are used to calculate your GPA and reflect the difficulty level of the courses you take.

Side by side comparison:

CTE graduation credit and course requirements.

Subject	2025, 2026	2027	2028
Literacy/English Language Arts	4	4	4
Science Biology, Chemistry, Physics	3	3	3
Mathematics Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2	4	4	3
Social Studies Civics, World History, US History	3	3	3
Career and Technical Education Program *	9	9	9
Personal Finance	0	.5	.5
STEM (CTE Credit that falls under Business and Technical Education, or additional math or science credit)	0	1	1
Academic Electives: World language (2 years recommended), Arts Electives, Career Development and/or Physical Education Electives **	.5	0	0
Health	1	1	1
Physical Education	2	2	1
Total Credits	26.5	26.5	24.5

* CTE programs are 9 credits in total (PDE-approved 3-year programs); 4.5 credits are the minimum required to graduate via the CTE pathway.

** Students may use additional CTE Program credits to count for Academic Electives to meet graduation requirements.

NOTE: CTE Engineering Technology is 6 credits in total (PDE-approved 2-year program); 3 credits are the minimum required to graduate via the CTE pathway.

Resources and tools to help you succeed.

It's never too soon to start planning for college or your future career. Ask your counselor about the many ways PPS can help you prepare and provide you with rich educational experiences, both in and out of the classroom.

■ Let Naviance, our college and career exploration tool, guide you as you explore your skills and interests, think about possible careers and determine the courses you need to reach your goals. Visit www.pghschools.org/student-supports/college-resources/naviance.

■ Take advantage of a unique partnership with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh that provides all PPS students in grades K-12 with access to online tutoring, test prep and homework support, as well as top eResources like digital eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines. You can also enjoy RAD Pass, which offers free and discounted tickets to local attractions. Get details at www.carnegielibrary.org/cardfest/.

■ Participate in college fairs and annual scholarship fairs where scholarships are awarded on the spot.

■ Learn more about our Cooperative Education (Co-Op) programs that provide CTE students with paid, on-the-job training for specific occupations.

■ Interested in college sports? Pittsburgh Public Schools, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the NCAA Eligibility Center have a new collaborative initiative that raises awareness of the academic prerequisites you need to participate in college sports. PPS is the first school district in the nation to participate in such a partnership. Ask your counselor when you can register for the next Family Information Night so you don't miss out on any opportunities.

