

Policy IKF
High School Graduation Requirements
School Board Approved: December 2, 2024

Students generally earn a high school diploma through a combination of high school credit and proficiency or mastery of required District and Graduation competencies. Methods for earning credit are discussed in Board policy IK, while competencies are discussed in Board policy ILBAA. This policy outlines the specific courses, competencies and other specific requirements before a student will receive a diploma or other graduation credential. The Board reserves the right to impose additional academic requirements necessary to graduate and or receive a diploma.

A. Credit Requirements.

1. Awarding of Credit.

Credit will be awarded in accordance with Board policy IK, Earning of Credit. Additionally, a unit of credit or fraction thereof shall be given upon satisfactory completion of a course or learning experience in compliance with the district-specified curriculum and assessment standards. In some cases, course credit may also be awarded based on demonstrated mastery of the required competencies for the course. Assessment of mastery will be the responsibility of the Principal, and will be in accordance with Board policy ILBAA, High School Competency Assessments. Credit will be awarded only once for a specific required course with the same content during the secondary school experience.

2. Required Subjects and Credits.

A minimum of twenty (20) credits are required to graduate and earn a high school diploma. The required subjects and credits for high school graduation (including the requirements of Ed 306.27, Table 306-2) are:

| | |
|--|--|
| Arts education: | 1/2 credit |
| Information and communications technologies: | 1/2 credit |
| English: | 4 credits |
| Mathematics: | 3 credits (including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential, integrated, or applied program) |
| Physical sciences: | 1 credit |
| Biological sciences: | 1 credit |
| US and NH history: | 1 credit |
| US and NH government/civics: | 1/2 credit |
| Economics, including personal finance: | 1/2 credit |
| World history, global studies, or geography: | 1/2 credit |
| Health education; | 1/2 credit |
| Physical education: | 1 credit |
| Open electives: | 6 credits |
| Totals: | 20 credits |

3. Alternative Credit Options.

The Superintendent or Principal may approve the granting of credit earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction. Such alternative methods of instruction may include extended learning opportunities, distance education, alternative learning plans, or others approved by the Superintendent or designee. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation requirements will be determined by the high school Principal on a case-by-case basis. Such credit will be granted pursuant to the provisions of Board policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options and other applicable Board policies.

B. Required Graduation Competencies by Content Areas Credit(s).

In addition to the credits listed above required to graduate and earn a high school diploma, the district also requires students to demonstrate proficiency in competencies from the following content areas (including the requirements of Ed 306.27, Table 306-3):

| | |
|--|------------|
| Arts education: | 1/2 credit |
| Information and communications technologies: | 1/2 credit |

English: 4 credits
Mathematics: 3 credits (mathematical modeling, statistics and probability, complex applications of measurement, applied geometry, graphical presentation and interpretation, statistics and data analysis)
Physical sciences: 1 credit
Biological sciences: 1 credit
US and NH history: 1 credit
US and NH government/civics: 1/2 credit
Economics, including personal finance: 1/2 credit
World history, global studies, or geography: 1/2 credit
Health education; 1/2 credit
Physical education: 1 credit
Open electives: 6 credits
Totals: 20 credits

C. Passage of Civics Exam.

The district will develop a competency assessment of United States government and civics, consistent with pertinent and applicable law. This assessment will be administered to students as part of the high school course in history and government of the United States and New Hampshire. Students must attain a passing grade on this assessment to be eligible to receive a high school diploma or other graduation certificate.

Effective for students graduating after June 30, 2023, the district will also administer the 128 question civics (history and government) naturalization examination developed by the 2020 United States Citizen and Immigration Services ("U.S. Citizenship Test"). This exam may be modified for a student with a disability in accordance with the student's individualized education program. Students must earn a grade of 70 percent or better to be eligible to receive a high school diploma or other graduation certificate.

Under RSA 189:11, II, the Superintendent will submit the composite results of either the locally developed civics competency assessment or the U.S. Citizenship Test to the N.H. Department of Education.

D. Federal Student Aid Application.

The Superintendent shall ensure each student eligible for graduation shall receive information on completing and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Initial information shall be provided no later than October 1 of a student's senior year, and shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Eligibility requirements for student financial aid that may be applied for using the FAFSA;
2. Application timelines and submission deadlines; and
3. The importance of submitting applications early, especially when student financial aid may be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Before the start of each school year, the Superintendent will designate the personnel responsible for disseminating the information. The designee will provide a specific written outline for the Superintendent's approval of the proposed means of dissemination, which may include such things as in-class instruction, college information fairs or programs, family information sessions, individual or group sessions with school counselors, information booklets.

Upon request of a student or a person authorized to act on behalf of the student, the Superintendent/Superintendent's designee shall ensure that either a physical or digital/online copy of a student's completed FAFSA is provided or is available to that student.

The Superintendent/Superintendent's designees shall ensure that any information shared under this section is handled according to applicable state and federal privacy laws, regulations, and administrative rules.

E. Alternative Learning Plans

As an alternative to satisfying the provisions of this policy and related State requirements, students may also

graduate from high school and obtain either a high school diploma or its equivalent by participating in an alternative learning plan or program. The provisions of Board policy IHBI, Alternative Learning Plans, shall apply in such an event.

F. Early Graduation

The Board supports early graduation as a means to earn a high school diploma (see Board policy IKFA). Parental involvement for students under the age of 18 is required. The high school principal shall approve such requests if he/she determines that all state and local graduation requirements will be met and that early graduation is related to career and/or educational plans of the student making the request. Upon approval by the high school principal, the minimum 4-unit requirement per year for enrolled students shall be waived, and the student shall be awarded a high school diploma.

Legal References

RSA 189:11

RSA 193:26-a

N.H. Dept. of Ed. Admin. Rule – Ed 306.27

District Policy History:

First reading: November 4, 2024

Second reading: November 18, 2024

Third reading/adopted: December 2, 2024

District revision history: July 23, 2018