

Series 6000 – Instruction

1. Elementary and Secondary

D. Curriculum

(6) Graduation Requirements

Graduation from our public schools implies (1) that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study for the several grade levels in accordance with their respective abilities to achieve, (2) that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and satisfactorily demonstrated the district's performance standards, assessed in part by the statewide mastery examinations, established by the faculty and approved by the Board of Education, and (3) that they have fulfilled the legally mandated number and distribution of credits.

The school district may not require achievement of a satisfactory score on the state-wide proficiency examination or state-wide mastery examination, or any subsequent retest on a component of such examinations as the sole criterion of promotion or graduation.

Graduation shall not be held until 180 days and 900 hours of actual school work are completed. The adopted school calendar shall indicate a graduation date which is no earlier than the 185th day. This may be modified after April 1 in any school year in conformity with applicable statute.

The following credits are necessary:

Class of 2016	
English	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Life Education	.5 credit [1 credit]
Physical Education	1 credit
Social Studies	3 credits (including ½ credit in Civics and 1 credit in US History)
Vocational/Fine Arts	.5 Fine Arts/.5 Vocational
Computer Technology	-----
World Language	1 credit
Personal Finance	.5 credit
Electives	6 credits [5.5 credits]
TOTAL:	24 credits

Students graduating in the year 2020 and beyond

In order to graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 24 credit hours, including not fewer than:

9 Credits in Humanities:

- Four (4) credits in English
- Three (3) credits in Social Studies, including at least one (1) credit in United States\American History and one (1) credit in American Government and Civics
- One (1) credit in Vocational/Fine Arts
- One (1) credit in a Humanities elective

8 Credits in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

- Four (4) credits in Math - including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or Statistics
- Three (3) credits in Science
- One (1) credit in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics elective

2 Credits in Career and Life Skills, including not fewer than:

- One (1) credit in Physical Education
- One-half (1/2) credit in Life Education
- One-half (1/2) credit in Personal Finance or Economics

1 Credit in World Languages

4.0 Credits in Additional Electives

Credits

Per statute (C.G.S. 221a(f)) the determination of eligible credits is at the discretion of the Board of Education, provided the primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter of the specified course requirements. The Board may permit a student to graduate during a period of expulsion if the Board determines the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits. The graduation requirements shall apply to any student requiring special education except when the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) determines the requirement not to be appropriate.

A credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty minute class period for each school day of a school year. One-half credit is given for courses that compile work in one semester. If physical education is not taken because of medical excuse, another subject may be substituted.

Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, shall satisfy the graduation requirements except the Board may grant a student credit toward meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade seven or eight of any course that corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine through twelve.

All credits earned toward meeting any of the graduation requirements through the successful completion of online courses must fulfill the requirements established in policy #6172.6, "Virtual/Online Learning."

The Board shall create a student success plan for each enrolled student, beginning in grade six. Such plan shall include a students' career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.

Academic Advancement Program

The Board of Education permits students in grades eleven and twelve to substitute (1) achievement of a passing score on an existing nationally recognized examination as determined, by the State Department of Education, or series of examinations approved by the State Board of Education, (2) a cumulative grade point average determined by the State Board of Education and (3) at least three letters of recommendation from school professionals (defined in 10-66dd), for the required high school graduation requirement. The State Board of Education will issue an Academic Advancement Program Certificate to any student successfully completing such program. The Academic Advancement Program Certificate shall be considered in the same manner as a high school diploma for purposes of determining eligibility of a student for enrollment at a Connecticut public institution of higher education.

The Board of Education shall permit a student to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the above described academic advancement program.

Awards of High School Diplomas

Students who complete all graduation requirements shall receive a diploma at commencement. Individuals also may satisfy graduation requirements by the satisfactory completion of the following:

1. Successful completion of a summer course or summer courses comparable (as determined by the principal) to the subject(s) in which the student was deficient.
2. Honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces after a minimum of ninety days of active service during World War II or the Korean hostilities for individuals who withdrew from school to join the Armed Forces.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221a High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut, P.A. 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform, P.A. 13-57, An Act Concerning Honorary Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans, P.A. 13-122, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes, P.A. 13-247, Budget Implementer Bill, P.A. 15-237, An Act Concerning High School Graduation and P.A. 16-4(SS), section 310.)

10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by P.A. 01-166) P.A. 13-108 An Act Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools. P.A. 13-247 An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget. P.A. 15-237 An Act Concerning High School Graduation.

Policy adopted: July 9, 2002
Policy revised: February 3, 2004, July 14, 2009
July 27, 2010, August 21, 2012
August 19, 2014, June 5, 2017

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut