

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program appropriate to the achievement of District goals and objectives as well as personal proficiency by the awarding of a diploma at fitting graduation ceremonies.

The Board directs the District Administrator to prepare a list of specific criteria for granting a high school diploma which includes the student's academic performance, the recommendations of teachers, the statutory credit requirements, and any additional Board-approved credit requirements.

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the Board permits students in 7th or 8th grade to earn credit towards a high school diploma in any class taken that is approved by the Board for such purpose, provided that the student is academically prepared based on performance on approved pupil assessments. Any course designated for high school credit at the middle school level must be taught by a teacher with high school certification in the subject matter and must be taught using curriculum and assessments equivalent to those used in the subject at the high school level.

Credit may be earned in any of the core required course areas of English, social studies, mathematics, science, physical education, or health.

Courses taken by middle school students for high school credit shall appear on the students' high school transcript, along with the grade received, however the grade and class will not be factored into the students' high school grade point average.

The Board directs the District Administrator to develop appropriate courses after determining annually whether sufficient student interest and appropriate staffing justifies offering such course(s). The District Administrator shall establish procedures to determine whether a middle school student is academically prepared to take any course approved for high school credit.

The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this District who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board as provided by State law.

Students with disabilities who properly complete the programs specified in their I.E.P. and have received the recommendation of the I.E.P. Committee may

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participate in graduation activities and may be awarded a diploma (provided the student satisfied the District's high school graduation requirements) or a certificate of attendance.

The principal of the high school shall prepare a report describing the District's policies on high school graduation standards, including a list of courses required under State law and the number of hours in each school term required to earn one (1) credit for those courses. Additionally, any change to the District's policies shall also be reported to the Department of Public Instruction or other appropriate agency after it has been approved by the Board and signed by the Board president, the District Administrator, and the principal. A student may be denied participation in graduation activities for disciplinary reasons and for non-payment of fees.

Students who have participated in interscholastic athletics, for at least one full season as defined in the student handbook, while enrolled in grades nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11) or twelve (12), and as documented by the athletic director and approved by the principal, may be excused from one-half (1/2) credit of the high school physical education requirement, provided they take an additional one-half (1/2) credit in English, social studies, mathematics, science, or health education, at their choosing.

Civics Test Requirement

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, and in accordance with 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, high school students must pass a civics test comprised of 100 questions at some time during their high school years in order to graduate.

These questions are required to be identical to the 100 questions that may be asked of an individual during the process of applying for U.S. citizenship. In order to pass this test, the student must answer at least 60 of these questions correctly within a single administration of the 100 questions. Students are allowed to retake the test an unlimited number of times in order to achieve the passing score of 60 or better.

Students with disabilities who have an individualize education program (IEP) must complete the test but are **not** required to pass the test in order to graduate.

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A limited-English proficient student must be afforded the opportunity to take the civics test in the student's language of choice.

The civics test required also applies to a student who is seeking a general education diploma (GED) or high school equivalency diploma.

Early Graduation

The Board of Education acknowledges that some students are pursuing educational goals which include graduation from high school at an earlier date than their designated class.

Application for early graduation will be submitted to the high school principal in writing in accordance with school regulations. The principal may honor this request if all conditions for graduation are met and the student fulfills the graduation requirements.

Parents and students must meet with the Board of Education.

There will be no early release granted for any other reasons than to attend an institution of higher education or to enter military service.

The student may participate in the graduation ceremonies with his/her designated class.

115.28, 118.30, 118.33, Wis. Stats.

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