

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Common Credit Requirements for all Diplomas

Course	Number of Required Credits for all diplomas
Art Education (art, music, drama)	.5
Information and Communication Technology	.5
English	4
Mathematics	3 (Algebra 1, Part 1 and 2 or Algebra 1(H) is required.) Students must have a math experience every year
Physical Sciences	1
Biological Sciences	1
Science Experience Credit	1 (Students must earn one (1) additional Science experience credit [starting with the Class of 2027])
US and NH History	1
World Studies, history, global studies, or geography	1
Economics	.5
US and NH Government/Civics	.5 Students must pass the US Citizenship and Naturalization exam (RSA 189:11)
Physical Education	1
Health	.5
Total Common Credit Requirements	14.5/15.5 (class of 2027)

Students shall engage in learning concerning competencies in the areas of English/Language Arts and Mathematics for every year they are in high school until graduation, regardless if English/Language Arts or mathematics graduation competencies have been achieved. Such engagement may occur through integration of these graduation competencies in courses focused on content areas other than English or Mathematics as long as English or Mathematics competencies are clear expectations of the course. Those courses that support Mathematics and English competencies in other core content areas other than Mathematics and English will be identified in the Course of Studies. Such engagement shall support students to be college and career ready in Mathematics and English/Language Arts.

Academic success is measured based on a Cum Laude system.

Academic Awards for the classes of 2024, 2025, 2026

- Summa Cum Laude: 30 credits with a 3.75 – 5.00 GPA
- Magna Cum Laude: 30 credits with 3.50-3.74 GPA
- Cum Laude: 30 credits with 3.25-3.49 GPA

Academic Awards for the class of 2027

- Summa Cum Laude: 30 credits with a 3.75 – 4.00 GPA
- Magna Cum Laude: 30 credits with 3.50-3.74 GPA
- Cum Laude: 30 credits with 3.25-3.49 GPA

*NH State Scholar requirements, students must complete: all required credits to graduate in NH, in addition to completion of two of the three sciences, two credits of a world language, and an additional designated social studies course.

As part of government and civics instruction, students shall take an assessment based on the topics covered in this course to satisfy RSA 189:11.

Academic Diploma with 27 credits is the standard diploma with 14.5 (15.5 for class of 2027) common credit requirements.

Core Diploma with 20 credits is available only through an application process to the building principal. The Core Diploma meets minimum New Hampshire State requirements for high school graduation.

The Superintendent will report annually on the number of core diploma applications and the number of core diplomas granted.

Awarding of Credit

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 accordance with Policy ILBAA, Competency Assessments. Credit will be awarded only once for a specific course.

Alternative Credit Options

In some cases, credit may be earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction offered by the district schools. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation will be determined by the high school principal, and will be granted according to the provisions of Policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options.

Federal Student Aid Application

Effective for student graduating after June 30, 2023, as a requirement for receiving a high school diploma, each student who is at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, or the parent/guardian of such a student who is under 18 years of age, shall either:

1. File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the U.S. Department of Education; or
2. File a waiver on a form created by the NH Board of Education with the District indicating that the parent/guardian or, if applicable, the student, understands what FAFSA is and has chosen not to file an application.

The District shall provide to each student and, if applicable, the parent/guardian, any support or assistance necessary to comply with the requirement above.

Legal References:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(14), How Credit Can be Earned
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.14(f), Awarding of Credit for Required Subjects and Open Electives
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.27(d), Mastery of Required Competencies
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.27(m), Credits Required for Graduation
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.27(s),
RSA 189:11, II Instruction in National and State History and Government

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

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 05/09/2011 [Replaces Policy 2610]
 09/26/2016
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