

BOARD POLICY

No. 6146

6000 INSTRUCTION

6146 Graduation Requirements

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to satisfy the high school graduation requirements within Regional School District 8 Public Schools, a student must have satisfactorily completed his or her prescribed courses of study; demonstrated proficiency in basic skills identified by Regional School District 8 Board of Education (the “Board”); satisfied the legally mandated number and distribution of credits required to graduate from high school; and if graduating in 2025 and thereafter, satisfied the Free Application for Federal student Aid (“FAFSA”) requirements detailed below.

Required Coursework and Credits for Graduation

The Regional School District 8 Board conforms with state law regarding credits for graduation from high school.

Classes Graduating in 2024, 2025, and 2026

For classes graduating in 2024, 2025, and 2026, the following twenty-five (25) credits are required:

Humanities	minimum of 9 credits, including civics and the arts
	minimum 4 English, 3 Social Studies
Science, Technology, Engineering,	minimum of 9 and Math (STEM)
	minimum 3 Mathematics, 3 Science
Physical Education and Wellness	minimum of 1
Health and Safety Education	minimum of 1
World Languages	minimum of 1
Electives	minimum of 3
	minimum 1 Fine Arts or 1 Career and Technical Education
Showcase Portfolio	<u>minimum of 1</u>
	Total of 25 Credits

Classes Graduating in 2027 and Thereafter

For classes graduating in 2027 and thereafter, the following twenty-five (25) credits are required:

Humanities	minimum of 9 credits, including civics and the arts
	minimum 4 English, 3 Social Studies

Science, Technology, Engineering,	minimum of 9 and Math (STEM)
Physical Education and Wellness	minimum 3 Mathematics, 3 Science
Health and Safety Education	minimum of 1
World Languages	minimum of 1
Electives	minimum of 3
	minimum 1 Fine Arts or 1 Career and Technical Education (.5 Personal Finance*)
Showcase Portfolio	<u>minimum of 1</u>
	Total of 25 Credits

*.5 Personal Finance is required but may be used as an elective credit, or a humanities credit

A student who presents written documentation from a physician or advanced practice registered nurse stating that participation in physical education is not advisable because of the physical condition of the student shall be excused from the physical education requirement. In such a case, another subject must be substituted.

Any student who is deaf or hearing impaired may be exempted from any world language graduation requirement if his or her parent or guardian requests such exemption in writing.

A credit is defined as not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line coursework that is in accordance with Board policy, or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.

Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve inclusive, and that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards, adopted by the State Board of Education, shall satisfy the above graduation requirements, except that the Board will grant a student credit:

High school graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful demonstration of mastery of subject matter achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including, but not limited to:

- Cross-curricular graduation requirements,
- Career and technical education,
- Virtual learning,
- Work-based learning,
- Service learning,
- Dual enrollment and early college
- Courses taken in middle school, and
- Internships and student-designed independent studies;

Provided that such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards.

High school graduation credit will be granted to students for courses successfully completed in grades seven and eight so long as the primary focus of the course corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement at the high school level.

High school graduation credit will be granted to students for World Language courses successfully completed in grades seven or eight. In addition, high school graduation credit will be granted to students for World Language courses or its equivalent, as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee, through on-line coursework or upon achievement of a passing grade, as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee, in a course offered privately through a nonprofit provider.

High school graduation credit will be granted to students who pass a subject area proficiency examination identified and approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Education, regardless of the number of hours a student spent in a Region 8 Public Schools classroom learning the subject matter.

High school graduation credit will be granted to students for coursework completed during the school year or summer months at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one credit for purposes of this policy.

High school graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful completion of on-line coursework in accordance with the Board's on-line coursework policy.

Demonstration of Proficiency in Basic Skills

In addition to meeting the coursework and credit graduation requirements listed above, to graduate high school, each student must demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills.

Students may demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills described above by achieving satisfactory results on the following:

- standardized testing
- portfolio review, passing required grade 10 or 11 classes,
- any other assessment method determined by the Board or Administration.

FAFSA Requirement for Classes Graduating in 2025 and Thereafter

Students graduating in 2025 and beyond are required to have satisfied one of the following prior to graduation:

- 1) completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA");

- 2) for students without legal immigration status, completed and submitted to a public institution of higher education an application for institutional financial aid; or
- 3) completed a waiver of completion of the FAFSA and/or financial aid application, as applicable, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, signed by the student's parent or guardian, or signed by the student if the student is eighteen or older.

On and after March 15 of each school year, a principal, school counselor, teacher, or other certified educator may complete the waiver on behalf of any student who has not satisfied the above requirements if such principal, school counselor, teacher, or other certified educator affirms that they have made a good faith effort to contact the parent/guardian or student about completion of such applications.

Graduation During Period of Expulsion

A student may graduate during an expulsion period if the Board determines that the student has completed the necessary credits required for graduation.

Academic Advancement Program

Notwithstanding the graduation requirements in this policy, students shall be permitted to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the academic advancement program established by the State Board of Education.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-14n
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16b
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221a
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223a

Public Act No. 23-21, "An Act Concerning Financial Literacy Instruction"

Public Act No. 23-204, "An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget"

Public Act No. 23-167, "An Act Concerning Transparency in Education"

Adopted:	August, 2019
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