

IKF – HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION POLICY

Introduction - In order to better meet the individual needs of each student, Epping High School offers a differentiated diploma program. In addition to the standard diploma there is also a basic and honors option defined herein.

Mastery of Graduation Competencies - The District requires that all students demonstrate mastery in district (graduation) competencies included in the required subjects.

3-Year Mathematics Requirement - Per RSA 186:8 VII, high school students are required to attain competency in mathematics for each year in which he or she is in high school through graduation to ensure career and college readiness. A student may meet this requirement either by satisfactorily completing a minimum of 3 courses in mathematics or by satisfactorily completing a minimum of 2 mathematics courses and 1 non-mathematics content area course in which mathematics knowledge and skills are embedded and applied as may be approved by the School Board.

State Standard Diploma – This diploma is awarded in special circumstances and is based on the State of New Hampshire minimum requirements for a high school diploma. The approval of the School Principal and Superintendent is required to be considered for this diploma.

<u>Required Subjects</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English	4
Math (including Algebra I *)	3
Science (including Biology & Physical Science)	2
US and NH history	1
NH and government/civics 1/2	
Economics 1/2	
World History, Global Studies, or Geography 1/2	
Physical Education	1
Health	½
Fine Arts (Art/Drama/Music)	½
Information and Communication Technologies**	½
Electives	6
Total	20

* Earned through a sequential, integrated, or applied program.

** Demonstrated Proficiency

District Standard Diploma – This diploma is awarded in regular circumstances and is based on the Epping School District minimum requirements for a high school diploma.

<u>Required Subjects</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English	4
Math (including Algebra I)	3
Science (including Biology & Physical Science)	3
Social Studies (including World Cultures, Civics & US History, Economics)	3
Physical Education	1
Health	½
Fine Arts (Art/Drama/Music)	½
Computers	½
Electives	7
Total	22 ½

Honors Diploma – This diploma is awarded in special circumstances and is based on the Epping School District honors requirements for a high school diploma. Students must meet the credit requirements listed below, have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 or better, and have been enrolled in two or more honors/advanced placement courses.

<u>Required Subjects</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English	4
Math (must include Algebra I, Algebra II & Geometry)	4
Science (must include Biology & Physical Science)	3
Social Studies (must include World Cultures, Civics & US History, Economics)	3
World Languages (must be in same language)	3
Physical Education	1
Health	½
Fine Arts (Art/Drama/Music)	½
Computers	½
Electives	5 ½
Total	25

Alternative Diploma- An Alternative diploma provides students who may have ordinarily earned certificates of attendance with the option to earn a diploma. (See Policy IKFC)

Certificates Of High School Equivalency– Students may earn certificates of high school equivalency, but will not be equal to a regular high school diploma per the State of New Hampshire Department of education. Certificates of high school equivalency are subject to the approval of the High School Principal and Superintendent or designee.

Awarding Of Credit – A unit of credit or fraction thereof will 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 High School Principal, and will be granted in accordance with school district policy.

Credit will be awarded only once for a specific required course with the same content during the high school experience. Awarding of credit will be in accordance with all applicable School Board Policy.

Alternative Credit Options - In some cases, credit may be 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 and in compliance with School Board Policy.

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 subject to applicable School Board Policy.

Participation In Graduation Events – Only students receiving a high school diploma from Epping High School may participate in the high school graduation ceremony and associated events and activities. Exceptions may be made for homeschool students and foreign exchange students.

Home school students that have participated throughout their high school home school program in high school curricular, co-curricular activities, and or extra-curricular activities may attend high school graduation activities with their peers. Home school students may only participate in graduation activities one time and are subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to enrolled graduating high school seniors.

Graduation activities include activities prior to graduation ceremony, the graduation ceremony, and activities after the graduation ceremony. The school may limit the home school student's participation due to age appropriateness. Home school students do not receive an Epping School District issued certificate or diploma.

However, the parent may supply the school with a home issued certificate, which fits within the diploma cover, for presentation at the graduation ceremony. In the absence of a home issued certificate, the school may issue a notation of appreciation for participating as a homeschool student in high school activities. All presentations are made by school administrators or district officials.

Foreign exchange students may attend high school graduation activities if a member of the senior class. Foreign exchange students may only participate in graduation activities one time and are subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to enrolled graduating high school seniors. Graduation activities include activities prior to graduation ceremony, the graduation ceremony, and activities after the graduation ceremony. The school may limit the foreign exchange student's participation due to age appropriateness. Foreign exchange students do not receive an Epping School District issued certificate or diploma. However, the host family may supply the school with a home issued certificate or note, which fits within the diploma cover, for presentation at the graduation ceremony. In the absence of a host family issued certificate, the school may issue a notation of appreciation for participating as a foreign exchange student in high school activities. All presentations are made by school administrators or district officials.

Early Graduation - The Board supports early graduation as a means to earn a high school diploma. Parental involvement for students under the age of 18 is required. The High School Principal will develop early graduation procedures and communicate these procedures with students, parents, and school staff.

The High School Principal will approve early graduation requests if he/she determines that all State and District 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 will be waived and the student will be awarded a high school diploma as outlined herein.

Statutory/Regulatory/Policy/Handbook Cross References

Ed. 306.04 (a) (14) (Alternative Means Of Demonstrating Achievement Of Graduation Competencies)

Ed. 306.14 (a) (16) (Credit Earned; Tracking of Graduation Competencies)

Ed 306.04(a) (25) (Graduation Competencies)

Ed 306.04(a) (26) (Graduation Competencies)

Ed 306.141(a) (6) (Achievement of District and Graduation Competencies; Awarding Credit)

Ed. 306.27 (High School Curriculum, Credits, Graduation Requirements)

RSA 186:8 VII (Rulemaking Authority; Standards; Employee Qualifications)

Handbook (Student)

20 U.S.C. §7801 (23) - Every Student Succeeds Act (§ 8101(a)(23))

APPROVED/REVISED: December 17, 2009, August 4, 2011, March 1, 2012, May 7, 2015, October 18, 2018

PREVIOUS POLICY: September 10, 1980 “Graduation”, September 10, 1992 “Policy on Standard/Alternative Diplomas”