

The School Board awards diplomas to recognize those students who have met District-established requirements for high school graduation as set forth in this policy. The District Administrator and High School Principal(s) shall be responsible for the general supervision and management of the graduation of students under this policy. The District's general student nondiscrimination policy applies in all respects to the methods, practices, and materials used for determining the graduation status of students.

A. Attendance/Participation Requirements

One requirement of high school graduation is that the high school student, throughout his/her enrollment in the District, must have been enrolled in a class or participated in an activity approved by the Board, or enrolled in an approved alternative education program. The only exceptions to this enrollment and participation requirement are those authorized under state law and approved by the District for the individual student.

A student who has attended a high school program (or an equivalent educational program) for the equivalent of four regular school terms (i.e., the equivalent of completing grades 9 through 12) and who has satisfied all other requirements to receive a regular high school diploma does not have the option to unilaterally choose to defer his/her high school graduation date and continue to attend high school.

The District also requires a meaningful period of enrollment in the District and attendance in a District school or program in order to earn a District high school diploma. The minimum period of attendance shall generally include the full semester immediately preceding the student's graduation, during which period the student earned high school credit. An exception to this minimum period may be granted by the District Administrator in extraordinary circumstances where the District Administrator determines that (1) the reason the student did not meet the requirement was reasonably beyond the control of the student and, if under the age of 18, the student's parent or guardian; and (2) instructional staff are able to make a sufficient assessment of the student's academic performance.

B. Course Credit Requirements

The District has established standard credit requirements for high school graduation. All required credits must be earned by completing the course with a minimum passing grade while the student is enrolled in the high school grades, except that the District offers qualifying students who are in 7th or 8th grade additional

opportunities to take certain courses for credit toward high school graduation to the extent further specified in established procedures accompanying this policy.

Standard Credit Requirements for Students Granted a Diploma Beginning in the 2016-17 School Year:

- English/Writing Composition (English 9, English 10, English electives) 4 credits
- Social Studies (U.S. History, Social Studies electives, American Civics) 3 credits
- Math 3 credits
- Science 3 credits
- Physical Education 1.5 credits
- Health Education .5 credit
- Computer Literacy or Beginning Computer Programming .5 credit
- Personal Finance .5 credit

- Additional Approved Elective Credits Required for Graduation (no specific subject area) 8 credits

The minimum passing grade required for the awarding of credit for each course constitutes a recommendation of instructional staff with regard to the student's academic performance and eligibility for graduation.

Credit for a course of study that a student successfully completes outside of the District may be granted credit toward high school graduation as a transfer credit. The administration shall apply established procedures to the granting of all transfer credits that a student seeks to apply toward his/her high school graduation requirements.

Certain courses may satisfy one of the state-mandated credit requirements under an equivalency standard. Where the District approves and offers a course under a credit equivalency standard, a student may be eligible to take the course to satisfy a state-mandated credit requirement. It is the responsibility of the student to verify that he/she will be eligible to receive the specified equivalency credit toward a state-mandated credit requirement.

With District approval and if the student satisfies all requirements as set forth in a related policy, a student who has participated in a District-approved organized physical activity may substitute an additional one-half credit course offered by the District in a subject area that may or may not be required for graduation in lieu of one-half credit of the 1.5 required credits in physical education.

C. Civics Test Requirement

Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, in order to be eligible for a District high school diploma, a student must have taken and successfully completed the state-required civics test while enrolled in the high school grades in the District or, as determined by the administration, in another qualifying school or program. For students with disabilities who have an individualized education program (IEP), this requirement shall be modified or waived to the extent provided by the student's IEP and/or by applicable law.

D. Alternative Education Programs and other Accommodations for Students with Exceptional Educational Interests, Needs or Requirements

Any high school student who has satisfied each of the graduation requirements defined above shall be awarded a diploma signifying his/her graduation from high school. In addition, the District provides other routes to high school graduation, including the following:

1. A student with a disability who has not otherwise satisfied the District's high school graduation requirements shall earn his/her high school diploma if the student meets the requirements established through the student's IEP, including goals and objectives that the IEP team has determined represent a demonstration of academic proficiency that is at least equivalent to the proficiency the student would have attained if the student had satisfied the applicable minimum credit accumulation requirements defined in state law.
2. The District provides one or more Board-approved alternative education programs for high school students that provide an opportunity for the student to become eligible for high school graduation. In order to receive a District-issued high school diploma through an alternative education program, the District Administrator, High School Principal or designated program administrator must determine, in consultation with instructors who are familiar with the student's work and progress, that the student has successfully completed the program and demonstrated a level of proficiency in the subjects for which credit is required under the state's minimum graduation requirements that is equivalent to the proficiency the student would have attained if he/she had satisfied the applicable minimum credit requirements defined in state law.
3. For students with exceptional needs, interests or requirements not otherwise addressed in this section, the District may also approve, on an individualized basis, a curriculum or program modification for a high school student that provides an opportunity for the student to become eligible for high school graduation.

4. In the event that a qualified veteran, as determined under state law, requests the Board to award a high school diploma, the request shall be filed with the District Administrator and brought to the Board for review and approval.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

Section 115.28(7)(e)1	[alternative education program definition]
Section 115.915	[accommodations for school-age parents]
Section 118.13	[student nondiscrimination]
Section 118.15	[compulsory attendance; programs for at-risk students and program/curricular modifications]
Section 118.35	[gifted and talented students]
Section 118.52	[course options]
Section 118.55	[youth options program]
Section 118.153	[children at risk of not graduating from high school]
Section 118.33(1)	[high school graduation standards, including requirements and local options]
Section 118.33(1)(f)1	[required periodic review and revision of graduation requirement policy]
Section 118.33(1m)(a)	[high school graduation; civics test requirement]
Section 120.12(17)	[school board duty; payment of tuition for University of Wisconsin system courses taken by students for high school credit under certain conditions]
Section 120.13(37)	[awarding high school diplomas to veterans]
Section 121.02(1)(p)	[school district standards; graduation standards]
Chapter 115, Subchapter V	[children with disabilities]

Wisconsin Administrative Code

PI 18	[high school graduation standards]
PI 25	[children at risk plans and programs]
PI 40	[youth options program; includes requirements for awarding high school credit for courses taken under the program]

Cross References:

345.64 Physical Education Credit Option

Adoption Date: 05/04/87

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