

Sparta Area School District

Article 402 – Graduation Policy

The philosophy of the Sparta Area School District is for all students to achieve optimal learning based on high expectations and considerations of their abilities and needs. The Board recognizes that students have diverse capabilities and interests and individual patterns of growth and learning. Therefore, the Board believes that it is important that teachers have as much accurate knowledge of each student as is possible through factors and sources such as tests, observations, academic achievement, skills, portfolios, and communication with parents and guardians.

In order for a student to graduate from the Sparta Area School District, the student must complete 48 semester credits of study. Of the 48 credits, 27 are required under State Statute [ss. 118.33(1)(a)1 and 2]: 8 credits in English/Language Arts, 7 in Social Studies, 4 in Mathematics, 4 in Science, 3 in Physical Education, 1 in Health Education and 1 in Economics. In addition, the District requires 20 elective credits. Students must have been enrolled in a class or participate in a board approved activity for each class period of each day or be enrolled in an alternative education program [ss. 118.33(1)(b)].

In addition, students are required to complete at least 40 hours of service to community by the conclusion of their senior year. Students who transfer into the District after the start of their freshman year will have their required service to community hours prorated accordingly. Service to community hours are subject to the following guidelines:

1. Hours must be fulfilled outside of school hours, but may be done during lunch times.
2. Service work may not benefit the student or their residence.
3. Service work done as a member of a co-curricular organization may be counted.
4. Student may not receive compensation. If compensation is received by a co-curricular organization in return for the service work, funds must be donated to a charity and may not benefit the co-curricular organization.
5. A form is provided to document service hours and requires three signatures (student, parent/guardian, and someone on behalf of the service provided).

In addition to the credit and service to community requirement, students must meet one of the two criteria listed below.

Criteria 1. Student's Academic Performance

Students must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 1.5, based on a four point scale, or by successfully completing the goals and objectives on the Individual Education Plan (IEP), English as a Second Language Plan (ESOL), Individualized Accommodation Plan (IAP), or 504 Plan.

Criteria 2. Teacher Recommendations

Student must secure a consensus recommendation of a graduation committee. A student's graduation committee will consist of an administrator and 5 teachers, one from each of the core areas and one from a non-core class, who can attest to the student's knowledge, skill level, and achievement in classwork needed to move to either post secondary education or the

