

## **Sparta Area School District**

### Article 401 - Graduation Requirements

Candidates for graduation from Sparta High School must successfully complete at least 48 credits, 28 of which come from the requirements in English, social studies, math, science, physical education, health and economics, or complete the requirements of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Typically, semester courses that meet daily are awarded one credit. Students must carry seven credits per semester.

Requirements for graduation are:

- 7 credits of social studies
- 8 credits of English
- 4 credits of mathematics
- 4 credits of science
- 3 credits of physical education
- 1 credit of health
- 1 credit of economics
- 16 elective credits for a total of 48 credits

Successful completion of qualifying CTE courses will count towards up to 2 required math credits. Successful completion of qualifying computer science courses will also count towards up to 2 required math credits. Successful completion separate qualifying CTE courses will count towards up to 2 required science credits.

Four of the credits earned for graduation must be designated as “Technology Emphasis Credits”.

Students planning on additional training beyond high school must assume responsibility for meeting entrance requirements for the institutions being considered. Students should check these requirements periodically to make sure they have enough credits for graduation and the necessary background for entrance to the post-secondary institutions.

### **Charter Program Requirements**

Students graduating from Sparta High Point Charter School must meet the same credit requirements as Sparta High School students, however credits are earned through satisfactory completion of projects which are aligned with district and state learning standards. Specific requirements are outlined in the Sparta High Point Charter agreement.

SAILS Charter School Academy (15 to 17 year old students) requires proficiency in the five areas of workplace skills, basic skills, academic standards, life skills, and service project classes. Students will be required to earn 35 equivalent credits through

participation in seminars, project based learning, basic skills testing, and job placement experiences.

Students enrolled in the SAILS Charter 18+ Program who are within 10 credits of graduating may complete the requirements of the qualifying diploma. Students who are more than 10 credits deficient may demonstrate their competency through testing similar to GED and HSED programs. Specific requirements for the SAILS Academy and the 18+ program are outlined in the SAILS Charter Agreement and may be modified through an Individualized Education Plan.

Students enrolled in SAILS who receive or have received an HSED through the Wisconsin National Guard's Challenge Academy and for whom the Charter Governing Board determines have demonstrated a level of proficiency in the core coursework of English, social studies, math, science, physical education, health and economics, and have passed a qualifying high school graduation civics exam, will qualify for a diploma.

#### Early Graduation:

Early graduation will be granted to a student who will satisfy all graduation requirements and –presents written notification signed by the parents and student stating the reasons for the request to graduate early. A meeting with the parents, student, and counselor will be held to arrange an appropriate schedule to insure that all requirements will be met, and help in the post-secondary education planning process.

Students who opt to graduate early should receive the same consideration for scholarships as any other member of the graduating class. However, it is their responsibility for any deadlines related to scholarships, college applications, graduation fees, financial aid, senior class activities and meetings.

#### Move Before Graduation:

If a student does not meet credit requirements for graduation before moving from Sparta High School, the following criteria will be used in determining if a Sparta High School diploma will be awarded upon completion of credits from another high school:

1. The student must have completed at Sparta High School half or more the number of credits needed for graduation.
2. The student's class must have graduated.
3. Credits must have been earned at an accredited institution as accepted by Sparta High School.

4. Application must be made through the counseling department along with all official pertinent transcripts which document that the total number of credits and distribution thereof, have been earned.

### Qualifying Diploma

The Sparta Area School District offers a “Qualifying Diploma” as an alternative to those students with special needs or conditions. The “Qualifying Diploma” is a 35 semester credit diploma designed to meet the DPI requirements of the State of Wisconsin in addition to preparing a student for full employment. This diploma allows the student the opportunity to graduate from high school and receive a more enriched education than required for a High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) or a Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED).

### Credit Recovery

The Sparta Area School District will award credit for coursework completed through non-public school, accredited institutions if the student previously failed the equivalent course offered at Sparta High School. The District will not pay for student participation in private remediation or tutoring programs except under the mandates of NCLB. The Director of Instruction will review the course syllabus and requirements to ensure alignment with the District’s equivalent course.

### Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED Certificate):

A student must be 18 years old and a member of a class that has graduated in order to pursue a GED certificate from Sparta High School

### Administration of Policy

The District Administrator shall be responsible for the general supervision and management of the graduation policy. The High School Principal, if assigned the responsibility by the District Administrator, shall determine whether the student has satisfied the criteria outlined in this policy. Appeals should be directed to the District Administrator.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin Statutes 118.33 – High School Graduation Standards; 115.28(7)(e) – Alternative Education; and 115.29 (4)(a) – HSED  
2013 Wisconsin Act 63

Cross Reference: Article 403 – Grading and Assessment Policy;

Article 404 – Procedures for Senior Failures and  
Participation in Commencement Exercises;  
Administrative Rule 401 – Graduation Requirements  
High Point Charter Agreement  
SAILS Charter Agreement

Approved:

Revised:

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