

MSAD #37 POLICY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To be awarded a high school diploma from Narraguagus High School, students will need to demonstrate proficiency in the eight content areas identified in Maine’s system of Learning Results, meet the cross-content performance standards set forth in the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results, and fulfill all credit requirements and any additional graduation requirements set by the School Committee.

The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents prior to the start of their ninth-grade school year. A copy of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in every edition of the high school student handbook.

The SAD #37 School Board has approved the following schedule of minimum requirements for graduation, which includes minimum requirements specified by the State of Maine. The School Committee is aware that current law and regulations are subject to change.

The School Committee expects the Superintendent/designee to inform students and parents as soon as practicable of any additional State-imposed standards that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma.

I. DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Instruction in the following subjects must be provided in separate or integrated study programs, and students must complete the following minimum requirements for a high school diploma.

State Requirements: (Chapter 127 of Maine Department of Education Rules)

A total of at least 16 credits shall be required for the awarding of a diploma.
The following credits and skills shall be required:

- English/Language Arts - Four credits or the equivalent in standards achievement
- Fine Arts – One credit or the equivalent in standards achievement
- Mathematics – Two credits or the equivalent in standards achievement
- Science and Technology - Two credits in science instruction shall be required including one credit of laboratory study or the equivalent in standards achievement.
- Social Studies/History – Two credits shall be required, to include American History and Government, Civics, and Personal Finance or the equivalent in standards achievement.

In order to graduate from Narraguagus High School, students must successfully complete 22 credits, including the 11 (eleven) credits (listed above) specified by Maine Law.

The following is a list of Narraguagus High School diploma requirements:

- A. English/Language Arts – Four Credits or the equivalent in standards achievement
- B. Fine Arts – One Credit or the equivalent in standards achievement
- C. Health – One credit or the equivalent in standards achievement
- D. Physical Education – Two credits or the equivalent in standards achievement
- E. Mathematics – Four Credits or the equivalent in standards achievement
- F. Science and Technology – 3 Credits or the equivalent in standards achievement
- G. Social Studies/History – Three credits, one of which will be United States History or the equivalent in standards achievement

The remaining credits may be selected by the student based on his/her interest, satisfaction of course prerequisites, and requirements of the field that he/she plans to enter upon graduation.

The State, as well as Narraguagus High School, also requires that students demonstrate skills for computer literacy, proficiency, and performance.

Narraguagus High School also requires that a student complete a documented twenty (20) hours of Community Service during grades 9-12. For transfer students, this requirement will be prorated at the rate of five (5) hours per year of attendance at Narraguagus High School.

In order for a student to participate in graduation the student must have successfully completed all of the above-listed requirements.

Narraguagus High School’s educational program will be designed to enable students to satisfy graduation requirements in four years through a sequence of educational (learning) experiences/courses providing opportunities to gain and demonstrate proficiency and earn credits in all of the content areas of the Learning Results and in the cross-content Guiding Principles of the Learning Results.

Students following a traditional pathway must be enrolled in the equivalent of six full year learning experiences/courses or integrated equivalents in each of their high school years.

Students may demonstrate achievement of the standards through multiple pathways. Achievement may be demonstrated by evidence documented by course work (credit) and learning experiences using multiple measures as approved and determined by the MSAD #37 administration.

Some of these pathways may include:

- . Early college/concurrent enrollment courses
- . Career and technical education programming
- . Online/virtual learning
- . Apprenticeships, internships and/or field work

- . Community service
- . Exchange programs
- . Independent study
- . Alternative education/“At Risk” programming
- . Adult education

Each pathway must provide a quality learning experience comparable in rigor to the school unit’s own educational experience (course) offerings.

In order to pursue one or more of the multiple/alternative pathways, a student must have a Personal Learning Plan detailing how the pathway will provide exposure to the content standards of the Learning Results and/or the Guiding Principles and how the student will demonstrate proficiency in meeting the standards. The personal learning plan must be approved by the Guidance Counselor, Department Chair and Principal.

INFORMING STUDENTS AND PARENTS

The Superintendent/designee will inform students and parents as soon as practicable of any State-imposed proficiency standards/requirements that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma, but prior to the start of the class cohort’s 9th grade school year.

II. **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF A DIPLOMA FROM NARRAGUAGUS HIGH SCHOOL**

This section applies to all students, in all graduation classes.

A. Transfer Students

For students who transfer to Narraguagus High School from another state or from an educational program that is not required to be aligned with the content standards of the system of Learning Results, the Narraguagus High School Principal shall determine the value of the student’s prior educational experience towards meeting graduation requirements. The student will be required to demonstrate proficiency of the graduation requirements.

B. Home-schooled Students

For previously home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Narraguagus High School, the Principal shall determine the value of the student’s prior educational experience toward meeting graduation credit requirements. The student will be required to demonstrate proficiency of the graduation standards.

C. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

A student who leaves Narraguagus High School for early admission to an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education may, upon satisfactory

completion of the freshman year, be awarded a high school diploma, provided that the student has notified the principal at the time of the early admission.

D. Early Awarding of Diplomas

A student who has requested to graduate early and has met the State's and the School Committee's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school will be awarded a diploma.

E. Extended Study

Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma if they have not reached the age of 20 at the start of the school year. Students eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other resources suitable to young learners. Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan.

F. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must complete all School Committee requirements for a high school diploma and be enrolled as a full-time student of Narraguagus High School during their senior year in order to participate in graduation exercises.

G. Honors and Awards at Graduation

In order to be eligible for honors or awards based wholly or in part on academic achievement (e.g., valedictorian, salutatorian, class speaker, "Top 10"), a student must have been enrolled full time for the entire school year at Narraguagus High School during the year preceding graduation. Students who do not meet this enrollment requirement will not be "ranked" for the purpose of determining eligibility for graduation honors, awards, or scholarships.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 4502(8), 4722, 6209
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: IHCDA – Post-Secondary Enrollment Options

Adopted: December 19, 1991
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