

Policy: IKF

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

With the implementation of Maine's system of Learning Results, local assessment systems to measure student progress toward achievement of the content standards of the Learning Results, the phasing in of standards-based diploma requirements, and heightened community expectations for student learning, the Board recognizes the need to establish minimum standards for the awarding of a high school diploma that are consistent with State law and regulations and with community educational values and expectations.

Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program to meet that goal.

The Superintendent, through the high school Building Principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents or legal guardians 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 Board has approved this schedule of minimum requirements for graduation.

I. STUDENTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO BE AWARDED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

- A. The student must successfully complete a minimum of 22 (twenty-two) credits. Of these credits, 12 1/2 (twelve and one-half) must be those specified by the State of Maine and 17 must be those specified by the District. They are:
 1. English/language arts: 4 credits (four credits required by the State of Maine),
 2. Mathematics: 3 credits (2 credits required by the State of Maine),
 3. Social studies and history: 3 credits including 1 1/2 credits in US History (2 credits, including one credit of US History and Government required by the State of Maine),
 4. Science: 3 credits including one credit in a science class with a designated lab (two credits, including at least one year of laboratory study required by the State of Maine),

5. Fine arts, which may include art, music, or drama: 1 credit (one credit required by the State of Maine),
 6. Health: 1/2 credit (1/2 credit required by the State of Maine),
 7. Physical education: 1 credit, (one credit required by the State of Maine),
- B. Great Expectations Senior Project
- C. Students are required to participate in the state required SAT test administered during their 11th grade year, unless excused by the building principal.
- D. The State also requires that students demonstrate computer skills according to the District's standards for computer literacy, proficiency, and performance
- E. Those students enrolled in the Region 9 program need two (2) credits each in math, science, and social studies for graduation; all other state requirements must be met.
- F. The remaining credits may be selected by the student based upon the student's interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.

A student who is deficient in these requirements may meet these requirements through a post-secondary course, a State-approved adult education course, a State-approved summer school program, or a distance learning or correspondence course approved by the Building Principal in advance of registration. The student may participate in the next regular graduation ceremony following successful completion of the requirements.

A student who leaves Telstar High School to attend 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 Building Principal at the time of the admission to the post-secondary institution.

II. FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING AT THE END OF THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR BUT PRIOR TO THE START OF THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR INITIAL STANDARDS-BASED DIPLOMA

Beginning with the Class of 2008, diplomas will be awarded only to students who have met the content standards of the system of Learning Results in English/language arts, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, and health and physical

education, as measured by the Districts Local Assessment System. In addition to the content standards described above, the student must meet the requirements outlined in section I.

III. FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING AT THE END OF THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR AND THEREAFTER STANDARDS-BASED DIPLOMA

Beginning with the Class of 2010, diplomas will be awarded only to students who have met the content standards of all content areas of the system of Learning Results, as measured by the District's Local Assessment System. These content areas are: English/language arts, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, health and physical education, career preparation, modern and classical languages, and visual and performing arts.

NOTE: Ch. 127 7.01(B)(2)(c) (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules) states that career preparation, modern and classical languages, and the standards for visual and performing arts not previously met will become diploma requirements for all students effective with the Class of 2010, contingent upon funding of Essential Programs and Services (EPS) or its equivalent. However, whether EPS is funded or not, 20-A M.R.S.A. 4722(2) still requires one fine arts credit. This is reflected in Section III (A)(5) of this policy.

In addition to the content standards described above, the student must meet the requirements outlined in Section I.

IV. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF STANDARDS-BASED DIPLOMAS

A. Transfer Students: For students who transfer to Telstar High School from another state or from an educational program that is not required to meet the content standards of the system of Learning Results, the Telstar High School Building Principal shall determine the transferability of the students prior educational experience towards achieving the standards in a manner consistent with the Districts Local Assessment System and applicable Board policies.

B. Students Receiving Special Education Services: Students, who successfully meet the content standards of the Learning Results, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP), will be awarded diplomas.

C. Early Awarding of Diplomas: A student who has met the States and the Boards diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma.

D. 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 students Individualized Education Plan.

E. Participation in Graduation Ceremony: A student must complete all requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. 4722
Ch. 127 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)

Cross Reference:
ILA – Student Assessment

Adopted: February 28,, 2005
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