

**IKF**

## **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Rochester School Board includes different options for high school graduation. The following options are:

- ◆ Spaulding High School Diploma
- ◆ Spaulding High School Diploma, with honors distinction
- ◆ State of New Hampshire 20 Credit Diploma
- ◆ State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma
- ◆ Bud Carlson Academy Diploma
- ◆ Rochester Adult Basic Education Diploma

### **Spaulding High School Diploma and Honors with Distinction Diploma**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Credit</b>
English	4 credits
Math	3 credits, including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential integrated, or applied program
US and NH History	1 credit
US and NH government/civics	½ credit
World history, global studies, or geography	½ credit
Economics, including personal finance	½ credit
Physical sciences	1 credit
Biological sciences	1 credit
Science elective	1 credit
Arts education	½ credit
Physical education	1 credit
Health education	½ credit
Information and communications technologies	½ credit or demonstrated competency
Open electives	11 credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>26 credits</b>

The Spaulding High School Diploma is granted to Spaulding High School students who earn a minimum of 26 credits as outlined in the table above.

The Spaulding High School Honors Diploma requires a minimum of 75% of the credits completed at the CP level or higher and a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The normal program of instruction for seniors may be modified to make adequate preparations for graduation exercises.

## State of New Hampshire 20 Credit Diploma

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Credit</b>
English	4 credits
Math	3 credits, including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential integrated, or applied program
US and NH History	1 credit
US and NH Government/Civics	½ credit
Economics, including personal finance	½ credit
World history, global studies, or geography	½ credit
Physical science	1 credit
Biological science	1 credit
Arts education	½ credit
Physical education	1 credit
Health education	½ credit
Information and communication technologies	½ credit
Open electives	6 credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 credits</b>

The State of New Hampshire 20 Credit Diploma is granted to pre-approved Spaulding High School students, foreign exchange students, and home education students who earn a minimum of 20 credits as outlined in the table above. A student meeting will be set up by the guidance department to determine diploma eligibility. Spaulding High School students awarded State of New Hampshire 20 Credit Diploma shall be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies and events.

The Board reserves the right to require additional academic requirements necessary to graduate from high school.

## State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma

The State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma is a graduation option for students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in the State's alternate assessment. The State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma, aligned to New Hampshire's alternate academic achievement standards, is not equivalent to a regular high school diploma and shall not preclude the student from working towards meeting the requirements for a regular high school diploma.

The decision to award a State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma resides with the student's IEP team which shall include the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). This diploma option is not available to students with Section 504 plans or students without an IEP. Spaulding High School students awarded a State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma shall be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies and events.

## The Bud Carlson Academy Diploma

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Credit</b>
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits, including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential integrated, or applied program
US and NH History	1 credit
US and NH Government/Civics	½ credit
Economics, including personal finance	½ credit
World history, global studies, or geography	½ credit
Physical science	1 credit
Biological science	1 credit
Information and communication technologies	½ credit
Arts education	½ credit
Physical education	1 credit
Health education	½ credit
Electives	6 credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 Credits</b>

The Bud Carlson Academy 20 Credit Diploma is granted to Bud Carlson Academy students who earn a minimum of 20 credits as outlined in the table above. Bud Carlson Academy diploma recipients shall be eligible to participate in Bud Carlson graduation ceremonies and events.

## **The Adult High School Diploma**

The Adult High School Diploma shall be awarded to students enrolled in the Rochester Community Education Program who successfully complete the minimum required units for graduation as outlined in NH Ed 702. A student presently enrolled in a regular high school program may transfer to the adult high school program with written recommendation of the student's principal, as well as written consent of the student's parent or guardian if the student has not attained the age of majority. The student shall be at least 16 years of age to enroll in an adult high school program. Each student shall successfully complete a minimum program of 20 units for graduation including 11 ½ required course units and 8 ½ elective units. A student shall successfully complete at least one adult high school class before the student is eligible to receive a high school diploma or an adult high school diploma. Rochester Community Education Diploma recipients shall be eligible to participate in Rochester Community Education graduation ceremonies and events.

## **Graduation Certificate**

The Certificate of Achievement and Certificate of Attendance are graduation alternatives granted to skill-level students, foreign exchange students, and home education students who meet the criteria for successful completion of their respective program requirements. Certificates of Completion and Certificates of Attendance are not equivalent to a regular high school diploma.

Each skills level student in line for a Graduation Certificate will have an IEP meeting set up by the Special Education Department to acknowledge certificate eligibility as it meets the needs of the student. This meeting will give the parent, student and involved personnel the opportunity to make the necessary changes to a graduation program as appropriate.

## **Awarding of Credit**

A unit of credit or fraction thereof shall be given upon satisfactory completion of a course or learning experience in compliance with the district-specified curriculum and assessment standards. In some cases, course credit may also be awarded based on demonstrated mastery of the required competencies for the course. Assessment of mastery will be the responsibility of the building principal, and will be in accordance with Policy ILBAA, Competency Assessments. Credit will be awarded only once for a specific required course with the same content during the secondary school experience.

## **Alternative Credit Options**

In some cases, credit may be earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom based instruction offered by the district schools. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation will be determined by the high school principal, and will be granted according to the provisions of Policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options and other applicable Board policies.

## **Maximum Annual Credits**

The maximum number of credits a student may earn in one year is 10 credits at Spaulding High School and the Bud Carlson Academy. A student has a right to appeal this requirement to the Instruction Committee and the Board.

The normal program of instruction for seniors may be modified to make adequate preparations for graduation exercises.

- a. It is expected that graduation preparations will not dominate the operation of the school during the last few days of the school year.
- b. If local conditions necessitate the holding of graduation exercises prior to the completion of the standard school year, in no case shall graduation be scheduled prior to the 175th day of instruction. No school day shall be modified for preparation activities prior to the 175th day.
- c. It is understood that modifications in the schedule for the last few days of school shall apply only to seniors. All other classes shall complete 180 days of instruction and maintain their normal class schedules.

## **United States Government and Civics Assessment**

The district will develop a competency assessment of United States government and civics, consistent with pertinent and applicable law. This assessment will be administered to students as part of the high school course in history and government of the United States and New Hampshire. Students who attain a passing grade on the competency assessment shall be eligible for a certificate issued by the school district. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) test may be used to satisfy the requirement of this paragraph.

**Adoption Date:** April 8, 1993

Amended: July 13, 2006, July 10, 2008, February 13, 2020, July 8, 2021

### **Legal Reference**

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Ed 306 Minimum Standards for Public School Approval*  
*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Ed 700 Adult High School, Basic Education Program and High School Equivalency Program*  
*RSA 189:11, Instruction in National and State History and Government*