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# STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**POLICY TITLE: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

**POLICY NUMBER: #6146**

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## **Graduation Requirements**

Graduation from Stratford Public Schools implies (1) that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study for the several grade levels in accordance with their respective abilities to achieve, (2) that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and satisfactorily demonstrated the district's performance standards established by the faculty and approved by the Board of Education, and (3) that they have fulfilled the legally mandated number and distribution of credits.

The High School Principals shall submit to the Board of Education through the Superintendent their detailed requirements and standards to agree with the goals of our schools as adopted by the Board of Education. It is expected that the faculty will apply measures of achievement to provide evidence that each student has progressed far enough toward school goals to warrant graduation according to the terms of paragraph #1 above.

The Board of Education, in recognition of its responsibility for the education of all youths in the school system, including those who do not successfully complete the assessment criteria listed above, and those who drop out of school, shall make available to all the school district's youths a course of study or alternative programs for meeting standards that will enable them to acquire a high school diploma.

Per statute (C.G.S. 221a(f)) the determination of eligible credits is at the discretion of the Board of Education, provided the primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter of the specified course requirements. The Board may permit a student to graduate during a period of expulsion if the Board determines the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits. The graduation requirements shall apply to any student requiring special education except when the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) determines the requirement not to be appropriate.

## **Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy**

Commencing with the graduating class of 2018, and for each graduating class thereafter, the Board of Education, utilizing criteria established by the State Board of Education, may/shall affix the "Connecticut of Biliteracy" to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in English and one or more foreign languages. "Foreign language" means a world language other than English and includes American Sign Language and any other language spoken by a federally recognized Native American tribe. The Board of Education shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student received the "Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy".

## **Pipeline for Connecticut's Future Program**

The Board of Education may establish a Pipeline for Connecticut's Future Program. Under the program, the Board shall partner with one or more local businesses to offer on-site training and course credit to District students.

(cf. 5121 - Examination/Grading/Rating

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

(cf. 6146.2- Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations)

(cf. 6172.6- Virtual/On-line Courses)

#### **Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes**

**10-5 State high school diploma" "honors diploma." Payment of fees; exceptions. (as amended by PA 17-29)**

**10-5c Board examination series pilot program. Issuance of certificate (as amended by P.A. 13-247 and P.A. 15-215)**

**10-14n State-wide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results. (as amended by Section 115 of PA 14-217)**

**10-16(l) Graduation exercises. (as amended by P.A. 96-108, An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates)**

**10-221a High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut, P.A. 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform, P.A. 13-57, An Act Concerning Honorary Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans, P.A. 13-122, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes, P.A. 13-247, Budget Implementer Bill, P.A. 15-237 An Act Concerning High School Graduation and P.A. 16-4(SS), section 310), PA 17-42, An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements and PA 17-29, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Seal of Biliteracy)**

**10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by PA 01-166)**

**P.A. 13-108, An Act Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools.**

**P.A. 13-247, An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget.**

**P.A. 15-237 An Act Concerning High School Graduation**

**P.A. 17-42 An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements**

**Policy adopted: June 25, 2018**

## Guidelines

Commencing with the graduating class of 2023 (beginning with the incoming class of 2019-2020) and for each graduating class thereafter, in order to graduate and be granted a diploma students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits, including not fewer than (1) nine credits in the humanities, including Civics, American History, and the arts; (2) nine credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (including Financial Literacy); (3) one credit in physical education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and safety education; (5) one credit in world languages and (6) a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment.

A student shall be excused from the physical education requirement upon presentation of a certificate from a physician or advanced practice registered nurse indicating that participation in physical education is medically contradicted because of the student's physical condition. The credit for physical education may be fulfilled by an elective.

In addition, also beginning with the graduating class of **2023**, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students beginning in grade seven (**2017-2018** school year). Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements, previously listed if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, (3) allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, and that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards, adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-4, shall satisfy the graduation requirements set forth in this section, except that a local or regional board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting the high school graduation requirements upon the successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter content described in this section achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, work-based learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college, courses taken in middle school, internships and student-designed independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards; (2) toward meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (3) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of a world language course (a) in grade six, seven or eight, (b) through on-line coursework, or (c) offered privately through a nonprofit provider, provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination prescribed, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education and such credits do not exceed four; (4) toward meeting the high school graduation Senate Bill No. 945 Public Act No. 21-144 11 of 13 requirement upon achievement of a passing grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and approved, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education, regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a public school classroom learning such subject matter;

(5) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of coursework during the school year or summer months at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for purposes of this section; or (6) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of on-line coursework, provided the local or regional board of education has adopted a policy (6172.6, “Virtual/Online Courses) in accordance with this subdivision for the granting of credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall ensure, at a minimum, that (a) the workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting, (b) the content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate, (c) the course engages students and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (d) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and systematic, and (e) the courses are (i) taught by teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited.

The Board shall create a student success plan for each enrolled student, beginning in grade six. Such plan shall include a students' career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive. On or after July 1, 2021, student success plans may be created, if possible, in collaboration with each student and the student's parent or guardian. On or after July 1, 2022, a student success plan must, to the extent it does not conflict with the career choices of the student or the student's parent or guardian, include an academic plan that is in compliance with the challenging curriculum policy that boards must adopt pursuant to Section 5 of the Act as described above.

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS—Class of 2022 only**

To graduate from the Stratford Public Schools a student must have earned a minimum of 21 credits and must have met the credit distribution requirements.

#### **CREDIT DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT**

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Number of Credits</b>
<b>English</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Health &amp; Physical Education</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Arts or Vocational Education**</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Personal Finance 1</b>	<b>0.5</b>

<b>Electives</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>21</b>

\*\*Courses in Art, Annual Writing, Creative Writing, Business Education, Family and Consumer Science, Technology Education, Computers, Theater Arts and Vocal Production, Journalism, and Music satisfy this requirement

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: Starting with the Class of 2023**

Commencing with classes **graduating in 2023**, and for each graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (1) Nine credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts; (2) nine credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; (3) one credit in physical education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and safety education, as described in section 10-16b; (5) one credit in world languages, subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of this section; (6) a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment and (7) three elective credits.

#### **Credit Distribution Requirement--Starting with the Class of 2023**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Subjects (if specified)</b>	<b>Credit Requirement</b>
<b>HUMANITIES</b>		<b>9 Total</b>
	English	4
	Social Studies (1 World History, 1 US History, .5 Civics, .5 Elective)	3
	Arts	1
	Elective in Humanities*	1
<b>STEM</b>		<b>9 Total</b>
	Science	3
	Math	3
	Personal Finance	0.5
	Elective in STEM**	2.5
<b>PE and WELLNESS</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>HEALTH and SAFETY</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>WORLD LANGUAGE</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>MASTERY-BASED ASSESSMENT (CAPSTONE)</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES</b>		<b>3</b>

		<b>25 Total Credits</b>
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\*Humanities Elective Options: The following courses can count toward the Humanities elective credit if not taken to fulfill the required credits in English, Social Studies, Arts or Career and Technology Education: Advanced Art, Advanced Theatre Arts & Vocal Production, Advertising Art/Graphic Design, African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies, Annual Writing 1/2/3H, AP Language & Composition, AP Literature & Composition, AP Music Theory, AP Psychology, AP Studio Art, Business Law, Ceramics, Child Development 1 & 2, Concert Band, Concert Choir, Conversations on Race, Crafts I, Crafts II, Creative Writing 1/2/3/4H, Design, Digital Art 1 & 2, Digital Text & Tools for Learning, Drawing, Economics, Fine Art I, Fine Art II, Independent Study in Art, International Relations, Introduction to Early Childhood Education 1 & 2, Introduction to the Guitar, Introduction to Individual and Family Development, Introduction to the Piano, Journalism 1/2/3/4H, Literacy Workshop, Music Technology, Music Theory, Photography, Psychology, Sectional Band, Select Choir, Sculpture, Sociology, String Orchestra, Teachers & Schools & Society, Theatre Arts and Vocal Production, Wind Ensemble Honors, World Language Courses (French, Latin, and Spanish) AFTER fulfilling the 1 credit World Language requirement.

\*\*STEM Elective Options: Any course taken in mathematics or science (beyond the three credit requirements for each subject) can be counted as a STEM elective. In addition, the following Career and Technology Education courses also qualify: Accounting 1 & 2, Advanced Manufacturing Technology, Advanced Transportation Technology, Advanced Video Production, Allied Health Exploration, AP Mobile Computer Science Principles, Bakeshop 1 & 2, Business Management & Entrepreneurship, Career Development, Civil Engineering & Architecture, Computer-Aided Drafting and Design, Culinary Assistant, Digital Electronics, Emergency Medicine, Engineering Design & Development, Exploring Culinary Arts 1 & 2, Honors Business and Finance, Introduction to Culinary Arts, Introduction to Engineering Design, Introduction to Manufacturing Technology, Introduction to Transportation Technology, Introduction to Video Game Design, Manufacturing Technology, Medical Diagnostics, Medical Terminology, Microsoft Office/Computer Applications, Personal Finance 1, Personal Finance 2: Investing Your Money, Pre-Nursing, Principles of Engineering Honors, Rehabilitation Science and Sports Medicine, Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Technology Education Independent Study, Transportation Technology 1 & 2, Video Game Design 1 & 2 Honors, Video Production 1 & 2, Web Design/E-Commerce 1 & 2.

### **HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT REQUIREMENT for the CLASS 2023 and Those Thereafter**

<b>Promotion To:</b>	<b>Full Promotion</b>	<b>Deficient but Promoted</b>	<b>Retained</b>
Grade 10	6 Credits	5 Credits	Below 5 Credits
Grade 11	12 Credits	11 Credits	Below 11 Credits
Grade 12	18 Credits	17 Credits	Below 17 Credits
Graduation	25 Credits		