

High School Graduation Requirements

In order to satisfy the high school graduation requirements within Regional School District 17 Public Schools, a student must have satisfactorily completed his or her prescribed courses of study, demonstrated proficiency in basic skills identified by the Regional School District 17 Board of Education and satisfied the legally mandated number and distribution of credits required to graduate from high school.

Required Coursework and Credits for Graduation

The Regional School District 17 Board of Education conforms to state law regarding credits for graduation from high school.

Classes Graduating in 2018 to 2022

For classes graduating in 2018 to 2022, the following **24 credits** are required:

English	4 Credits
Mathematics	3 Credits
Science	3 Credits
Physical Education	1 Credits
Social Studies	3 Credits (<i>must include at least .5 credits in civics and American Government</i>)
Arts or Vocational Education	2 Credits
Other Electives	7 Credits
Community Service	30 Hours

Classes Graduating in 2023 and Thereafter

For classes graduating in 2023 and thereafter, the following **25 credits** are required:

Humanities	9 Credits
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)	9 Credits
Physical Education and Wellness	1 Credit
Health and Safety Education	1 Credit

World Languages	1 Credit
Mastery-Based Diploma	1 Credit
Electives	3 Credits
Community Services	30 Hours

**** Required courses in each area are detailed in the High School Handbook**

A student who presents written documentation from a physician or advanced practice registered nurse stating that participation in physical education is not advisable because of the physical condition of the student, shall be excused from the physical education requirement. In such a case, another subject must be substituted.

Any student who is deaf or hearing impaired may be exempted from any world language graduation requirement if his or her parent or guardian requests such exemption in writing.

A credit is defined as not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line coursework that is in accordance with Board policy, or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.

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, shall satisfy the above graduation requirements, except that the Board will grant a student credit.

High school graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful demonstration of mastery of subject matter 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
- Designated Courses taken in middle school, and
- Internships and student-designed independent studies;

Provided that such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards.

Demonstration of Proficiency in Basic Skills

In addition to meeting the coursework and credit graduation requirements listed above, to graduate high school, each student must demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills.

1. Literacy Basic Skills Standard

- a. Achieve the College and Career Readiness Benchmark for the PSAT/NMSQT taken in the junior year OR
- b. Achieve the College and Career Readiness Benchmark for the SAT OR
- c. Portfolio review and assessment of student work

2. Mathematics Basic Skills Standard

- a. Achieve the College and Career Readiness Benchmark for the PSAT/NMSQT taken in the junior year OR
- b. Achieve the College and Career Readiness Benchmark for the SAT OR
- c. Portfolio review and assessment of student work

3. Science Basic Skills Standard

- a. Achieve a score of 3 or better on the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) exam taken in the junior year
- b. Portfolio review and assessment of student work

Graduation During Period of Expulsion

A student may graduate during an expulsion period if the Board determines that the student has completed the necessary credits required for graduation.

Academic Advancement Program

Notwithstanding the graduation requirements in this policy, students shall be permitted to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the academic advancement program established by the State Board of Education.

Legal References:

Public Act 17-42, An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-5c

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-14n

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16b

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221a

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223a

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