

M.S.A.D. #12 POLICY 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 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 Board has approved this schedule of minimum requirements for graduation.

The class of 2005, as a minimum for graduation from high school, the prospective graduate must have completed successfully a total of twenty-two (22) credits at the secondary level (grades 9 through 12) .

The class of 2006, as a minimum for graduation from high school, the prospective graduate must have completed successfully a total of twenty-three (23) credits at the secondary level (grades 9 through 12) .

The class of 2007, as a minimum for graduation from high school, the prospective graduate must have completed successfully a total of twenty-four (24) credits at the secondary level (grades 9 through 12) .

For the classes of **2005** and **2006**

Of those credits, the following must be included:

3 credits of Social Science:

- 1 U.S. History
- 1 American Government
- 1 Contemporary History

2 credits of Mathematics

1 credit of Computer Science

2 credits of Physical Education/Health/First Aide

2 credits in Science (1/2 year lab to be included)

*Science courses which include lab components (i.e. biology, chemistry, physics) will earn 1.5 credits per course

4 credits of English

The remaining required credits will be selected from elective courses

*Maine studies (if not taken in grade 8) must be taken in addition

**Students planning to gain admission into a 4 year college are urged to take at least 2 years of a foreign language

For the classes of **2007** and **2008**

Of those credits, the following must be included:

4 credits of Social Science:

- 1 U.S. History
- 1 American Government
- 1 Contemporary History
- 1 Elective History

3 credits of Mathematics including

- 1 Algebra I
- 1 Geometry
- 1 Algebra II

1 credit of Computer Science

1 credit of Fine Arts

2 credits of Physical Education/Health/First Aide

3 credits in Science (1/2 year lab to be included)

* A.P. Biology and A.P. Chemistry courses will earn 2.0 credits per course

4 credits of English

*The remaining required credits will be selected from elective courses

*Maine studies (if not taken in grade 8) must be taken in addition

**Students planning to gain admission into a 4 year college are urged to take at least 2 years of a foreign language.

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 school principal in advance of registration. The student may participate in the next regular graduation ceremony following successful completion of the requirements.

Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year (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 school unit's Local Assessment System.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year (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 school unit'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.

A. Transfer Students

For students who transfer to Forest Hills 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 school principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience towards achieving the standards in a manner consistent with the school unit's Local Assessment System and applicable Board policies.

B. Home-schooled Students

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Forest Hills High School, the High School principal shall determine the value of the student's prior

educational experience toward achieving the content standards of the Learning Results in a manner consistent with the school unit's Local Assessment System and applicable Board policies.

C. 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.

D. Early Awarding of Diplomas

A student who has met the State's and the Board's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma.

E. Certificate of Attendance

The Board may provide a student who leaves school without meeting the standards of the Learning Results with a Certificate of Attendance, provided that the student has attended for four years as a full-time student. This certificate acknowledges participation in the educational program for a specific period of time.

F. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

At the Superintendent's discretion, a student who leaves Forest Hills 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, although he/she may not have met all diploma requirements.

G. 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.

H. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

Students who have completed all State and Board requirements for a high school diploma or have met the Board's requirements for a Certificate of Attendance may participate in graduation exercises.

I. 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 at Forest Hills 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 M.R.S.A. § 4722
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

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