

Administrative Procedures for Graduation Requirements (Attachment for Policy No. 217)

Purpose:

The procedures ensure consistency across the District for graduation requirements for students in The School District of Philadelphia.

Definitions:

For graduation from high school, students must meet all subject and credit requirements established by state law and must satisfy all policies and regulations established by the Board.

Procedures:

A student shall graduate if the following requirements are met:

- Successfully completes a Multidisciplinary Project or a Service Learning Project
- Earns a total of 23.5 credits, which include:
 - 4 in English
 - 3 in Mathematics
 - 3 in Science
 - 3 in Social Studies
 - 1 in African American History
 - 2 in World Language
 - 2 in Arts and Humanities
 - 1 in Physical Education
 - 0.5 in Health
 - 4 in Electives

Electives are choices courses selected by students as an optional course of study. One elective must be a college preparatory Mathematics or Science course, an International Baccalaureate (IB) course, an Advanced Placement (AP) course, or a terminal Career Technical Education (CTE) course. Schools or programs may predetermine specific subject area elective credits.

Scheduling errors and/or missing transfer transcripts do not exempt a student from completely fulfilling District graduation requirements. The Chief of Schools must approve any substitutions for requirements in writing.

All children with disabilities in Pennsylvania have the right to earn a regular high school diploma. Children can earn a diploma by completing the same courses and earning the same number of credits as regular education children. Or, a high school diploma can be awarded to a child with a disability who completes the special education program developed by the Individual Education Plan (IEP) Team, ~~graduating~~ graduating graduation by IEP goals.

Beginning in the 2021-22 School Year:

The statewide graduation requirement will apply, in addition to locally-established policies and requirements. Keystone Exams are the statewide assessment that Pennsylvania uses to comply with accountability requirements in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Students will meet the statewide graduation requirement by satisfying one of the following:

- Scoring proficient or advanced on each Keystone Exam - Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.
- Earning a satisfactory composite score on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams and performance must include at least 1 Proficient and 2 Basic. The passing composite score will be available in August 2019.
- Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and satisfactorily complete one of the following: an alternative assessment (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB, Gold Level ACT WorkKeys), advanced coursework (AP, IB, concurrent enrollment courses), pre-apprenticeship, or acceptance in a 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education for college-level coursework.
- Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and pass the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) or the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) assessment in an approved Career and Technical Education concentration.
- Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and demonstrate readiness for postsecondary engagement through three pieces of evidence from the student's career portfolio aligned to student goals and career plan. Examples of evidence will include ACT WorkKeys, SAT Subject tests, AP, IB and concurrent coursework, higher education acceptance, community learning project, completion of an internship, externship or co-op or full-time employment.

Mandatory Regulatory Procedures:

For graduation from high school, student must meet or exceed all subject, credit attainment, and assessment requirements established by state law and must satisfy all policies and regulations established by the District and the School Board. Such requirements shall include the successful completion of courses of study for a four year high school approved by the Board and which meet the standards set by State laws and regulations.

A certificate of achievement in specially designated official programs of study may be awarded upon the approval of the Superintendent.

A student who has completed the requirements for graduation may not be denied a diploma for disciplinary purposes.

Graduation requirements must be posted on the Board of Education's website ([here](#)) and be publicly accessible.

Maintenance Schedule:

Satisfaction of graduation requirements will be assessed annually for eligible students attending District high schools and approved by the high school principal.

Legal References:

State School Code Sections 1504(c); 1611; 1613; Pa. SB 1095