

POLICY

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
HIGH POINT REGIONAL**

NO. 5460

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HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The Board of Education shall recognize the successful completion of the secondary school instructional program by the award of a state-endorsed diploma certifying that the pupil has met all state and local requirements for high school graduation. The Board will annually certify to the County Superintendent that each pupil who has been awarded a diploma has met the requirements for graduation.

A. Curriculum Requirements

In order to qualify for a diploma, a pupil must successfully complete a program of studies in grades 9 through 12 that is consistent with the graduation class he/she is currently in. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. The successful completion of 135 of credits, including a minimum of 105 credits in specified curricular areas.
2. Four credit years of English, not to include supplemental programs provided for the purposes of compensatory education;
3. Three credit years of mathematics, not to include supplemental programs provided for the purposes of compensatory education;
4. Three credit years of social studies to include:
 - a. One credit year of World History
 - b. A sequential two-credit year program in United States History.
5. Three credit years of a natural or physical science.
6. One credit year of health and physical education for each year of enrollment;
7. Ten credits in visual, performing, and/or practical arts effective with the 2001-2002 grade nine class and for those students entering grade nine prior to the 2004-2005 school year;
8. One credit year, 5 credits in visual and performing arts and five credits in practical arts effective with the 2004-2005 grade nine class.

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9. One credit year of world language effective with the 2004-2005 grade nine class.
10. One credit year of technology. Technological literacy, consistent with the Core Curriculum Content Standards, is also integrated throughout the curriculum;
11. Five credits in career education and consumer, family, and life skills, or vocational-technical education effective with the 2004-2005 grade nine class;

An approved 20 hour community service project is required.

A credit is defined as the equivalent of a class period of instruction which meets for a minimum of forty minutes one time per week during the school year. The district may count AP courses as fulfilling graduation requirements. Credit will be assigned on the same basis to all high school courses offered by the Board. All courses offered for credit must be at the high school level, and no single course may satisfy more than one of the requirements for graduation. Credit may be awarded for special study, such as the student exchange program, and/or successful completion of college level courses with the prior approval of the principal. The principal shall certify completion of special studies or programs based on specific instructional objectives. For a college level course to qualify and meet the high school graduation requirement, an articulation agreement between the Board and the respective college or university, must exist.

A listing of pupils being awarded credits for special study, together with a description of the program completed, shall be presented to the Board for review at the annual meeting in June.

Each course of study required for graduation by this Board shall align with the respective Core Curriculum Content Standards. Credit for each required course shall be awarded on the successful completion of the work assigned and satisfaction of the CCCS identified.

No pupil shall be awarded a high school diploma who has not demonstrated proficiency in all sections of the High School Proficiency Assessment

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(HSPA) or Special Review Assessment (SRA) process applicable to the class graduation in the year they meet all other graduation requirements.

B. Special Review Assessment (SRA)

1. A pupil who has satisfied all other state and local graduation requirements but has not demonstrated proficiency on one or more sections of the HSPA following the 11th grade will be provided the opportunity to demonstrate such competence through both repeated administrations of the HSPA and the SRA process conducted in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education.

a) The Principal shall submit the results of the SRA process to the County Superintendent of Schools by March 1 of each year for approval for graduation in June of the same year.

b) The County Superintendent, as the Commissioner's designee, shall review the result of each pupil's SRA and recommend to the Commissioner either approval or disapproval for graduation.

c) All pupils of limited English proficiency shall satisfy the requirements for high school graduation according to a. and b. above, except that any pupils of limited English proficiency may demonstrate that they have attained State minimum levels of proficiency through:

1) Passage of the SRA process in their native language and passage of an English fluency assessment approved by the Department of Education; or

2) Passage of the SRA process in English with appropriate accommodations.

d) Pupils with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 or eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and who participate in the SRA process are not required to participate in repeated administrations of the HSPA.

C.

Attendance

Regular attendance is a graduation requirement as stated in Policy No. 5200 and 5250.

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Attendance is required for the successful completion of a course of study and graduation. Pupils are expected to be present in every scheduled class except as their attendance is excused in accordance with Board Policy Nos. 5200 and 5250. A pupil absent from a class scheduled for a course of study more than 14 days on which the class meets shall not receive credit for that course except that a pupil whose absence is for good cause and has demonstrated the required proficiencies may apply for and receive course credit notwithstanding an excessive number of absences.

D. Remediation services

Pupil progress shall be assessed in accordance with Policy No. 2622. Pupils deemed to be at risk of failure on any section of the HSPA shall be identified and offered services in accordance with Policy No. 2414.

E. Pupils with Disabilities

- a) District Boards of Education, through the IEP process and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.12, Graduation, may for individual students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3, specify alternate requirements for a State-endorsed diploma which may include the APA.
- b) District Boards of Education shall specifically address any alternate requirements for graduation in a student's IEP, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.12.
- c) District Boards of Education shall develop and implement procedures for assessing whether a student has met any alternate requirements for graduation individually determined in an IEP.

Pupils with disabilities who meet the standards for graduation according to this section shall have the opportunity to participate in graduation exercises and related activities on a nondiscriminatory basis.

If a pupil attends a school other than that of the school district of residence which is empowered to grant a diploma, the pupil shall have the choice of receiving the diploma of the school attended or the diploma of the school district of residence.

F. Notification

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A copy of all state and local high school graduation requirements will be distributed to each pupil who enters or transfers into the high school and to his or her parents or guardians. The pupil and his or her parent or guardian shall be informed of the pupil's status and of the instructional opportunities available.

G. Reporting

The Superintendent shall report annually, at a public meeting not later than September 30:

1. The total number of pupils graduated;
2. The number of pupils graduating under the SRA process;
3. The number of pupils receiving State-endorsed high school diplomas as a result of meeting any alternative requirements for graduation as specified in their IEPs;
4. The total number of pupils denied graduation from the 12th grade class; and
5. The total number of pupils denied graduation from the 12th grade class solely because of failure to pass the HSPA or SRA, based on the provisions of N.J. A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)3.

HI The Superintendent shall provide the district's graduation policy to the Commissioner of Education as initially adopted and when revised

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 et seq.; 18A:35-1;
18A:35-4.9; 18A:35-7; 18A:36-17

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1; 6A:8-5.1, 6A:14-4.12 et seq.

Date Adopted: 8/30/55

Date Revised: 1/19/76, 4/18/77, 4/16/79, 8/24/81, 9/20/82, 4/22/85, 6/20/88,
8/15/88, 8/21/89, 3/18/91, 2/25/92, 10/18/93, 5/16/94, 4/23/01, 6/24/02, 1/17/2005
12/19/2005