

# POLICY

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**  
STUDENTS  
5460/page 1 of 15  
High School Graduation

### 5460 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The Board of Education will recognize the successful completion of the secondary school instructional program by the award of a State-endorsed diploma certifying the student has met all State and local requirements for high school graduation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 et seq. The Board will annually certify to the Executive County Superintendent each student who has been awarded a diploma and has met the requirements for graduation.

As defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.3, “credit” means the award for the equivalent of a class period of instruction, which meets for a minimum of forty minutes, one time per week during the school year or as approved through N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2 and A.1.b. below.

- A. High School Graduation Requirements – N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1
  - 1. For a State-endorsed diploma, the Board shall develop, adopt, and implement graduation requirements that prepare students for success in post-secondary degree programs, careers, and civic life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and that include the following:
    - a. A graduating student must have earned a minimum of 135\* credits in courses designed to meet all of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs), including, but not limited to, the following credits:
      - (1) Twenty (20) credits in English Language Arts aligned to grade nine through twelve standards;
      - (2) Fifteen (15) credits in mathematics, including Algebra I or the content equivalent; geometry or the content equivalent; and a third year of mathematics that builds on the concepts and skills of algebra and geometry and that prepares students for college and 21<sup>st</sup> century careers;
      - (3) Fifteen (15) credits in science, including at least five credits in laboratory biology/life science or the content

# POLICY

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**

STUDENTS  
5460/page 2 of 15  
High School Graduation

equivalent; chemistry or the content equivalent; and one additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course, which shall include environmental science, or physics, or the content equivalent.

- (4) Fifteen (15) credits in social studies, including satisfaction of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and 18A:35-2; five credits in world history; and the integration of civics, economics, geography, and global content in all course offerings;
- (5) Two and one-half (2.5) credits in financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy;
- (6) Fifteen (15) credits in health, safety, and physical education, with a minimum requirement of three and three-quarters (3.75) credits during each year of enrollment, distributed as one hundred fifty minutes per week, as required by N.J.S.A 18A:35-5, 7, and 8;
- (7) Five (5) credits in visual and performing arts;
- (8) Five (5) credits in world languages or student demonstration of proficiency as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2ii(2) and A.1.b.(2)(b) below;
- (9) Technological literacy, consistent with the NJSLS, integrated throughout the curriculum;
- (10) Five (5) credits in 21<sup>st</sup> century life and careers, or career-technical education; and
- (11) Electives as determined by the high school program sufficient to total a minimum of 135 credits.

\* The Board shall permit the Administration, in cases where there are extenuating circumstances, to employ the state

# POLICY

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**

STUDENTS

5460/page 3 of 15  
High School Graduation

requirement of 120 credits rather than the local requirement of 135 credits.

- b. The 120-credit (state) requirement and the ~~120~~ 135-credit (local) requirement set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1. and in A.1.a. above may be met in whole or in part through program completion of a range of experiences that enable students to pursue a variety of individualized learning opportunities, as follows:
  - (1) The district shall establish a process to approve individualized student learning opportunities that meet or exceed the NJSLS.
    - (a) Individualized student learning opportunities in all NJSLS areas include, but are not limited to, the following:
      - (i) Independent study;
      - (ii) Online learning;
      - (iii) College coursework;
      - (iv) Study abroad programs;
      - (v) Extra-curricular activities;
      - (vi) Student exchange programs; and
      - (vii) Structured learning experiences, including, but not limited to, work-based programs, internships, apprenticeships, and service learning experiences.

# POLICY

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**

STUDENTS

5460/page 4 of 15  
High School Graduation

- (b) Individualized student learning opportunities based upon specific instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the NJSLS shall:
    - (i) Be based on student interest and career goals as reflected in the Personalized Student Learning Plans;
    - (ii) Include demonstration of student competency;
    - (iii) Be certified for completion based on the district process adopted according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2.ii. and A.1.b.(2) below; and
    - (iv) Be on file in the school district and subject to review by the Commissioner of Education or designee.
  - (c) Group programs based upon specific instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the NJSLS shall be permitted and shall be approved in the same manner as other approved courses.
- (2) The district shall establish a process for granting of credits through successful completion of assessments that verify student achievement in meeting or exceeding the NJSLS at the high school level, including standards achieved by means of the individualized student learning opportunities enumerated at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2 and A.1.b. above. Such programs or assessments may occur all or in part prior to a student's high school enrollment; no such locally administered assessments shall preclude

# POLICY

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**

STUDENTS  
5460/page 5 of 15  
High School Graduation

or exempt student participation in applicable Statewide assessments at grades three through twelve.

- (a) The district shall choose assessments that are aligned with or exceed the NJSLs and may include locally designed assessments.
- (b) The district shall choose from among the following assessment options to determine if students have achieved the level of language proficiency designated as Novice-High as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and recognized as fulfilling the world languages requirement of the NJSLs:
  - (i) The Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) online assessment;
  - (ii) The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or the Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI); or
  - (iii) New Jersey Department of Education-approved locally designed competency-based assessments.
- (3) The district shall establish a process to approve post-secondary learning opportunities that may consist of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), or concurrent/dual enrollment at accredited higher education institutions.
  - (a) The district shall award credit for successful completion of an approved, accredited college

# POLICY

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**  
STUDENTS  
5460/page 6 of 15  
High School Graduation

course that assures achievement of knowledge and skills that meets or exceeds the NJSLs.

- c. Local student attendance requirements;
- d. Any statutorily mandated requirements for earning a high school diploma;
- e. The requirement that all students demonstrate proficiency by achieving a passing score on the English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics components of the State graduation proficiency test or through the alternative means at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(h) and A.7. below, if applicable, or for students who take the State graduation proficiency test but do not achieve a passing score through the alternative means set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(g) and (i) and A.6. and A.8. below:
  - (1) Students in the graduating classes of 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 shall be required to demonstrate proficiency by achieving a passing score on the high school end-of-course assessments (NJSLA) in ELA 10 and Algebra I or through alternative means set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f), (h), and (i) and A.5., A.7., and A.8. below.
- f. For students who have not demonstrated proficiency on the ELA and/or mathematics components of the State graduation proficiency test, the opportunity for the following will be provided:
  - (1) Remediation, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-3.; and
  - (2) One or more additional opportunities to demonstrate proficiency on the State graduation proficiency test, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-6; and



# POLICY

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**  
STUDENTS  
5460/page 8 of 15  
High School Graduation

diploma and the programs available to assist students in attaining a State-endorsed diploma, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-5.

5. To ensure adequate transition to the new Statewide assessment systems, the district shall provide students in the graduating classes of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 who have not demonstrated proficiency on the high school end-of-course PARCC and/or NJSLA assessments in ELA 10 and Algebra I with the opportunity to demonstrate competence through one of the alternative means set forth below:
  - a. For the graduating classes of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, students who did not take the ELA 10 and the Algebra I end-of-course PARCC or NJSLA assessment or who take but do not achieve a passing score on both assessments, as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6 and A.1.f. above, may satisfy the State requirement to demonstrate proficiency in English language arts and/or mathematics in one of the following ways:
    - (1) Achieve a passing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on a corresponding substitute competency test in English language arts and/or mathematics, as applicable, or substitute a passing score on another end-of-course NJSLA assessment, including ELA 9, ELA 11, Geometry, or Algebra II; or
    - (2) Meet the criteria of the portfolio appeals process.
6. For students in the graduating classes of 2023, 2024, and 2025, the alternative means referenced at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6 and A.1.f. above shall be as follows:
  - a. Achieve a passing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education and approved by the New Jersey State Board of Education, on a corresponding substitute competency test in English language arts and/or mathematics, as applicable; and/or





# POLICY

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**

STUDENTS  
5460/page 10 of 15  
High School Graduation

- b. The district shall allow any out-of-school individual to age twenty who has otherwise met all State and local graduation requirements but has failed to pass the State proficiency test to demonstrate proficiency through alternative means as set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6 through N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(i) and in A.1.f. through A.8. above, as applicable, pursuant to the standards applicable to the student's graduating class. Students in graduating classes prior to 2018 shall demonstrate proficiency as set forth for the classes of 2018 through 2022 at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f)1 and A.5.a. above. Upon certification of passing the test applicable to the student's class in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8 and this Policy, a State-endorsed diploma shall be granted by the high school of record.
3. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.4, the Commissioner of Education shall award a State-issued high school diploma based on achieving the Statewide standard score on the General Education Development test (GED) or other adult education assessments to individuals age sixteen or older who are no longer enrolled in school and have not achieved a high school credential.
4. The Commissioner of Education shall award a State-issued high school diploma to individuals age sixteen or older and no longer enrolled in high school based on official transcripts showing at least thirty general education credits leading to a degree at an accredited institution of higher education. Included in the thirty general education credits must be a minimum of fifteen credits with at least three credits in each of the five general education categories as follows: English; mathematics; science; social science; and the humanities.
5. The Board shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma to any currently enrolled student, regardless of grade level, who:

  - a. Has demonstrated proficiency in the State graduation proficiency test, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6 and A.1.f. above, or as set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(g) and A.6. above:

# POLICY

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**

STUDENTS  
5460/page 11 of 15  
High School Graduation

- (1) The Board shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma to any currently enrolled student in the graduating classes of 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 who has demonstrated proficiency in the high school end-of-course PARCC/NJSLA assessments in ELA 10 and Algebra I, or as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f) and in A.5. above;
  - b. Has presented official transcripts showing at least thirty general education credits leading to a degree at an accredited institution of higher education; and
  - c. Has formally requested such early award of a State-endorsed high school diploma.
6. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-7 and 18A:7E-3, the Superintendent shall report annually to the Board at a public meeting not later than September 30, and to the Commissioner of Education:
  - a. The total number of students graduated;
  - b. The number of students graduated under the substitute competency test process;
  - c. The number of students graduated under the portfolio appeals process;
  - d. The number of students receiving State-endorsed high school diplomas as a result of meeting any alternate requirements for graduation as specified in their individualized education programs (IEP);
  - e. The total number of students denied graduation from the twelfth grade class; and

# POLICY

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**

STUDENTS  
5460/page 12 of 15  
High School Graduation

- f. The number of students denied graduation from the twelfth grade class solely because of failure to pass the high school end-of-course PARCC assessments, the State graduation proficiency test, substitute competency tests, or portfolio appeals process based on the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8.
- C. Students with Disabilities – N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(c) and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.11
1. Through the IEP process set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7 and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.11, the Board may specify alternate requirements for a State-endorsed diploma for individual students with disabilities as defined at N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3.
    - a. The district shall specifically address any alternate requirements for graduation in a student’s IEP, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.11.
    - b. The district shall develop and implement procedures for assessing whether a student has met the specified alternate requirements for graduation individually determined in an IEP.
  2. The IEP of a student with a disability who enters a high school program shall specifically address the graduation requirements. The student shall meet the high school graduation requirements pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 and A. above, except as specified in the student’s IEP. The IEP shall specify which requirements would qualify the student with a disability for the State-endorsed diploma issued by the Board responsible for the student’s education.
  3. Graduation with a State-endorsed diploma is a change of placement that requires written notice pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.3(f) and (g).
    - a. As part of the written notice, the parent shall be provided with a copy of the procedural safeguards statement published by the NJDOE.



# POLICY

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**  
STUDENTS  
5460/page 14 of 15  
High School Graduation

- D. State Seal of Biliteracy – N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.3
1. The Board may award a State Seal of Biliteracy to any student who has met all requirements in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.2 and B. above and demonstrates proficiency in the following:
    - a. One or more world languages via an approved assessment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.3(f) and D.6. below during the student’s next to last or final year of high school; and
      - (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-15, a foreign language other than English also shall include, but not be limited to, American Sign Language, Latin, and Native American languages.
    - b. English language arts as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6 and A.1.f. Above.
  2. A Board that chooses to award the State Seal of Biliteracy shall incorporate the process into the developed, adopted, and implemented Policy 5460 – High School Graduation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a) and A.1. above, denoting participation in the voluntary program. A Board choosing to participate shall submit, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(d) and A.3. above, a copy of Policy 5460 – High School Graduation that reflects the option for students to participate in the State Seal of Biliteracy.
  3. The Board of Education shall pay the costs or related assessments and transcript insignias.
  4. The Board of Education shall do the following:
    - a. Provide the NJDOE with information regarding students who qualify for the State Seal of Biliteracy pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.3(a) and D.1. above;

# POLICY

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGH POINT REGIONAL

**NO. 5460**  
STUDENTS  
5460/page 15 of 15  
High School Graduation

- b. Present each student who qualifies pursuant to D.1. above with a New Jersey Department of Education-issued certificate;
  - c. Include the Commissioner of Education-developed insignia on the student's transcript; and
  - d. Maintain appropriate records to identify students who have earned the State Seal of Biliteracy.
5. The Board shall not award a State Seal of Biliteracy to any student who does not meet the criteria in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.3(a) and D.1. above and shall not include the Commissioner of Education-developed insignia on the student's transcript.
6. A list of New Jersey Department of Education-approved, nationally recognized assessments and the Statewide scores necessary for a student to satisfy requirements for the State Seal of Biliteracy shall be set by a resolution approved by the New Jersey State Board of Education.
- a. If an approved assessment, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.3(f) and D.6. above, does not exist for a particular language, the Board may administer a NJDOE-approved, locally designed proficiency-based assessment.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-3; 18A:7C-5; 18A:7C-6, 18A:7C-7; 18A:7C-15; 18A:7E-3

18A:35-1; 18A:35-2; 18A:35-5; 18A:35-7; 18A:35-8

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.3; 6A:8-5.1 et seq.; 6A:14-1.3; 6A:14-2.3; 6A:14-3.7

6A:14-3.8; 6A:14-4.11; 6A:20-1.4

Date Adopted: 8/30/65

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, 10/18/10, 6/23/15, 2/23/16, 10/16/16, 6/20/17, 3/21/22