

IKF - HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Category: Required

Related Policies: IK, IHBI, IKFA, ILBAA & IMBC

Students generally earn a high school diploma through a combination of high school credit and proficiency or mastery of required District and Graduation competencies. Methods for earning credit are discussed in Board policy IK, while competencies are discussed in Board policy ILBAA. This policy outlines the specific courses, competencies and other specific requirements before a student will receive a NH New Hampshire Minimum Standard Diploma. Additional requirements for a Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District Diploma are outlined in the Student Handbook. The Board reserves the right to impose additional academic requirements necessary to graduate and or receive a diploma.

A. Credit Requirements.

1. **Awarding of Credit.** Credit will be awarded in accordance with Board policy IK, Earning of Credit. Additionally, a unit of credit or fraction thereof shall be given upon satisfactory completion of a course or learning experience in compliance with the district-specified curriculum and assessment standards. In some cases, course credit may also be awarded based on demonstrated mastery of the required competencies for the course. Assessment of mastery will be the responsibility of the Principal, and will be in accordance with Board policy ILBAA, High School Competency Assessments. Credit will be awarded only once for a specific required course with the same content during the secondary school experience.
2. **Required Subjects and Credits.** A minimum of twenty (20) credits ~~or competencies~~ are required to graduate and earn a high school diploma. The required subjects and credits for high school graduation (including the requirements beginning in the 2026-2027 school year for those students entering high school) are:

Course	Current Credits	Beginning 2026-2027	
Arts Education	1/2	Art Education	1/2
Information & Communications Technologies	1/2	Digital Literacy	1/2
English	4	English Writing	3 1/2
Mathematics	3 credits (mathematical modeling, statistics and probability, complex applications of measurement, applied geometry, graphical presentation and interpretation, statistics and data analysis)	Mathematics Statistics/Data Analysis (1/2 credit)	3
Physical sciences	1	Physical Science	1
Biological sciences	1	Biological Science	1
US and NH History	1	US History NH History	1/2 1/2
US and NH Government/Civics	1/2	Civics History, government & constitution of US & NH	1/2 1

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Economics, including personal finance	1/2	Economics Financial Literacy	1/2 1/2
World History, global studies or geography	1/2	World History, global studies or geography	1
Health Education	1/2	Health & Wellness Education	1/2
Physical Education	1	Physical Education	1
Open Electives	6	Open Electives	4
		Logic & Rhetoric	1/2
TOTAL	20 credits	20 credits	

3. Alternative Credit Options. The Superintendent or Principal may approve the granting of credit earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction. Such alternative methods of instruction may include extended learning opportunities, distance education, alternative learning plans, or others approved by the Superintendent or designee. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation requirements will be determined by the high school Principal on a case-by-case basis. Such credit will be granted pursuant to the provisions of Board policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options and other applicable Board policies.

B. Required Graduation Competencies by Content Areas Credit(s).

In addition to the credits listed above required to graduate and earn a high school diploma, the district also requires students to demonstrate proficiency in competencies from the following content areas (including the requirements of Ed 306.27, Table 306-3):

C. Passage of Civics Exam.

The district will develop a competency assessment of United States government and civics, consistent with pertinent and applicable law. Students must attain a passing grade (70 percent or better) on this assessment to be eligible to receive a high school diploma or other graduation certificate. This exam may be modified for a student with a disability in accordance with the student's individualized education program.

D. Federal Student Aid Application.

The Superintendent shall ensure each student eligible for graduation shall receive information on completing and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Initial information shall be provided no later than October 1st of a student's senior year, and shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Eligibility requirements for student financial aid that may be applied for using the FAFSA;
2. Application timelines and submission deadlines; and
3. The importance of submitting applications early, especially when student financial aid may be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Before the start of each school year, the Superintendent will designate the personnel responsible for disseminating the information. The designee will provide a specific written outline for the Superintendent's approval of the proposed means of dissemination, which may include such things as in-

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class instruction, college information fairs or programs, family information sessions, individual or group sessions with school counselors, information booklets.

The Superintendent /Superintendent's designee shall ensure that any information shared under this section is handled according to applicable state and federal privacy laws, regulations, and administrative rules.

E. Alternative Learning Plans

As an alternative to satisfying the provisions of this policy and related State requirements, students may also graduate from high school and obtain either a high school diploma or its equivalent by participating in an alternative learning plan or program. The provisions of Board policy IHBI, Alternative Learning Plans, shall apply in such an event.

F. Early Graduation

The Board supports early graduation as a means to earn a high school diploma (see Board policy IKFA). Parental involvement for students under the age of 18 is required. The high school principal shall approve such requests if he/she determines that all state and local graduation requirements will be met and that early graduation is related to career and/or educational plans of the student making the request. Upon approval by the high school principal, the minimum 4-unit requirement per year for enrolled students shall be waived, and the student shall be awarded a high school diploma.

District Policy History:

First Reading: September 14, 2010, April 5, 2022, April 8, 2025

Second Reading: October 12, 2010, May 10, 2022, April 22, 2025

Original Adoption: October 12, 2010

Revision: May 10, 2022, April 22, 2025

Legal References:

NH Statutes	Description
RSA 189:11	<u>School Boards, Transportation and Instruction of Pupils</u>
RSA 193:26-a	<u>Graduation Requirements: Free Application for Federal Student Aid</u>

NH Dept of Ed Regulation	Description
N.H. Code Admin. Rules Ed 306.27	<u>High School Curriculum, Credits, Graduation Requirements, and Cocurricular Program</u>

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Legal References Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.