

5460 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION (M)

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The Board of Education will recognize the successful completion of the secondary school instructional program by the award of a State-endorsed diploma certifying that the pupil 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 that each pupil who has been awarded a diploma 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

A. Course Credit Requirements

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 21st century, and that include the following:

a. A graduating student must have earned a minimum of ~~(four-~~ **year high school: no fewer than 120**) credits in courses designed to meet all of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), including, but not limited to, the following credits:

(1) **(At least twenty)** credits in English language arts aligned to grade nine through twelve standards;

(2) **(At least fifteen)** 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 21st century careers;

(3) **(At least fifteen)** credits in science, including at least five credits in laboratory biology/life science or the content equivalent; one additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course, which shall include chemistry, environmental



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science, or physics; and one additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course;

(4) (At least fifteen) 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) (At least two and one-half) credits in financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy;

(6) (At least three and three-quarters) credits in health, safety, and physical education 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) (At least five) credits in visual and performing arts;

(8) (At least five) 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) (At least five) credits in 21st century life and careers, or career-technical education; and

(11) Electives as determined by the high school program sufficient to total a minimum of (must be at least 120) credits.

b. The 120-credit 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.

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(a) Individualized student learning opportunities in all NJSLs areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (i) Independent study;
- (ii) Online learning;
- (iii) Study abroad programs;
- (iv) Student exchange programs; and
- (v) Structured learning experiences, including, but not limited to, work-based programs, internships, apprenticeships, and service learning experiences.

(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



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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 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.



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

c. Local student attendance requirements;

d. Other requirements established by the Board of Education as indicated below:

_____;

e. Any statutorily mandated requirements for earning a high school diploma;

f. 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 PARCC assessments 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.



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g. 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

h. Students graduating from an adult high school shall demonstrate proficiency in the ELA and mathematics components of the State graduation proficiency test, or through alternative means set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f) through (i) and A.5. through A.8. below.

2. In the development of Personalized Student Learning Plans according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.2(a), the district shall actively encourage all students who have otherwise met the requirements for high school graduation according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1 through 3 and A.1.a. through A.1.c. above, to include in their programs of study the following additional credits:

a. Five credits in mathematics during each year of enrollment, aimed at preparation for entrance into post-secondary programs or 21st century careers;

b. Five credits in a laboratory science during each year of enrollment, aimed at preparation for entrance into post-secondary programs or 21st century careers;

c. Five credits in social studies during each year of enrollment, aimed at preparation for entrance into post-secondary programs or 21st century careers; and

d. Five credits in world languages during each year of enrollment, aimed at preparation for entrance into post-secondary programs or 21st century careers.

3. The district shall provide to the Executive County Superintendent the district's graduation requirements each year they are evaluated through



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Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) and update the district's filed copy each time the graduation policy is revised.

4. The district shall provide each student entering high school and their parents with a copy of the district's requirements for a State-endorsed 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 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 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 PARCC 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



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b. Demonstrate proficiency through the portfolio appeals process, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-3.

7. All English language learners (ELLs) shall satisfy the requirements for high school graduation, except ELLs may demonstrate they have attained State minimum levels of proficiency through passage of the portfolio appeals process in their native language, when available, and passage of a New Jersey Department of Education-approved, English fluency assessment.

8. Students, including students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 or eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who participate in the alternative assessment for students with disabilities, are not required to participate in repeated administrations of high school assessment components required at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c).

9. For students in the graduating classes of 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) shall consider high school end-of-course State assessments to be equivalent to the corresponding high school end-of-course PARCC assessments.

B. High School Diplomas – N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.2

1. The Board of Education shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma to prospective graduates who have met all of the requirements adopted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a), (c), or N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.2(d) and A.1 above, C.1. below, or B.4. below.

2. The Board shall not issue a high school diploma to any student not meeting the criteria specified in the rule provisions referenced in B.1. above.

a. The district shall provide students exiting grade twelve without a diploma the opportunity for continued high school enrollment to age twenty or until the requirements for a State-endorsed diploma have been met, whichever comes first.

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) 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

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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:
 - (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 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

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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

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.



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- 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.

 - b. As with any proposal to change the educational program or placement of a student with a disability, the parent may resolve a disagreement with the proposal to graduate the student by requesting mediation or a due process hearing prior to graduation.

 - c. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.8(d), a reevaluation shall not be required.

 - d. When a student graduates or exceeds the age of eligibility, the student shall be provided a written summary of their academic achievement and functional performance prior to the date of the student's graduation or the conclusion of the school year in which the student exceeds the age of eligibility. The summary shall include recommendations to assist the student in meeting their postsecondary goals.

4. If a student attends a school other than that of the school district of residence that is empowered to grant a diploma, the student shall have the choice of receiving the diploma of the school attended or the diploma of the school district of residence.
 - a. If the school the student is attending declines to issue a diploma to the student, the Board of the school district of residence shall issue



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the student a diploma if the student has satisfied all State and local graduation requirements, as specified in the student's IEP.

5. If the Board grants an elementary school diploma, a student with a disability who fulfills the requirements of their IEP shall qualify for and receive a diploma.
6. Students with disabilities who meet the standards for graduation according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.11 and C. of this Policy shall have the opportunity to participate in graduation exercises and related activities on a nondiscriminatory basis.

[Optional]

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.



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3. The Board shall pay the costs shall charge a fee to
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Education [
the student] for 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 Bilteracy pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.3(a) and D.1. above;
 - 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 Bilteracy.
5. The Board shall not award a State Seal of Bilteracy 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 Bilteracy 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-1; 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

~~A graduating pupil must have successfully completed the program of study described in— N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 and must have earned a minimum of one-hundred twenty (120) credits designed to meet all of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) including, but not limited to, not less than the following:~~

~~1. Twenty (20) credits of language arts literacy 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 pupils for college and 21st century careers;~~

~~3. Fifteen (15) credits in science, including at least five (5) credits in laboratory biology/life science or the content equivalent, one (1) additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course which shall include chemistry, environmental science, or physics, and one (1) additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course;~~

~~4. Fifteen (15) credits in social studies including two (2) courses in U.S. History per N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1, five (5) credits in world history, and the integration of civics, economics, geography, and global content in all course offerings;~~

~~5. Three point seven-five (3.75) credits in health, safety and physical education during each year of enrollment, distributed as 150 minutes per week, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5, 7 and 8;~~

~~6. Five (5) credits in world language or demonstration of proficiency as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 (a) 2ii (2);~~

~~7. Five (5) credits in visual and performing arts;~~

~~8. Two and one-half (2.5) credits in financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy;~~

~~9. Five (5) credits in 21st century life and careers, or career-technical education, family and life skills (practical arts) that meet or exceed the NJSLS;~~

~~10. Technological literacy, consistent with the NJSLS, integrated throughout the curriculum; and~~



11. Electives from the high school program sufficient to total a minimum of one ~~hundred twenty (120) credits.~~

~~All students shall be required to register and take thirty-five (35) credits or their equivalents during each school year. With prior approval by the high school principal, senior year students may be allowed to register for and take a minimum of thirty (30) credits.~~

~~The following credits are needed for promotion:~~

30 Credits	Needed for promotion to Grade 10
60 Credits	Needed for promotion to Grade 11
90 Credits	Needed for promotion to Grade 12

~~A credit means the award for the equivalent of a class period of instruction, which meets for a minimum of forty (40) minutes once per week during the school year or as approved through N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(A)2. Advanced Placement (AP) and College Credit Courses may fulfill credit completion requirements.~~

~~Each course of study required for graduation shall include a statement of the required proficiencies/learning objectives approved by the Board. Credit for each required course will be awarded on the successful completion of the program assigned and demonstration of mastery of the approved proficiencies/learning objectives. Pupils shall be given every reasonable opportunity to remediate and satisfy failed proficiencies/learning objectives.~~

~~Curriculum Requirements~~

~~The 120-credit requirement set forth above may be met in whole or in part through program completion of a range of experiences that enable pupils to pursue a variety of personalized learning opportunities as follows:~~

1. ~~The district shall establish a process to approve individualized pupil learning opportunities that meet or exceed the NJSLS.~~
 - a. ~~Individualized pupil learning opportunities in all NJSLS areas include, but are not limited, to the following:~~
~~Option II*~~
 - (1) ~~Independent study;~~
 - (2) ~~Online learning;~~



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- (3) ~~Study abroad programs;~~
- (4) ~~Pupil exchange programs;~~
- (5) ~~Service learning experiences; and~~

(6) Structured learning experiences, including but not limited to, work-based programs, ~~internships, apprenticeships and service learning experiences.~~

b. ~~Individualized pupil learning opportunities based upon specific instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the NJSLs:~~

(1) ~~Be based on pupil interest and career goals as reflected in the Personalized Pupil Learning Plans;~~

(2) ~~Include demonstration of pupil competency;~~

(3) ~~Be certified for completion based on the district process adopted according to 2. below; and~~

(4) ~~Be on file in the school district and subject to review by the Commissioner or his/her 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.~~

~~*Students planning to pursue course work for credit external to the traditional offerings of The South Orange Maplewood School District curriculum are required to submit a completed application to the Principal's Option Two Credit Review Committee.~~

~~*This committee will be comprised of the high school Principal, a designated departmental supervisor, the Director of School Counseling, and a designated school counselor. Deadlines for submission are June 1st for summer and fall semester course work, January 1st for spring semester course work.~~

~~*The Principal's Option Two Credit Review Committee will review each application to determine eligibility and grant approval/disapproval based on the criteria outlined.~~

~~*Such requests must be made through the student's assigned school counselor. Once credit has been earned in an approved Option II course, students will not be permitted to enroll in an equivalent South Orange Maplewood School District course.~~



Alternative Physical Education

Students can pursue opportunities to meet the NJSLs for physical education through participation in co-curricular or extra-curricular programs and/or through other structured learning experiences such as gymnastics, swimming, or any other approved experience. Students must apply for consideration through the Principal's Option Two Committee. The student will be required to satisfy the health curriculum requirement.

Alternative Practical Arts

Alternative Practical Arts

Students can pursue opportunities to meet the NJSLs for Practical Arts through the participation in Columbia High School's Robotics Program, which integrates science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Furthermore, it integrates Standard 9, 21st Century Life and Careers, along with the 12 Career Ready Practices that establish clear guidelines for what students need to know and be able to do in order to be successful in their future careers and to achieve financial independence. The student will be required to satisfy the practical arts curriculum requirement.

2. ~~The district shall establish a process for granting of credits through successful completion of assessments that verify pupil achievement in meeting or exceeding the NJSLs at the high school level, including those occurring by means of the individualized pupil learning opportunities enumerated as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2. Such programs or assessments may occur all or in part prior to a pupil's high school enrollment; no such locally administered assessments shall preclude or exempt pupil 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 pupils 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:

(1) ~~The Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) online assessment;~~

(2) ~~The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI); or~~

(3) ~~Department of Education approved locally designed competency-based assessments.~~

3. The district shall establish a process to approve post-secondary learning opportunities that consist of:

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- a. ~~Advanced Placement (AP) courses;~~
- b. ~~the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP); or~~
- c. ~~concurrent/dual enrollment at accredited higher education institutions.~~

- d. ~~The district shall award credit for successful completion of an approved, accredited college course that assures achievement of knowledge and skills that meets or exceeds the NJSL.~~

B. ~~Additional Graduation Requirements~~

1. ~~Attendance~~

~~Regular 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 Policies 5200-Attendance and 5240-Tardiness.~~

2. ~~Any statutorily mandated requirements for earning a high school diploma;~~

3. ~~Any Statewide assessment graduation requirements as determined by the NJDOE and as outlined in Section C below.~~

C. ~~Statewide Assessment Graduation Requirements~~

1. ~~The requirement that all students demonstrate proficiency in the high school end-of-course Partnership for Assessments of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment in ELA 10 and Algebra I, or through the alternate means set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f) through (i);~~

2. ~~The Board of Education will provide students who have not demonstrated proficiency on the high school end-of-course PARCC assessments in ELA 10 and Algebra I with the opportunity to demonstrate such competence through one of the alternate means set forth below:~~

~~a. For the graduating classes of 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, students who do not take both the ELA 10 and the Algebra I end-of-course PARCC assessments 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, may satisfy the State requirement to demonstrate proficiency in English language arts and mathematics in one of the following ways:~~



~~(1) — Achieve a passing score, as determined by the Commissioner, 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 PARCC assessment, including ELA 9, ELA 11, Geometry, or Algebra II; or~~

~~(2) Meet the criteria of the portfolio appeals process; and~~

~~b. — For the graduating class of 2020, students who take all applicable high school end-of-course PARCC assessments for all courses in which they are enrolled, including those students who received a waiver for ELA 11 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c)3i, as of September 6, 2016, and thereafter, but do not achieve a passing score on both the ELA 10 and Algebra I end-of-course PARCC assessments pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6, may satisfy the State requirement to demonstrate proficiency in English language arts and mathematics in one of the following ways:~~

~~(1) — Achieve a passing score, as determined by the Commissioner, 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 PARCC assessment, including ELA 9, ELA 11, Geometry, or Algebra II; or~~

~~(2) Meet the criteria of the portfolio appeals process.~~

~~3. — Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, students who take all applicable high school end-of-course PARCC assessments for all courses in which they are enrolled, including those students who received a waiver for ELA 11 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c)3i, as of September 6, 2016, and thereafter, but do not achieve a passing score on both the ELA 10 and~~

~~Algebra I end-of-course PARCC assessments pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6, by the conclusion of their senior year and after multiple opportunities to take the assessments, may satisfy the State requirement to demonstrate proficiency in English language arts and mathematics by meeting the criteria of the portfolio appeals process.~~

~~4. — In accordance with a NJDOE Memorandum dated January 24, 2017, students in the graduating cohort of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to September 6, 2016 and:~~

~~a. Took the PARCC Algebra I assessment, but did not pass and are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g. Geometry or Algebra II); or~~



~~b. Did not receive a valid test score, but are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g. Geometry or Algebra II); or~~

~~c. Did not have an opportunity to take the PARCC Algebra I assessment because the NJDOE did not offer a summer test administration, but are now in advanced mathematics course (e.g. Geometry or Algebra II). Only students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 described in the three specific groups above in a. b., and c. are eligible to utilize the following pathways to demonstrate proficiency in mathematics:~~

~~(1) Take or retake the PARCC Algebra I assessment and pass; or~~

~~(2) Utilize the NJDOE portfolio appeals process, provided they take the PARCC Geometry assessment and the PARCC Algebra II assessment (if enrolled in the Algebra II course) and receive valid scores; or~~

~~(3) Take and pass the Geometry or Algebra II assessment.~~

~~5. All English Language Learners (ELLs) shall satisfy the requirements for high school graduation, except ELLs may demonstrate they have attained State minimum levels of proficiency through passage of the portfolio appeals process in their native language, when available, and passage of a Department of Education-approved English fluency assessment.~~

~~6. Students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 or eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who participate in the alternative assessment for students with disabilities are not required to participate in repeated administration of high school end-of-course PARCC assessments.~~

~~D. Attendance~~

~~Regular attendance is required for the successful completion of a course of study and graduation. Students are expected to be present in every scheduled class except as their attendance is excused in accordance with Board Policy 5200.~~

~~E. Students with Disabilities~~

~~1. Through the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) process and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.11 - Graduation, the district may specify alternate requirements for a State-endorsed diploma for individual students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3.~~



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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 with a disability has met the specified alternate requirements for graduation individually determined in an IEP.~~

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

a. ~~If the school the student is attending declines to issue a diploma to the student, the district of residence Board of Education shall issue the student a diploma if the student has satisfied all State and local graduation requirements, as specified in the student's IEP.~~

3. ~~If the Board of Education grants an elementary school diploma, a student with a disability who fulfills the requirements of his or her IEP shall qualify for and receive a diploma.~~

4. ~~Students with disabilities who meet the standards for graduation according to the school district's graduation requirements shall have the opportunity to participate in graduation exercises and related activities on a nondiscriminatory basis.~~

5. ~~A student with a disability whose IEP prescribes continued special education programs beyond the fourth year of high school shall be permitted to participate in commencement ceremonies with his/her graduating class and shall receive a certificate of attendance, provided the student has attended four years of high school.~~

6. ~~When a student with a disability graduates or exceeds the age of eligibility, the student shall be provided a written summary of his or her academic achievement and functional performance prior to the date of the student's graduation or the conclusion of the school year in which he or she exceeds the age of eligibility. The summary shall include recommendations to assist the child in meeting his or her postsecondary goals.~~

F. **High School Diploma**

1. ~~The Board of Education shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma to prospective graduates who have met all of the requirements adopted in accordance with State and local Board of Education requirements.~~



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~~2. The Board of Education shall not issue a high school diploma to any student not meeting the criteria specified in State and local requirements.~~

~~a. The district shall provide students exiting grade twelve without a diploma the opportunity for continued high school enrollment to age twenty, or until the requirements for a State-endorsed diploma have been met, whichever comes first.~~

~~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 high school end-of-course PARCC assessments to demonstrate proficiency as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f) pursuant to the standards applicable to the student's graduating class. Students in graduating classes prior to 2016 shall demonstrate proficiency as set forth in~~

~~N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f)1 Upon certification of passing the test applicable to the student's class in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8, a State-endorsed diploma shall be granted by the high school of record.~~

~~3. The Commissioner of Education shall award a State-issued high school diploma in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.2(e) and (d).~~

~~4. The Board of Education shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma to any currently enrolled student, regardless of grade level, who:~~

~~a. Has demonstrated proficiency in the high school end-of-course PARCC assessments in ELA 10 and Algebra I, or as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f);~~

~~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.~~

~~G. Notification~~

~~Each student who enters or transfers into the high school and the student's parent(s) will be provided a copy of the school district's requirements for a State-endorsed diploma, and the programs available to assist students in attaining the State-endorsed diploma, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-5.~~

 **H. Reporting**



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~~The Superintendent, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-7 and 18A:7E-3, shall report annually to the Board of Education at a public meeting not later than September 30, and to the Commissioner of Education:~~

- ~~1. The total number of students graduated;~~
 - ~~2. The number of students graduated under the substitute competency test process;~~
 - ~~3. The number of students graduated under the portfolio appeals process;~~
 4. The number of students receiving State-endorsed high school diplomas as a result of meeting any alternative requirements for graduation as specified in their IEP's;
 - ~~5. The total number of students denied graduation from the twelfth grade class; and~~
 - ~~6. 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, substitute competency tests, or portfolio appeals process based on the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-~~
- ~~I. The Superintendent shall provide to the Executive County Superintendent the district's graduation requirements each year they are evaluated through the Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) and update the filed copy each time the graduation policy is revised.~~

~~N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1-18A:35-1;~~

~~18A:35-4.9; 18A:35-7; 18A:36-17~~

~~N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1 et seq.; 6A:8-5.1; 6A:8-5.2; 6A:14-4.11 et seq.~~

Adopted: 16 November 2009

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First Reading:

Second Reading:

