

Graduation Requirements/Standards of Mastery

Wallingford Public Schools shall assess each student's competency in the basic skills necessary for graduation by considering performance standards which include, but do not exclusively rely on, the student's results on the state mastery examination taken in grade ten or eleven.

I. DEMONSTRATION OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

A. Acceptable Means of Demonstrating Performance Standards: A student may demonstrate the standard in English/language arts, mathematics and science by either of the following means:

1. Achieving at or above the proficient level on the state mastery examination in English/language arts, mathematics, and science.

or

2. Satisfactorily completing the district's alternate criteria and/or portfolio in the content area.

B. District Assessments and or Portfolio:

1. Satisfactory completion of the graduation assessments and/or portfolio will be determined by the content area Curriculum Coordinator. Each assessment and/or portfolio will be reviewed independently by two teachers in collaboration with the Curriculum office. If the two teachers accept the work submitted as satisfactory, the student's submission will be considered passing. If the two teachers disagree on the acceptability of the work, the Curriculum Coordinator will complete a final review.

2. Assessments submitted by students which are judged to be not satisfactory will be kept on file until the student graduates, transfers or withdraws.

C. Mathematics/Science in the Senior Year: Students who have not satisfactorily demonstrated the districts' performance standard in mathematics and/or science by the end of their junior year will be required to enroll in a course in the deficient area during their senior year. Computer courses will not satisfy this requirement.

D. Notification:

1. **Of Teachers:** Teachers in areas with required performance assessments will be provided a list of all students who have not achieved at or above the proficient level on the state mastery examination in English/language arts, mathematics, and science.

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D. Notification (continued):

2. **Of Students:** Students who have not achieved at or above the proficient level on the state mastery examination in English/language arts, mathematics, and/or science will be notified by their high school of the requirements for graduation. The high school will notify each senior in writing of his/her status relative to meeting the performance standards for graduation.
3. **Of Parents:** Parents of juniors who have not achieved at or above the proficient level on the state mastery examination in English/language arts, mathematics, and/or science will be reminded in writing by their high school of the performance standard requirements for graduation. Parents of seniors, who have not met the district performance standard for graduation and must pass the assessment for graduation, will be notified in writing by their high school.

E. Assistance in Meeting the Performance Standards: Seniors who have not met the performance requirement(s) in any subject(s) will be offered an opportunity for academic tutoring to assist them in meeting the requirement(s).

II. CREDITS EARNED IN PROGRAMS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT

A. Requirements and Limitations: A student may earn up to three credits toward graduation requirements in programs affiliated with accredited schools or colleges outside the district within the limitations delineated in this section.

1. A student may earn a maximum of one-half of the credit distribution requirement in any subject area in such programs.
2. A senior who does not earn sufficient credits to graduate with his/her class and does not return to school to repeat the senior year may apply credits earned in programs outside the district toward satisfying the graduation requirements. However, the credits must be consistent with the requirements of this policy and must be earned within the school year following the year in which the student should have graduated.
3. A three-credit semester course at a college or university shall equate to one-half credit in the district. In all other circumstances, a credit shall require a minimum of 120 hours of school work.
4. Credit shall be granted only if the student earns a minimum grade of "C" or its equivalent in the program.

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II. CREDITS EARNED IN PROGRAMS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT (continued)

A. Requirements and Limitations: (continued)

5. Grades earned in outside programs shall not be counted in the calculation of rank in class and/or G.P.A.
6. Students are not eligible to receive credits for participation in programs for which they received stipends for their participation and must receive written permission from the building principal in advance to earn credit for participation in any such program.

B. Participation in the Educational Center for the Arts Program: Students who are accepted for participation in the Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) program may earn a maximum of two credits toward graduation per year of successful participation in the program. Quality points are assigned to credit earned for successful participation.

III. EXCEPTION FOR TRANSFERS FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

- A. If a student transfers into the Wallingford Public Schools after completing at least three years in a high school in a district which requires fewer than 26 credits for graduation and if the student has a minimum of 18 credits to transfer, the student will be eligible to receive a Wallingford Public Schools diploma based on the graduation credit requirements of the previous district provided that the student earns at least 8 credits in Wallingford. Such student will be exempted from Wallingford's performance standards requirement for graduation.
- B. The superintendent shall be authorized to grant other exceptions to the graduation requirements for students transferring into the district during the junior year if unusual, extenuating circumstances would make it impossible for the student to graduate with his/her class.

INSTRUCTION

6146a

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Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-18. Courses in United States History, government and duties and responsibilities of citizenship.
- 10-19. Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and acquired immune deficiency syndrome.
- 10-220. Duties of boards of education.
- 10-221a. High school graduation requirements.
- 10-223a. Promotion and graduation policies.

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