

Students

Progress / Records

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

6146 (a)

I. Graduating Classes Beginning 2023

Beginning with the graduating class of 2023, students must earn a minimum of 25 credits and meet the credit distribution requirement. One semester equals 0.5 of a credit for a full block assignment. Single courses requiring additional scheduled time to be blocked will also receive commensurate credit.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students may earn up to three (3) high school credits if they successfully complete any course, the primary focus of which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine to twelve.

Credit Requirements for Graduation

To meet the minimum requirements for a high school diploma, a student must earn 25 credits. Each course taken can be credited to only one of the areas below. The 25 credits must achieve the following credit distribution:

Credits in the Humanities, including Civics and the Arts	<u>9 credits</u>
Comprising:	
English	4.0 credits
Social Studies (1 in US History; 0.5 in Civics)	3.5 credits
Additional credit in Humanities area, core or elective	1.5 credits
Credits in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Technology (STEM)	<u>9 credits</u>
Comprising:	
Math	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Additional credit in STEM area, core or elective	3 credits
Physical Education and Wellness	<u>1 credit</u>
0.5 credit must be in PE	
Health and Safety	<u>1 credit</u>
0.75 credit must be in Health	
World Language	<u>1 credit</u>
Electives	<u>3 credits</u>
0.5 credit must be in Fine Arts/Vocational Arts	

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (continued)

6146 (b)

Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment
Assured Content Experiences
Assured Skill Experiences

1.0 credit

II. Mastery Based Diploma Assessment – Class of 2023

A. For the graduating class of 2023 only, students will demonstrate proficiency in no fewer than three (3) of the following six (6) indicators of the academic expectations which are embedded in projects and activities developed by the FPS faculty in the following areas:

- Critical and Creative Thinking (1. Exploring and Understanding, 2. Synthesizing and Evaluating, 3. Creating and Constructing); and
- Communicating and Collaborating (4. Conveying Ideas, 5. Using Communication (Media) Tools, 6. Collaborating Strategically)

B. For the graduating class of 2023 only, students will demonstrate completion of one option in two of the three categories below (i.e., Mathematics, Evidence Based Reading and Writing, or Content Area Mastery).

Mathematics

Meet the State of Connecticut expectations for 11th Grade proficiency on the math portion of the PSAT or SAT

Meet the ACT score for proficiency on the math portion of that test

Pass a competency-based assessment to demonstrate proficiency in math

Meet the proficiency standard on a district-developed math portfolio

Complete a capstone course

Complete a course internship in a field of study, employment opportunity, or volunteer role that requires the use of Algebra II level math at a minimum

Provide evidence of proficiency on a nationally recognized math assessment

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (continued)

6146 (c)

Mastery Based Diploma Assessment – Class of 2023

Score a 3 or higher on Advanced Placement Calculus AB, Advanced Placement Calculus BC, or Advanced Placement Statistics

Evidence Based Reading and Writing

Meet the State of Connecticut expectations for 11th Grade proficiency on the Evidence Based Reading and Writing portion of the PSAT or SAT

Meet the ACT score for proficiency on the English, Reading, or Writing portion of that test

Pass a competency-based assessment to demonstrate proficiency in Reading

Meet the proficiency standard on a district-developed literacy portfolio

Complete a capstone course

Complete a course internship in a field of study, employment opportunity, or volunteer role that requires the use of junior year level English

Provide evidence of proficiency on a nationally recognized Reading or Writing assessment

For English Language Learners who have lived in Connecticut for fewer than five years, a score of proficiency or above on the State English Mastery exam designed for this population

Score a 3 or higher on Advanced Placement Language & Composition or Advanced Placement Literature & Composition

Content Area Mastery

Score of 3 or higher on content area Advanced Placement exam (other than Math or English)

Placement in state or national competitions in a content area as listed in administrative regulations

Proficiency scores on other content area assessments which are approved by curriculum departments and are listed in administrative regulations

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (continued)

6146 (d)

III. Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment - Class of 2024 and beyond

For the class of 2024 and beyond, students will earn a 1.0 mastery-based credit for successful assured content experiences and assured skill experiences completion.

Assured Content Experiences

Students are required to demonstrate mastery in both the English/social studies and science/math assured content experiences.

English/ Social Studies	Science/ Math
College and career readiness benchmark on the Evidence Based Reading/Writing SAT/PSAT/ACT <i>or</i>	College and career readiness benchmark on the math SAT/PSAT/ACT or on the NGSS assessment <i>or</i>
C or better on two credits of FPS English/ social studies courses <i>or</i>	C or better on two credits of FPS science/math courses <i>or</i>
If the graduation standard is not met prior to the student's senior year, the requirement can be achieved through meeting the standards of a portfolio of student work.	If the graduation standard is not met prior to the student's senior year, the requirement can be achieved through meeting the standards of a portfolio of student work.

If one of the requirements above is not met, a student can attain the mastery-based requirement through achievement of a B- or better, in two credits, in a single elective area concentration beyond the introductory level.

Assured Skill Experiences

For the class of 2024 and beyond, students will complete all six FPS academic expectations:

- a.) Exploring and Understanding
- b.) Synthesizing and Evaluating
- c.) Creating and Constructing
- d.) Conveying Ideas
- e.) Using Communication (Media) Tools
- f.) Collaborating Strategically

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (continued)

6146 (e)

Academic expectations are embedded in each high school course. Curriculum based assessments throughout the year will reflect the skills outlined in the academic expectations. Successful completion of a course will ensure exposure to and mastery of the academic expectations.

IV. Additional Considerations

Transfers

If a student transfers to a Fairfield high school after completing three (3) years of high school elsewhere, he/she is exempt from Fairfield High School Performance Standards.

Notification: Teachers, Students, and Parents

By September of the start of the Senior Year, the school counseling department will formally notify students, their teachers, and their parents or guardians if the district's standard has not been met in the areas of Mastery-Based Content Experiences. A plan will be put in place to assist the student in successful completion of an alternate pathway.

Options

If a student does not meet the credits required for graduation, he or she may return to the high school for a fifth year, enroll in summer school, or enroll in other course options, all to be pre-approved by the headmaster(s) and Chief Academic Officer.

Appeals

The head principal(s) shall oversee all appeals processes for accepting credit substitutions in unique circumstances, or accepting credit from accredited institutions outside the Fairfield Public School system, such as other high schools, higher education, and national programs. The final authority to determine graduation eligibility rests with the Chief Academic Officer.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (continued)

6146 (f)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

Public Act No 21-144, An Act Implementing Recommendations of the Department of Education

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-14n

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-16b

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220a

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-223a

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-18

Approved 8/27/04

Revised and Adopted 9/27/05

Revised and Adopted 1/12/2010

Revised and Adopted 10/23/2018

Revised and Adopted 10/25/2022

Revised and Adopted 3/14/2023