

Students

Progress / Records

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

6146 (a)

I. Credit Requirements

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.

Courses taken in grades nine through twelve inclusive, and that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards, adopted by the State Board of Education, shall satisfy the below graduation requirements. However, middle school students may earn up to four (4) high school credits if they successfully complete any course, the primary focus and expectation of which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine to twelve.

Credit Requirements for Graduation for the Graduating Class of 2026

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
Arts	0.5 credit
Additional credit in Humanities area.	1.0 credit
Credits in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)	<u>9 credits</u>
Comprising:	
Math	3.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Additional credits in STEM area.	3.0 credits
Physical Education and Wellness	<u>1 credit</u>
0.5 credit must be in PE	
Health and Safety	<u>1 credit</u>
World Language	<u>1 credit</u>
Electives	<u>4 credits</u>

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Credit Requirements for the Graduating Classes Beginning 2027

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
Arts	0.5 credit
Additional credit in Humanities area.	1.0 credit
Credits in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)	<u>9 credits</u>
Comprising:	
Math	3.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Additional credits in STEM area.	3.0 credits
Physical Education and Wellness	<u>1 credit</u>
0.5 credit must be in PE	
Health and Safety	<u>1 credit</u>
World Language	<u>1 credit</u>
Personal Financial Management and Financial Literacy	<u>0.5 credit</u>
Electives	<u>3.5 credits</u>

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II. Demonstration of Content Mastery

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.

III. FAFSA Requirement for the Graduating Classes Beginning 2027

Students graduating in 2027 and beyond are required to have satisfied one of the following prior to graduation:

- (1) completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”);
- (2) completed and submitted to a public institution of higher education an application for institutional financial aid for students without legal immigration status; or
- (3) completed a waiver, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, signed by the student's parent or guardian or signed by the student if the student is eighteen or older.

On and after March 15 of each school year, the head principal(s) or designee may complete the waiver on behalf of any student who has not satisfied the above requirements if the head principal(s) or designee affirms that they have made a good faith effort to contact the parent/guardian or student about completion of such applications.

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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.

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.

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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 § 10-221a as amended by Public Act 24-25 Sections 9 and 10

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-223a

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-18

Connecticut Public Act 23-21: An Act Concerning Financial Literacy Instruction

Connecticut Public Act 23-204

Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-221a(h):

Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-221a(c)(2)

Approved 8/27/04

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Revised and Adopted 1/12/2010

Revised and Adopted 10/23/2018

Revised and Adopted 10/25/2022

Revised and Adopted 3/14/2023

Revised and Adopted 8/29/2023

Revised and Adopted 11/14/2023

Revised and Adopted 10/22/2024

Revised and Adopted 10/28/2025