

## Instruction

### High School Graduation Requirements

#### Introduction

Graduation from the South Windsor Public Schools requires that all students have:

1. Satisfied the prescribed courses of study.
2. Satisfactorily demonstrated the district's performance standards.
3. Fulfilled the mandated number and distribution of credits.

#### Required High School Credit Distribution

A credit is defined as the equivalent of one class period of at least forty minutes for each day of a school year. One-half credit is given for courses that compile work in one semester.

Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, shall satisfy this graduation requirement except that a student may be granted credit for the successful completion of coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or a regional accrediting agency. One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, shall equal one-half high school credit. If physical education is not taken because of medical excuse, another subject must be substituted.

Commencing with the class of 2023, and for each graduating class thereafter, the following twenty five (25) credits are necessary to graduate:

Nine (9) credits in the Humanities:

Must include: English	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits (to include at least .5 credits in Civics/American Government)
Fine Arts	1 credit

Nine (9) credits in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics:

Must Include: Mathematics	3 credits
Science	3 credits

World Language\* 2 credits

Physical Education\*\* 1 credit

Health & Safety Education 1 credit

Mastery based diploma assessment (Capstone) 1 credit

- Each student must accumulate 6 credits to become a sophomore; 12 credits to become a junior; and 18 credits to become a senior.
- Each student is expected to schedule a minimum of credits according to the following:
  - 9th grade → 7 credits
  - 10th grade → 7 credits
  - 11th grade → 6.5 credits
  - 12th grade → 6 credits (excluding Capstone)
- Each student must accumulate at least 25 credits to be considered as a candidate for graduation.

In addition, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students. Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the

high school graduation requirements, previously listed, or end of the school year examinations, if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services may include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, (3) allowing students who received a failing score on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

\*Any student who is deaf or hearing impaired may be exempted from any world language graduation requirement if the student's parent or guardian requests such exemption in writing.

\*\*A student who presents written documentation from a physician or advanced practice registered nurse stating that participation in physical education is not advisable because of the physical condition of the student, shall be excused from the physical education requirement. In such a case, another subject must be substituted.

Only courses taken in grades nine to 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 above graduation requirements, except that the Board will grant a student credit:

High school elective credit will be granted to students for courses successfully completed with a passing grade in grade levels seven and eight so long as the primary focus of the course corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement at the high school level.

High school graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful completion of on-line coursework in accordance with the Board's on-line coursework policy.

### **District Performance Standards**

In addition to meeting credit distribution requirements, in order to qualify for graduation South Windsor students must demonstrate completion of the district's performance standard through the following criteria:

- A. Demonstrate competency on the literacy, mathematics, and science sections of the required high school state assessment
  - 1. If the required state assessment targets are not met, the high school administration may identify alternative criteria to determine completion of the district's performance standards.

### **Options for Seniors If Requirements Are Not Met**

A senior who is not eligible for graduation with his/her class as a result of his/her inability to meet the district performance standards is required to enroll in a program specifically designed to demonstrate proficiency. Successful completion of the program and related alternative assessments will meet the district performance standards requirement.

### **Transfer Students**

A student who transfers into South Windsor High School from another Connecticut public high school in his/her junior or senior year and has met the standards from the sending district will satisfy the South Windsor district performance standards. A student who has not met the standards of the sending district will be required to meet the South Windsor district performance standards.

A student who transfers into South Windsor High School after completing at least three years in a private high school or an out-of-state high school will have his/her student records and transcripts reviewed by the appropriate

curriculum specialist or curriculum program coordinator. As a result of the review, a determination will be made as to whether or not the student will be exempt from the district's performance standards. A nonexempt student will be required to meet the South Windsor district performance standards. Parents and students will be informed by the school counseling office as to what requirements still have to be met in order to graduate from South Windsor High School.

### **Special Education**

South Windsor High School's graduation requirements apply to all students, including special education students. The planning and placement team (PPT) will consider appropriate accommodations to demonstrate proficiency toward the district performance standards. Decisions of the PPT regarding accommodations must be outlined within a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Accommodations and modifications of course requirements should respond to a student's strengths and weaknesses, not the disability category, and be in effect within the IEP for class work.

### **Notification to Teachers**

At the beginning of a student's junior year appropriate staff will be provided with a list of the names of students who require further performance assessments.

### **Notification to Parents/Guardians**

- Details regarding the academic and performance requirements will be distributed to all incoming freshmen, transfer students and their parents/guardians.
- Achievement of proficiency standards will be recorded on student transcripts.
- Required high school state assessment results will be distributed to students and parents/guardians upon release of the scores from the Connecticut State Department of Education
- At the end of a student's junior year, a written communication will be distributed to parents/guardians of junior students outlining credits achieved and requirements still needed for graduation.
- At the end of the first semester of a student's senior year, a certified letter will be sent to parents/guardians of seniors who are in danger of not meeting all graduation requirements.

### **Awards of High School Diplomas**

Students who complete all graduation requirements shall receive a diploma.

The Board of Education shall award a high school diploma to any World War II veteran or veteran of the Korean Hostilities or Vietnam Era veteran requesting such diploma who left high school for military service as defined in the statutes and did not receive the diploma as a consequence of such service

The Board of Education shall award a high school diploma to any person who (1) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II, December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946, inclusive; (2) did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such work; and (3) has been a resident of the state for at least fifty (50) consecutive years.

### **Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy**

Commencing with the graduating class of 2019 and for each graduating class thereafter, the Board of Education, utilizing guidelines established by the State Board of Education, may affix the "Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy" to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in English and one or more languages.

## **Global Engagement**

Commencing with the graduating class of 2019, and for each graduating class thereafter, the Board of Education, utilizing criteria established by the administration may award a “Certificate of Global Engagement” to a student who has demonstrated a commitment to courses and service-oriented activities with a global focus.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-16](#)(l) Graduation exercises. (As amended by PA 96-26 An Act Concerning Graduation Requirements and Readmission and Placement of Older Students)

[10-223a](#). Promotion and Graduation Policies

Policy Adopted: January 22, 2019

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