



INSTRUCTION

6146

Credit Requirements

Graduation from Montville public school implies (1) that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study, (2) that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and satisfactorily demonstrated the district's performance standards, assessed in part by the statewide mastery examinations, established by the faculty and approved by the Board of Education, and (3) that they have fulfilled the legally mandated number and distribution of credits. Graduation shall not be held until 180 days and 900 hours of actual school work are completed. The Board of Education, in establishing a graduation date, may establish for any school year a firm graduation date for students in grade twelve which is no earlier than the one-hundred-eighty-fifth day in the Board's adopted school calendar. After April first in any school year the Board may establish a firm graduation date for the school year which, at the time of such establishment provides for at least 180 days of school.

The Board of Education, in recognition of its responsibility for the education of all youths in the school system, including those who do not successfully complete the assessment criteria listed above, and those who drop out of school, shall make available to all the school district's youths a course of study or alternative programs for meeting standards that will enable them to acquire a high school or vocational school diploma.

All students in Grades 9-11 are required to take a minimum six (6) credits per year (seven credits per year effective for the class of 2023 and subsequent classes). All seniors are required to take a minimum of six (6) credits and must accumulate 5 credits in their senior year in order to graduate.

All students graduating from 2018 to 2022 inclusive must satisfactorily complete 24 credits for graduation and meet the credit distribution requirements below:

4 credits	English (4 years)
3 credits	Mathematics
3 credits	Social Studies (including U.S. History and ½ credit in Civics)
1 credit*	World Language
3 credits	Science
2 credits	Physical Education (½ credit per year)
1 credit	Arts/Vocational
1/2 credit	Computer Technology
1/2 credit	Health
1/2 credit	Personal Finance

Commencing with the graduating class of 2023 (beginning with the incoming class of 2019-2020) and for each graduating class thereafter, all students must satisfactorily complete 25 credits for graduation and meet the credit distribution requirements below.

CT Graduation Requirements	Subjects	Credits	Mandatory Courses
Humanities (9 credits)	English	4	English 1, 2, 3, 4 or other advanced English courses
	Social Studies	3	Civics (0.5 credits), World Civilizations (0.5 credits), U.S. History II (1 credit)
	Fine Arts	0.5	
STEM (9 credits)	Mathematics	3	Algebra I
	Science	3	Integrated Science, Biology
	Technology Education	1	
World Language (1 credit)	*Spanish	1	Spanish I
Career and Life Skills (2 credits)	**Physical Education	1	2 ½ credit PE courses
	Health	1	2 ½ credit Health courses
	Personal Finance	0.5	Personal Finance
Mastery Based Diploma Assessment	Course designated as requiring a performance-based assessment for demonstration of mastery	1	Independent Study / Senior Project Senior Internship Identified Courses in Program of Studies

Students may fulfill high school graduation requirements through successful demonstration of subject matter content mastery achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning. These pathways include:

1. cross-curricular graduation requirements,
2. career and technical education,
3. virtual learning,
4. work-based learning,
5. service learning,
6. dual enrollment and early college,
7. courses taken in middle school,
8. internships, and
9. student-designed independent studies.

The Board of Education determines whether to grant academic credit for demonstration of mastery through these pathways and (2) demonstration of mastery must be in accordance with statewide subject matter content standards.

The Board of Education may grant students high school credit for successful completion of coursework earned from an accredited institution of higher learning taken either during the school year or summer months.

A credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of an eighty minute class period for 90 days of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or State Board of Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line course work or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.

Only 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 graduation requirements except that the Board may grant a student credit toward meeting the high school graduation requirements upon the successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter content described in this section achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provided flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, work-based learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college, successful completion in grade seven or eight of a course that corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine through twelve, and internships and student designed independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide content standards.

The Board shall create a student success plan for each enrolled student, beginning in grade six. Such plan shall include a students' career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.

A student who is repeating a course for which she or he has already received credit will be granted no additional credit for successful repetition of the course.

The student enrolled in the Adult Education Diploma Program must meet the same requirements as the regular high school student with the exception of physical education.

*Students who enter MHS with a LAS LINKS score below 4 are exempt from the World Language credit requirement.

**A student shall be excused from the physical education requirement upon presentation of a certificate from a physician or advanced practice registered nurse indicating that participation in physical education is medically contradicted because of the student's physical condition. The credit for physical education may be fulfilled by an elective.

Students with Special Needs:

The graduation requirements shall apply to any student requiring special education except when the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) determines the requirement not to be appropriate.

In addition, also beginning with the graduating class of 2023, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements, previously listed if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services shall 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, allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, 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.

Options if Requirements Are Not Met:

Seniors who are not eligible for graduation with their class due to a failure to meet district

graduation credit requirements may select one or more of the following options:

1. Return in September as a fifth year student
2. Enroll in an appropriate summer school program

Awards of High School Diplomas

Students who complete all graduation requirements shall receive a diploma at the June commencement.

In addition, individuals who have received an honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces after a minimum of ninety days of active service during World War II for individuals who withdrew from school to join the Armed Forces are eligible to receive a diploma.

Replacement possible language:

1. Honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces after a minimum of ninety days of active service during World War II for individuals who withdrew from school to join the Armed Forces and for veterans of the Korean Hostilities and for veterans of the Vietnam Era. (*optional*)
2. Honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces for individuals who left high school prior to graduation and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service. (*optional*)

Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy

Commencing with the graduating class of 2020, and for each graduating class thereafter, the Board of Education, utilizing criteria established by the State Board of Education, may/shall 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 foreign languages. "Foreign language" means a world language other than English and includes American Sign Language and any other language spoken by a federally recognized Native American tribe. The Board of Education shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student received the "Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy."

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-5c Board examination series pilot program. Issuance of certificate (as amended by P.A. 13-247)

10-14n Statewide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results (as amended by Section 115 of PA 14-217)

10-16(1) Graduation exercises. (As amended by PA 96-26 An Act Concerning Graduation Requirements and Readmission and Placement of Older Students)

10-221a High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II and P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation. P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut, P.A. 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform, P.A. 13-57, An Act Concerning Honorary Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans, P.A. 13-122, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes, P.A. 13-247, Budget

Implementer Bill and P.A. 15-237, An Act Concerning High School Graduation and P.A. 16-4(SS), section 310.), PA 17-42, An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements and PA 17-29, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Seal of Biliteracy)

10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (As amended by P.A. 00-166)

P.A. 13-108 An Act Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools.

P.A. 13-247 An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget.

P.A. 15-237 An Act Concerning High School Graduation.

P.A. 17-42 An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements

Policy Revised: 7/20/82
Revised: 2/15/83
Revised: 6/18/85
Revised: 4/21/87
Revised: 7/16/91
Revised: 4/20/99
Revised: 4/10/01
Revised: 8/20/02
Revised: 6/17/03
Revised: 6/21/05
Revised: 6/17/08
Revised: 3/17/09
Revised: 12/15/09
Revised: 12/20/11
Revised: 3/17/15
Revised: 1/15/19