

**Instruction****Graduation Requirements****Purpose**

The Board of Education will provide all students with high quality distinctive high schools in which students can attain a Hartford Public School high school diploma that reflects a standards-based college-ready curriculum designed to meet the high educational outcomes of the State of Connecticut and prepare all students to be competitive candidates for entrance into a four-year college program.

**Course Levels**

All high school graduation requirement courses are designated as college preparatory, honors, or \*AP/ECE/DE.

\*Advanced Placement/Early College Experience/Dual Enrollment

**College Credits**

All high schools will offer opportunities for students to earn college credits through Advanced Placement courses, Dual Enrollment (high school and college credit) courses, ECE (Early College Experience), and/or through articulation agreements that allow students to take courses at a college campus. Schools in the goal range of the district matrix have the autonomy to design their programs to meet this level of rigor.

**Capstone Experience (1 credit, required)**

The purpose of the Capstone Experience is to provide all high school seniors the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed to complete a project, portfolio, internship, service learning or other demonstration project in an area of particular interest to the student.

**Instruction****Graduation Requirements (continued)****Minimum Diploma Requirements**

<b>Required Courses*</b>		
<b>Humanities (11.0 Credits)</b>		
Area	Credits	Requirements
English	4 Credits	2.0 English I & II; 2.0 Literature & Composition I & II
Social Studies	3 Credits	1.0 American History; 0.5 Civics and American Government; 1.0 World History <b>or</b> International Studies; 0.5 Social Studies Elective
World Language	2 Credits	2.0 World Language
Fine Arts	1 Credit	1.0 Fine Arts Elective
Humanities	1 Credit	1.0 Humanities Elective
<b>STEM Courses (8 Credits)</b>		
Area	Credits	Requirements
Math	4 Credits	1.0 Algebra I; 1.0 Geometry; 1.0 Algebra II <b>or</b> Probability & Statistics; and 1.0 Math Elective
Science	3 Credits	1.0 Biology with Lab; 1.0 Chemistry with Lab; 1.0 Science Elective
STEM	1 Credit	1.0 STEM Elective
<b>Career and Life Skills (3.5 Credits)</b>		
Area	Credits	Requirements
Physical Education	1 Credit	1.0 Physical Education
Health/Safety	0.5 Credit	0.5 Health and Safety Education
Career & Life Skills	2 Credits	2.0 Career & Life Skills Elective
<b>Additional Requirements (2.5 Credits)</b>		
Area	Credits	Requirements
Course Electives	1.5 Credits	1.5 School Thematic Courses <b>or</b> Open Electives
Capstone	1 Credit	1.0 Capstone Senior Demonstration or Equivalent
<b>Total Credits Required</b>		<b>25 Credits</b>

\* Or equivalent substitution course(s)

In order to support students in meeting the graduation requirements for entry and success in post-secondary education, the appropriate curricular and instructional supports will be provided to students.

**Instruction****Graduation Requirements (continued)****Curricular Support**

All graduation requirement (or equivalent) courses will include clearly defined learning objectives aligned with Common Core and/or State Standards (when applicable). Adequate student supports and remedial services will be targeted to the individual needs of students. Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements or end of year course examinations. Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of the essential learning objectives.

**Student Success Plan**

State mandated Student Success Plans will be developed in Grade 6 and continued through Grade 12 to provide in-depth support in the process of assisting students in goals for academic growth, career exploration and planning, and personal-social/emotional growth.

**Credits**

Credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation will be granted for the following:

1. Successful completion of a course taken in grades nine to twelve as stipulated in subsection (f) of section 10-221a of the general statutes (Effective July 1, 2013) that defines a credit as not less than the equivalent of a forty-five minute class period for each school day of a school year,
2. Credit or part of a credit earned at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or State Board of Education or regionally accredited as stipulated in subsection (g) of section 10-221a of the general statutes (Effective July 1, 2010) that defines a three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such institution equal to one-half credit toward high school graduation,
3. Through successful completion of online coursework, provided that the Hartford Board of Education has adopted an on-line coursework policy and the course is in accordance with the policy,
4. Through the demonstration of course mastery based on competency and performance standards,
5. Through the successful completion of any course in grades seven or eight that corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine to twelve and the student has demonstrated mastery on the corresponding high school level end-of-course assessment,
6. Through successful completion of a world language course in grades six, seven, or eight through online coursework or coursework completed

## **Instruction**

### **Graduation Requirements (continued)**

- privately through a nonprofit provider, and the student has demonstrated a passing grade on an examination prescribed by the Commissioner of Education for which up to four credits may be awarded, and/or
7. Through achievement of a passing grade on a subject proficiency examination identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education.
  8. Through the completion of not less than fifty hours of actual service performed outside of the regular school day in connection with a planned community service learning project supervised by a certified school administrator or teacher and supplemented by not less than ten hours of related classroom instruction, for which 0.5 elective credit may be awarded. In Hartford Public Schools, a student may only participate in this option once.

### **State Mandated Assessments**

- Students will meet any participation and proficiency requirements specified by the State Department of Education for mandated assessments.
- Students are required to pass the following end of year examinations: Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, American History, and Grade 10 English (English II)
- Students who have received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of year exam will be allowed to take an alternate form of the exam.

### **Parent and Student Notification**

Students and parents must be notified in writing of the student's performance on state mandated assessments.

### **Special Education**

Special Education students may meet these requirements through modifications and adaptations as prescribed in the student Individualized Education Plan.

### **English Language Learners (ELL)**

ELL students who enter a Hartford High School and will have enrolled in U.S. school(s) totaling 10 months or more by their intended date of graduation will be expected to achieve HPS graduation requirements.

ELL students who enter a Hartford High School in their senior year and who will have enrolled in U.S. school(s) totaling fewer than 10 months by their intended date of graduation will be referred to an ELL Review Team in order to determine individual expectations for demonstrating performance standards for graduation.

**Instruction****Graduation Requirements (continued)****Timeline**

The Board directs the Superintendent to implement the High School Graduation criteria above beginning with the entering high school Freshman Class of 2016-2017 which will be the graduating Class of 2020.

*The Hartford Public Schools Graduation Policy meets the expectations set forth by the Connecticut State Department of Education. Furthermore, the Hartford Public Schools adheres to national, state, and local non-discrimination policies. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all educational programs and activities of the Hartford Board of Education will be offered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex or handicap.*

Policy adopted: January 4, 2000  
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Policy revised: November 1, 2005  
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HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Hartford, Connecticut