

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Graduation
Code	217
Status	Active
Adopted	May 28, 2019
Last Revised	March 9, 2021

Purpose

The Board shall establish graduation requirements and acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program appropriate to the student's interests and needs by awarding a diploma at graduation ceremonies.

Authority

The Board shall adopt the graduation requirements students must achieve in accordance with state regulations, which shall include course completion, grades and satisfactory results of district and state assessments aligned with established state academic standards and Pennsylvania core standards.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

The Board requires graduation requirements to be published and distributed to students and parents/guardians, and made available in each school building or on the district's website. All changes to graduation requirements shall be published and distributed to students and parents/guardians, and made available in each school building or on the district's website immediately following approval by the Board.[\[1\]](#)

The Board requires that each candidate for graduation shall have earned twenty-six (26) credits. The fourth year of high school shall not be required if the student has been accepted by an accredited institution of higher learning and has completed all requirements for graduation.

Effective with the graduating class of 2023, graduation requirements include the following:

1. Course completion and grades.
2. Demonstration of proficiency, as determined by the school district, in each of the state academic standards not assessed by a state assessment.
3. Require proficiency in algebra I, biology and literature Keystone exams or an alternative pathway approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, if applicable.

Diplomas

The Board shall award a high school diploma to every student enrolled in this district who meets the requirements for graduation established by this Board.[\[1\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)

A student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall not be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure, but the student may be denied participation in the graduation ceremony when personal conduct so warrants. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension.[\[9\]](#)

Students With Disabilities -

The Board shall permit a student with a disability, whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) prescribes continued educational services, to participate in commencement ceremonies with his/her graduating class and receive a certificate of attendance, provided that the student has attended four (4) years of high school. The Board shall issue a high school diploma to each student with a disability who completes the graduation requirements established by the Board or the goals established in the student's IEP, as determined by the student's IEP team.[1][10][11][12][13][14][15]

Part-Time Students -

A student may qualify for graduation by attending a district school part-time when lawfully employed part-time or when officially enrolled part-time in a postsecondary institution.[16][17]

Full-Time Postsecondary Students -

The fourth year of high school shall not be required for graduation if a student has completed all requirements for graduation and has been accepted to a postsecondary institution as a full-time student.[17][18]

Eligible Veterans -

In order to honor and recognize honorably discharged eligible veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War, the Board shall grant a diploma to a veteran who meets the applicable requirements of law and completes the required application.[4]

Upon proper application, the Board may award a diploma posthumously to a veteran who meets the stated requirements.

The Superintendent shall submit to the Board for its approval the names of veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War who are eligible for a high school diploma.

Foreign Study -

The Board recognizes the many educational opportunities offered by attendance and study in accredited secondary schools of foreign countries. Therefore, the Board shall award a diploma pursuant to the following conditions:

1. Upon receipt of credentials from the principal or headmaster of the foreign school, the building principal shall evaluate the student's record in terms of subject matter, hours of instruction, academic rigor, and quality of achievement and shall present a recommendation, in writing, to the Superintendent.
2. The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board if the student has completed the graduation requirements and is qualified to receive a Nazareth Area School District diploma.

Should there be any question as to the quality of achievement by the student, s/he shall be required to successfully pass an examination which assesses mastery in the courses completed prior to the issuance of the diploma.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for ensuring the following:

1. Publication and distribution of graduation requirements to students and parents/guardians.[1]
2. Counseling of students regarding expectations of graduation requirements.[1][2][3][6][7][8][11]

3. Assessment of individual student attainment of academic standards to ensure the student's progress toward achievement of graduation requirements.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[11\]](#)
4. Accurate recording and reporting of each student's achievement of academic standards and accumulation of graduation requirements.[\[8\]](#)[\[19\]](#)
5. Provision of assistance to those students having difficulty attaining the academic standards.[\[1\]](#)
6. Development of a list of individuals who qualify for the award of a diploma.
7. Planning and executing graduation ceremonies that appropriately recognize this important achievement.

Students who have completed all graduation requirements and are determined to be in good standing by the High School Principal are eligible to participate in the commencement ceremony.

Guidelines

In addition to the total number of credits necessary to graduate, the credits must be accumulated in the following subject areas:

1. 4.0 credits in English.
2. 4.0 credits in Mathematics.
3. 7.0 credits in Science/Social Studies with a minimum of three credits in each subject area.
4. 2.0 credits in Art/Humanities.
5. 0.5 credits in Health.
6. 2.0 credits in Physical Education.
7. 1.0 credit in Computer Literacy/Career Development.

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for annually reviewing and communicating the Educational Opportunities Guide which outlines specific course requirements.

As a guide, students are expected to pass a minimum of seven (7) credits per school year to keep pace for graduation. Students must pass English, social studies or science, and physical education during each school year. If failure of these courses occurs, a student may successfully complete the course during the summer school session immediately following the school term which the failure took place. If courses are not completed successfully during the school session stated, the student may not be eligible to graduate with his/her class.

Legal

1. 22 PA Code 4.24
2. 22 PA Code 4.51
3. 22 PA Code 4.52
4. 24 P.S. 1611
5. 24 P.S. 1613
6. Pol. 102
7. Pol. 127
8. Pol. 212
9. Pol. 233
10. 24 P.S. 1614
11. 22 PA Code 4.12
12. 22 PA Code 11.27
13. 34 CFR 300.102
14. 34 CFR 300.305
15. Pol. 113
16. 22 PA Code 11.5
17. 22 PA Code 11.8
18. 22 PA Code 11.4
19. Pol. 216
- 34 CFR Part 300