



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

FILE CODE: 6146

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate from a high school of the Newark Board of Education, and receive a State endorsed diploma, a student must:

- A. Meet both state and district proficiency standards in the core curriculum content areas; achieve or exceed passing grade on New Jersey Department of Education approved state-wide high school proficiency assessment;
- B. Successfully complete the course requirements stated in the Administrative Code, unless those of the district are greater, in which case the district's standard must be met. The proficiencies required must include the New Jersey Student Learning Standards as approved by the State Board of Education, Board of Education;
- C. Successfully complete coursework at the high school level or above, representing a minimum of 130 credits, including, but not limited to, 20 credits of Language Arts, 20 credits of Mathematics, 20 credits of Science, 20 credits of Social Studies, and 10 credits of World Language;
- D. Complete 80 hours of Community Service; and
- E. Complete a senior thesis, as prescribed by the Board of Education.
- F. Complete FAFSA/NJFAAA

Successful completion means that the pupil has demonstrated the degree of proficiency required by the district to indicate achievement of the district goals for the particular course, and has attended the required number of course sessions.

Transfer pupils must meet all state and local requirements in order to receive a diploma. The Superintendent shall put into effect the procedures necessary to assess each pupil upon entry into the system, and, annually thereafter, to identify those pupils not meeting the state or district proficiency requirements. The Superintendent shall develop the programs necessary to remedy these deficiencies at the lowest possible grade level.

Remediation and Basic Skills

Pupils who do not pass the New Jersey Department of Education approved statewide proficiency assessment, the elementary assessment component for grades three through five and the middle school components for grades six through eight shall be provided appropriate remediation.

Twelfth grade pupils who have satisfied all other graduation requirements but have repeatedly failed the statewide examination shall receive a special review assessment as provided by law.



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Pupils with Limited English Proficiency

Pupils with limited English proficiency must be provided with the program opportunities required by law, and must fulfill the regular state and district requirements for graduation.

Special Education Pupils

A disabled pupil must meet all state and local high school graduation requirements in order to receive a state endorsed high school diploma unless exempted in his/her IEP. A pupil who qualifies may take an alternate proficiency assessment approved by the New Jersey Department of Education, if alternate requirements for graduation have been specified in his/her IEP.

By June 30 of a disabled pupil's last year in the elementary program, the pupil's case manager, parent/ guardian and teacher(s) shall meet to review the instructional guide and basic plan of the pupil's IEP in view of the transition to the secondary program. Input from appropriate staff from the secondary school shall be part of the review.

The basic plan of the IEP for the pupil exiting the elementary program will address all the elements required in the administrative code. The description of the educational program will include exemptions, if any, from regular education program options or state and local graduation requirements including the Department of Education approved statewide high school proficiency assessment, along with the rationale for the exemptions. The exemptions must be approved in writing by the Superintendent or designee.

Required reviews of the IEP shall continue to address graduation requirements and shall explain why the proficiencies required for graduation are not part of the IEP.

Because graduation with a state-endorsed diploma is a change of placement that requires written notice, all procedures described in the administrative code shall be followed scrupulously. Procedures shall include written notice to parents/guardians that includes a copy of procedural safeguards published by the State Department of Education and opportunity for mediation or a due process hearing.

Proficiency

In consultation with appropriate professional staff, the Superintendent shall develop and present to the board for adoption indicators of achievement and standards of proficiency and attendance demonstrating successful completion of each course offered at every level of the high school. The subject matter and standards of proficiency shall be articulated with the district's elementary schools and with sending elementary districts.

In accordance with law, the district shall have copies of this policy distributed to all ninth grade (or otherwise entering) pupils and their parents/guardians. They shall also be informed as to the examinations, demonstrated proficiencies, course and credit hour requirements, attendance policies, and any other state and local requirements.



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Proficiency requirements for each individual course shall be given to pupils on registering for the course.

The yearly program of studies for each pupil in the high school must be approved and signed by the parent/guardian, except in the case of 18-year-old pupils.

FAFSA/NJAFSA

For students who do not qualify for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (NJAFSA), parents/guardians should complete the FAFSA/NJAFSA Exemption Form and submit it to their child's school counselor by June 1st of the student's senior year.

Early Graduation

Pupils who have clearly demonstrated a scholastic aptitude, an unusual readiness for the world of work, a financial need, or a serious health or family concern may be considered for early graduation. Minimal graduation requirements must be completed early. Approval must be obtained from the parents/guardians and the administration.

Pupil Enrollment in College Courses

The district shall make reasonable efforts to develop articulation agreements with New Jersey colleges and universities to facilitate the delivery of college credit courses to qualified pupils. The district shall determine eligibility requirements for these pupils and monitor the quality of the courses offered and college faculty who teach the courses.

Reporting and Monitoring

The Board shall include in the annual report to the commissioner:

- A. The total number of pupils graduated in the aggregate and disaggregated according to subgroups (economically disadvantaged, racial/ethnic sub-groups, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiencies) described in federal law;
- B. The number of pupils graduated under the who took a New Jersey Department of Education approved alternate high school proficiency assessment;
- C. The number of pupils receiving state endorsed high school diplomas as a result of meeting any alternate requirements for graduation as specified in their IEP's;
- D. The total number of pupils denied graduation from the 12th grade class;



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- E. The number of pupils denied graduation from the 12th grade class solely because of failure to pass the New Jersey Department of Education approved statewide high school proficiency assessment or alternative high school assessment, based on the provisions of administrative code.

This information shall be reported to the board at a public meeting prior to the date prescribed by law.

Adopted by State District Superintendent: February 23, 2010
NJSBA Review/Update: November 2010
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Adopted by the Board of Education: May 28, 2019

Key Words

High School Graduation, Early Warning Test, HSPT, Graduation, Graduation Requirements

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:4 25 Prescribing minimum courses of study for public schools; approval of courses of study
N.J.S.A. 18A:7C 1 Commissioner of education to develop a program of standards and guidelines
N.J.S.A. 18A:7C 2 Boards of education; establishment of standards
N.J.S.A. 18A:7C 4.1 Operation Recognition; purpose; eligibility; application procedure
N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-5.1 Boards of education prohibited from excluding pupils from graduation ceremony or from obtaining yearbook for inability to pay fees
N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-4 Periodic review of curriculum content standard by state board; establishment of thoroughness and efficiency standards and cost per pupil
N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-29 Academic achievement reward program
N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1 District to furnish suitable facilities; adoption of courses of study
N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 et seq. Curriculum and courses
N.J.S.A. 18A:35-14.9 Pupil promotion and remediation; policies and procedures
N.J.S.A. 18A:36 17 Credit of seniors in active military and naval service, etc.
N.J.A.C. 6A:8 1.1 et seq. Standards and Assessment
See particularly:
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.2,-2.1,-3.1, -3.3,-4.1, -4.2, -4.3, -5.1, -5.2
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7 Individualized education program
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.12 Graduation
N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.11 Graduation requirements for limited English Language Learners
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.5 Commissioner to ensure achievement of the New Jersey Student



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Learning Standards

N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
N.J.A.C. 6A:33-1.1 et seq. School turnaround and improvement

The Department of Education Website, <http://www.nj.gov/njded/assessment/>
(Lists the state assessment components)

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub.L.114-95, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

Possible

Cross References:

*1120	Board meetings
*5113	Absences and excuses
*5120	Assessment of individual needs
*5127	Commencement activities
6000	Concepts and roles in instruction
*6010	Goals and objectives
*6122	Articulation
*6140	Curriculum adoption
6141.4	Independent study
*6142	Subject fields
*6142.2	English as a second language; bilingual/bicultural
*6142.6	Basic skills
*6145	Extracurricular activities
*6147	Standards of proficiency
*6154	Homework/makeup work
*6171.4	Special education
*6200	Adult/community education

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual