

Instruction

Graduation Requirements

Graduation from our public schools implies (1) that students satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study for the several grade levels in accordance with their respective abilities to achieve, (2) that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and/or standards 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 schoolwork 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 principal shall submit to the Board of Education through the Superintendent his/her detailed requirements and standards to agree with the goals of our schools as adopted by the Board of Education. It is expected that the faculty will apply measures of achievement to provide evidence that each student has progressed far enough toward school goals to warrant graduation according to the terms of paragraph #1 above.

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 above, and those who drop out of school, shall make available to all the school district's youths alternative programs for meeting standards that will enable them to acquire a high school or vocational school 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.

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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.

Students graduating in the years 2016-2020

For students graduating in the years 2016-2020, diplomas shall be awarded to students who are enrolled in the regular program and who have earned a minimum of 21 credits. Satisfaction of each of the requirements listed below is necessary for graduation from Granby Memorial High School:

8 Credits in Humanities:

- Four (4) credits in English. The 4 credits must include an English course every semester. Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior English courses are yearlong courses.
- Three and a half (3 ½) credits in Social Studies. This must include one (1) credit in United States/American History, one half (1/2) credit in Civics and one (1) credit each in Big History and World Civilizations 10, or comparable courses that fill these requirements.
- Half (1/2) credit in Fine Arts. Courses in Art, and Music will satisfy this requirement. Techniques of Theater or Improvisation may satisfy the Fine Arts requirement, but cannot be used to satisfy both an English and Fine Arts requirement.

5 Credits in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics:

- Three (3) credits in Math.
- Two (2) credits in Science. One (1) credit in the life science of Biology is required.

2 1/2 Credits in Career and Life Skills, including not fewer than:

- One (1) credit in Physical Education. One-quarter (1/4) credit at each grade level each year.
- Half (1/2) credit in Health. Students are required to complete a total of one-half credit course during their ninth and tenth grade years.
- Half (1/2) credit in Personal Financial Management. This can be fulfilled by a half (½) credit in Economics.
- Half (1/2) credit Applied Arts. Life Management and Technology Education will satisfy this requirement.

One (1) credit in World Language

One (1) credit in Senior Demonstration Capstone Project (Starts with the class of 2017.)

Three and a half (3 ½) credits in Electives (The class of 2016 is required to take 4 ½ credits or more of Electives.)

Electives may be completed through alternative learning activities as well as through regular high school courses. Students may apply for up to ½ credit per year for alternative learning activities approved in advance by high school administration. A total of one credit can be earned through the alternative credit option over the course of a high school student's career. Grades are not issued for the Alternative Credit Option and the additional credit does not impact on grade point average.

15 hours of Community Service

Fifteen hours of community service in an approved program is required for graduation. Suggestions and recommendations for various programs and placements are available in the guidance office. Official documentation and a reflection paper must be submitted to high school administration upon completion of the community service. It is recommended that community service be completed during the tenth grade year. The SDE will grant a community service recognition award if a student earns at least 50 hours of community service and meets statutory criteria to earn one-half credit toward graduation.

Accredited College Courses

Students may apply for up to one credit per semester for courses completed at accredited colleges and universities. Courses must be approved in advance by high school administration. Grades will not be used in calculating grade point averages. Tuition costs will not be covered by the Granby Public Schools.

TOTAL: 21 credits

Students graduating in the year 2021 and beyond

Commencing with the graduating class of 2021, in order to graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 25 credit hours, including not fewer than:

9 Credits in Humanities:

- Four (4) credits in English, including composition
- Three (3) credits in Social Studies, including at least one (1) credit in United States\American History and a half (1/2) credit in CivicsOne (1) credit in Fine Arts
- One (1) credit in a Humanities elective

Graduation Requirements

8 Credits in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

- Four (4) credits in Math – including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or Probability and Statistics
- Three (3) credits in Science – including at least one(1) credit in Life Science and at least one (1) credit in Physical Science
- One (1) credit in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics elective

3 ½ Credits in Career and Life Skills, including not fewer than:

- One (1) credit in Physical Education
- One-half (1/2) credit in Health and Safety Education
- One-half (1/2) credit in Personal Finance or Economics
- One and one-half (1 ½) credits in Career and Life Skills electives, such as School to Career, Technology, Food and Nutrition, Applied Arts, Accounting, Community Service

2 Credits in World Languages

1.5 Credits in electives

1 Credit in Senior Demonstration Capstone Project

End of the school year examinations for the following courses: (A) Algebra 1, (B) Geometry, (C) Biology, (D) United States\American History, and (E) Grade Ten English.

15 hours of Community Service

Fifteen hours of community service in an approved program is required for graduation. Suggestions and recommendations for various programs and placements are available in the guidance office. Official documentation and a reflection paper must be submitted to high school administration upon completion of the community service. It is recommended that community service be completed during the tenth grade year. The SDE will grant a community service recognition award if a student earns at least 50 hours of community service and meets statutory criteria to earn one-half credit toward graduation.

Total: 25 credits

Students receiving special education who do not successfully complete a prescribed program shall be granted a certificate of attendance at the completion of the school year following their 21st birthday.

Students meeting these requirements and wishing to graduate at the end of any semester other than their second semester in the twelfth grade may do so after submitting a letter of request to the high school.

Students receiving special education as dictated by statute may have modifications made to graduation requirements by the high school special education team and approved by the principal.

Graduation Requirements

In addition, beginning with the graduating class of 2021, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students beginning in grade seven (2014-2015 school year). 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 school year examinations, if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but are not 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 (3.) Allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such student is eligible for an alternative assessment as determined by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) to demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

The fulfillment of the mandated two credit foreign language requirement, beginning with the class of 2021, can include a single credit for two years of middle school world language if the objectives achieved are substantially the same or greater than those achieved in an equivalent ninth grade world language course, or an online course successfully completed, or the successful completion of a course offered privately through a nonprofit provider.

A single credit may be earned toward high school graduation for seventh and eighth grade mathematics, if the objectives achieved are substantially the same or greater than those achieved in an equivalent ninth grade mathematics course.

All credits earned toward meeting any of the graduation requirements through the successful completion of online courses must be approved by the guidance department.

Per statute (C.G.S. 10-221a(f)) the determination of eligible credits is at the discretion of the Board of Education, provided the primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter of the specified course requirements. The Board may permit a student to graduate during a period of expulsion if the Board determines the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits. 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.

**Policy
6146(g)**

10-16(l) Graduation exercises. (As amended by P.A. 96-108, An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates)

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, 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 and P.A. 13-247, Budget Implementer Bill.)

10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by PA 01-166)

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

Policy adopted: 9/97 revised 6/01

GRANBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Revisions adopted: 6/20/07
11/5/14**

Granby, CT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
6146(a)

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Course Requirements

- Students must select a minimum of six (6) credits each academic year. For the class of 2021 and beyond, 6.25 credits per year are required. However, we strongly encourage many students to elect additional credits.
- Students must enroll in at least one (1) credit of English each academic year.
- Students must select United States\American History in either the Junior or Senior year. Students are encouraged to enroll in the course during their Junior year.
- The regulations and requirements are intended to be used as a general policy. In some cases a requirement or regulation may be waived by the principal if there is a conflict between requirements and a student's planned vocational program.

Early Graduation

A student may graduate early from high school provided that they obtain the following: 1.) permission from the principal 2.) successful acquisition of graduation credits, and, 3.) successful completion of all Performance Standards.

Alternative Courses of Study

Credit toward graduation shall be earned by successfully completing Board approved courses, but the high school principal shall be empowered to give such credit for alternatives which meet the objectives of standard courses. Primary alternatives shall be independent study, work or field experience, testing out of courses and courses for credit at other institutions. Such alternatives shall be established and shall be of approximately equivalent time, effort and expected educational growth to traditional courses. It shall be the responsibility of the high school principal to ensure that each student maintains a balanced and educationally sound program.

A single credit may be earned toward high school graduation for two years of middle school world language if the objectives achieved are substantially the same or greater than those achieved in an equivalent ninth grade world language course.

A single credit may be earned toward high school graduation for seventh and eighth grade mathematics, if the objectives achieved are substantially the same or greater than those achieved in an equivalent ninth grade mathematics course.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
6146(b)**

Graduation Requirements

Certificates and Diplomas

Certification of promotion shall be awarded to students who successfully complete middle school. Diplomas shall be awarded to seniors who successfully meet these graduation requirements.

Withdrawn Credits Due to Poor Attendance

Regular attendance at high school classes is critical to the learning process and essential to the self-development of students. The high school principal shall establish a fair system of withholding graduation credits for excessive absence from courses.

Performance Standards

These performance standards must be met in addition to participation in state mandated assessments and other graduation requirements.

Literacy

Students will evidence proficiency and fluency in reading and writing.	
Students graduating 2016	Students graduating 2017-2020
Each graduate must satisfactorily complete the district's performance standard in literacy through one of the following criteria: I. Reach performance level of 3 or higher on SBAC literacy section of test II. Achieve a minimum score 50 or higher on the PSAT, or a score of 500 or higher on the SAT Critical Reading test, or at or above the national mean on the ACT (English), or at or above the national mean on the SAT Subject test (Literature), or III. Participate in a skills-based program in the junior or senior year and obtain a passing score on a departmental writing performance assessment	Each graduate must satisfactorily complete the district's performance standard in literacy through one of the following criteria: I. Achieve a score at or above the national mean on the PSAT Critical Reading/ Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, or a score at or above the national mean on the SAT Critical Reading/Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, or at or above the national mean on the ACT (English), or at or above the national mean on the SAT Subject test (Literature), or II. Participate in a skills based program in the junior or senior year and obtain a passing score on a departmental writing performance assessment
Students graduating 2021 and beyond	
Each graduate must satisfactorily complete the State Department of Education (SDE) end of year examination in Grade 10 English and demonstrate completion of the district's performance standard in literacy through one of the following criteria: I. Achieve a score at or above the national mean on the PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, or a score at or above the national mean on the SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, or at or above the national mean on the ACT (English), or at or above the national mean on the SAT Subject test (Literature), or	

II. Participate in a skills based program in the junior or senior year and obtain a passing score on a departmental writing performance assessment

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
6146(c)**

Numeracy

Students graduating 2016	Students graduation 2017-2020
<p>Each graduate must satisfactorily complete the district's performance standard in mathematics through one of the following criteria:</p> <p>I. Reach performance level of 3 or higher on the SBAC mathematics section of the test</p> <p>II. Achieve a minimum score of 50 on the PSAT, or 500 or higher on the SAT (Mathematics), or at least the national mean on the ACT (Math), or at least the national mean on the SAT Subject test (Math Level 1C or Math Level 2C), or</p> <p>III. Participate in a skills based program in the junior or senior year and obtain a passing score on a departmental Mathematics assessment.</p>	<p>Each graduate must satisfactorily complete the district's performance standard in mathematics through one of the following criteria:</p> <p>I. Achieve a score at or above the national mean on the PSAT Mathematics, or a score at or above the national mean on the SAT Mathematics, or at or above the national mean on the ACT (Math), or at or above the national mean on the SAT Subject test (Mathematics Level 1 or Level 2), or</p> <p>II. Participate in a skills based program in the junior or senior year and obtain a passing score on a departmental Mathematics assessment.</p>
<p>Students graduating 2021 and beyond</p>	
<p>Each graduate must satisfactorily complete the SDE end of year examination in Algebra 1 and Geometry and demonstrate completion of the district's performance standard in numeracy through one of the following criteria:</p> <p>I. Achieve a score at or above the national mean on the PSAT Mathematics, or a score at or above the national mean on the SAT Mathematics, or at or above the national mean on the ACT (Math), or at or above the national mean on the SAT Subject test (Mathematics Level 1 or Level 2), or</p> <p>II. Participate in a skills based program in the junior or senior year and obtain a passing score on a departmental Mathematics assessment.</p>	

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
6146(d)**

Graduation Requirements

Science

Students graduating in 2016-2020	Students graduating in 2021 and beyond
<p>Each graduate must demonstrate completion of the district's performance standard in science through one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. CAPT score in bands of 3 or higher in <i>Science</i>.II. Achieve above the National average score on any scientific SAT Subject test.III. Participate in a skills based program in the junior or senior year and obtain a passing score on a departmental <i>Science</i> assessment.	<p>Each graduate must satisfactorily complete the SDE end of year examination in biology and demonstrate completion of the district's performance standard in science through one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. CAPT score in bands of 3 or higher in <i>Science</i>.II. Achieve above the National average score on any scientific SAT Subject test.III. Participate in a skills based program in the junior or senior year and obtain a passing score on a departmental <i>Science</i> assessment.

Technology

Students will identify capabilities and limitations of contemporary and emerging technology resources and be able to apply and manipulate these systems and services to address personal, lifelong learning and workplace needs.

Each graduate must demonstrate completion of the district's performance standard in technology through one of the following criteria:

- I. Obtain one-half credit in a *Technology* course.
- II. Achieve goal on a *Technology Performance Based Task*.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
6146(e)**

Graduation Requirements

Community Service

Students will evidence the ability to be a contributing member of the local community.

Each graduate must demonstrate completion of the district's performance standard in community service by meeting the following criteria:

- I. Satisfactory completion of 15 hours of community service.

The Arts

Students will create, perform and respond with evidence of understanding of one or more art forms.

Each graduate must demonstrate completion of the district's performance standard in the arts through one of the following criteria:

- I. Obtain one-half credit in Music, Chorus, Band or Art classes.
- II. Successful completion of a departmental sanctioned learning activity in the visual or performing arts.

Health and Wellness

Students will exhibit evidence that promotes lifelong health and physical fitness.

Each graduate must demonstrate completion of the district's performance standard in health and wellness through meeting all of the following criteria:

- I. Achieve a passing score on the tenth grade physical fitness test or develop a personal physical fitness plan.
- II. Develop a *Personal Wellness Plan*.

Completion of a Health Prevention Based Project

Graduation Requirements

Global Awareness

Students will evidence knowledge of diverse cultures and world issues.

Students graduating through 2020	Students graduating in 2021 and beyond
<p>Each graduate must demonstrate completion of the district’s performance standard in Global Awareness through <u>all</u> of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Obtain one full credit in <i>World Languages</i>. II. Obtain passing grades in Big History 9, <i>Civics</i>, and <i>World Civilizations 10</i>, or comparable courses that fill these requirements. 	<p>Each graduate must satisfactorily complete the SDE end of year examination in United States\American History and demonstrate completion of the district’s performance standard in Global Awareness through both <u>of</u> the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Obtain two full credits in <i>World Languages</i>. II. Obtain passing grades in Big History 9, <i>Civics</i>, and <i>World Civilizations 10</i>, or comparable courses that fill these requirements.

Exemptions

- **Special Education Students:** The Planning and Placement Team (PPT) may exempt students with special needs from one or more of the graduation performance standards for graduation. These exemptions will be indicated in the student’s Individual Education Plan. The PPT shall make every attempt to have students attempt to meet the performance standards for graduation.
- **Transfers:** Students transferring to the high school in the junior or senior year will be exempt from Granby’s performance standards for graduation. Students who transfer to the high school in their sophomore or freshman year are expected to meet all of the performance standards.
- **English as Second Language:** A student whose primary language is not English may be exempt from meeting one or more of the graduation performance requirements. The need for the exemption must be directly attributable to the language limitations of the student. Exemptions are to be granted by the building principal.

Implementation

- Students will have at least three opportunities to meet the standards over the course of their junior year.

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
6146(g)

Graduation Requirements

- Students who enter their senior year without having met all the performance standards will be required to enroll in a skills based course designed to address their deficiencies. Students will successfully complete performance tasks within the course in order to demonstrate mastery of the skills required for graduation.

Options If Requirements Are Not Met

Seniors who do not meet all of the graduation performance standards may elect to:

- Return in September as a fifth year student.
- Recover credit from BOE approved on-line course provider.
- Enroll in and pass a school approved summer school program.
- Make arrangements for re-testing to meet the performance standard.
- Students who have not met all of the graduation requirements by the end of their senior year may make a written appeal to the Superintendent and the principal for special exemption from one or more of the graduation standards. Appeals must be received at least five school days before graduation. Decision of this appeal is final.

Notification

- *Teachers:* Coordinators will track and record each student's achievement in meeting the performance standard in their discipline area. The guidance department will monitor each student's progress in meeting the performance standards. At the beginning of the senior year, guidance will provide coordinators with a list of all seniors who have not met a performance standard in their area.
- *Parents:* Guidance will notify the parents of all students about performance standards for graduation. Parents of juniors and seniors will be notified of the child's score after each assessment that a student takes. Parents of seniors who have not met the performance standards will be notified in writing of their child's deficiencies and their need to enroll in a skills based course.
- *Students:* When a student meets the graduation requirement it will be indicated on the child's report card at the end of the next marking period. At the beginning of the senior year, each senior will be notified by his/her guidance counselor of his/her status relative to meeting the performance standards for graduation.

Regulations Adopted: 9/2/02

Regulations Revised: 11/5/14