

**High School Graduation Exit Criteria**

High School Graduation Exit Criteria for *Graduating Classes of 2020 through 2022*

To complete the graduation requirements and receive a high school diploma from the City of Waterbury Public Schools, a student must meet the following requirements:

<b>Graduation Requirements 22 credits</b>	
4.0	English
3.0	Mathematics
2.0	Science
3.0	Social Studies (1.0 US History & 0.5 Civics)
1.0	Physical Education (0.5 Health)
1.0	Arts and/or Vocational Education
8.0	Open Electives

A student must earn five (5) Carnegie units to be promoted to the 10th grade.

A student must earn ten (10) Carnegie units and have completed the 10th grade to be promoted to the 11th grade.

A student must earn fifteen (15) Carnegie units and have completed three (3) years of high school to be promoted to the 12th grade.

Twenty-two (22) Carnegie Units are required for graduation. All students must follow the core curriculum as outlined by the Board of Education. *Further, if a student has credits withheld due to unexcused absences, in accordance with the Board of Education attendance policy, those credits are declared unearned credits.*

Students will only be eligible for promotion at the end of the academic school year and at the conclusion of summer school.

<b>Carnegie Units</b>	<b>Meeting Times</b>	<b>C.U.'s Earned</b>
Extended courses	15 periods/per week	3.0 c.u.
Extended courses	10 periods/per week	2.0 c.u.
Lab Sciences courses	6 periods/per week	1.2 c.u.
Regular courses	5 periods/per week	1.0 c.u.
Elective courses	4 periods/per week	.8 c.u.
½ year courses	5 periods/per week	.5 c.u.
½ year courses	4 periods/per week	.4 c.u.

**High School Graduation Exit Criteria, continued**

High School Graduation Exit Criteria for *Graduating Classes of 2023 and Beyond*

To complete the graduation requirements and receive a high school diploma from the City of Waterbury Public Schools, a student must meet the following requirements:

<b>Graduation Requirements 25 credits</b>	
9.0	Humanities (including civics and the arts)
9.0	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
1.0	Foreign Language
1.0	Physical Education and Wellness
1.0	Health and Safety Education
1.0	Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment
3.0	Open Electives

A student must earn six (6) Carnegie units to be promoted to the 10th grade.

A student must earn twelve (12) Carnegie units and have completed the 10th grade to be promoted to the 11th grade.

A student must earn eighteen (18) Carnegie units to be promoted to the 12th grade.

Twenty-five (25) Carnegie Units are required for graduation. All students must follow the core curriculum as outlined by the Board of Education. *Further, if a student has credits withheld due to unexcused absences, in accordance with the Board of Education attendance policy, those credits are declared unearned credits.*

Students will only be eligible for promotion at the end of the academic school year and at the conclusion of summer school.

<b>Carnegie Units</b>	<b>Meeting Times</b>	<b>C.U.'s Earned</b>
Extended courses	15 periods/per week	3.0 c.u.
Extended courses	10 periods/per week	2.0 c.u.
Lab Sciences courses	6 periods/per week	1.2 c.u.
Regular courses	5 periods/per week	1.0 c.u.
Elective courses	4 periods/per week	.8 c.u.
½ year courses	5 periods/per week	.5 c.u.
½ year courses	4 periods/per week	.4 c.u.

Graduation from Waterbury Public Schools implies (1) that students have 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 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.

**High School Graduation Exit Criteria, continued**

It is expected that the administration of each campus 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 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 and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

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.

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.

Commencing with the graduating class of 2023 (beginning with the incoming class of 2019-2020) and for each graduating class thereafter, in order to graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits, including not fewer than (1) nine credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts; (2) nine credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; (3) one credit in physical education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and safety education; (5) one credit in world languages and (6) a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment.

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.

In addition, also beginning with the graduating class of 2023, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students. 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 (3) 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.

**High School Graduation Exit Criteria, continued**

The Board of Education shall grant a student credit towards meeting high school graduation requirements for (1) completing a world-language course provided by a non-profit organization and (2) passing a subject area proficiency test identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education. Up to four credits for a private non-profit world language course shall be granted if the student achieves a passing grade on a test prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. In other subject areas, credit shall be granted, based upon successful passage of the subject area proficiency tests prescribed or identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education,\* regardless of the number of hours spent by the student in a public school classroom learning the subject matter.

*\*The Commissioner, per statute, must prescribe or identify and approve the examinations within available appropriations.*

The fulfillment of the mandated one credit foreign language requirement, beginning with the class of 2023, can include the successful completion of a world language course in grades six seven or eight, or an online course successfully completed, or the successful completion of a course offered privately through a nonprofit provider, provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination prescribed by the Commissioner and such credits do not exceed four. All credits earned toward meeting any of the graduation requirements through the successful completion of online courses must fulfill the requirements established.

The Board shall require the Superintendent to 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. Beginning in grade six, such Student Success Plan shall provide evidence of career exploration in each grade including, but not limited to, careers in manufacturing. The Board shall utilize the Department of Education's issued and revised guidance regarding changes to such student's success plans.

Per statute (C.G.S. 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.

A credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period for each school day 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 Exit Criteria, continued**

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, course taken in middle school, internships and student designed independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide content standards; toward meeting a specified course requirement upon 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.

**Connecticut Seal of Bilingual**

Commencing with the graduating class of 2018, 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 Bilingual" 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 Bilingual."

**Transfer and Home School Students**

For students who transfer to Waterbury Public Schools from another state, country, school, program, or home-schooling situation, including educational programs that are not aligned with the District's High School's cross curricular and content area graduation standards, the Principal shall evaluate the value of the student's prior educational experiences and determine to what degree the student has met the school's graduation requirements.

After enrolling in the District, these students will need to satisfy all assessment, proficiency, and graduation requirements in the appropriate subject areas, as determined by the Principal or his/her designee. The Superintendent will ultimately determine whether these students are eligible to receive a diploma. Home-schooled students must have attended a Waterbury Public School High School for a minimum of two (2) years or four (4) semesters to be eligible for a diploma.

**Students Receiving Special Education Services**

Students who successfully meet the District's cross-curricular and content-area graduation standards, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP), will be awarded diplomas.

**Academic Advancement Program**

The Board of Education permits students in grades eleven and twelve to substitute (1) achievement of a passing score on an existing nationally recognized examination as determined, by the State Department of Education, or series of examinations approved by the State Board of Education, (2) a cumulative grade point average determined by the State Board of Education and (3) at least three letters of recommendation from school professionals (defined in 10-66dd), for the required high school graduation requirement. The State Board of Education will issue an

**High School Graduation Exit Criteria, continued**

Academic Advancement Program Certificate to any student successfully completing such program. The Academic Advancement Program Certificate shall be considered in the same manner as a high school diploma for purposes of determining eligibility of a student for enrollment at a Connecticut public institution of higher education.

The Board of Education shall permit a student to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the above described academic advancement program.

**Participation in Graduation Ceremony**

A student must complete all Board of Education requirements for a high school diploma to participate in graduation exercises.

*(NOTE: Graduating Class is defined as a group of students who started ninth grade for the first time and are expected to graduate in four years. For example, if a student started as a freshman in 2019/2020 then their expected graduating class would be 2023.)*

(cf. [5121](#) - Examination/Grading/Rating)

(cf. [5126](#) - Academic Recognition)

(cf. [6146.1](#) - Grading and Reporting System)

(cf. [6146.2](#) - Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations)

(cf. [6172.6](#) - Virtual/On-line Courses)

(cf. [5123](#) - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

(cf. [6111](#) - School Calendar)

(cf. [6146.12](#) - Dual Enrollment and Early College)

(cf. [6146.13](#) - Multiple Pathways)

## Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-5 State high school diploma" "honors diploma." Payment of fees; exceptions. (as amended by PA 17-29)
- 10-5c Board examination series pilot program. Issuance of certificate (as amended by P.A. 13-247 and P.A. 15-215)
- 10-14n State-wide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results. (as amended by Section 115 of PA 14-217)
- 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, P.A. 13-247, Budget Implementer Bill, 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, PA 17-29, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Seal of Biliteracy) and P.A. 19-58, An Act Promoting Careers in Manufacturing to Public School Students)
- 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
- P.A. 17-42 An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements