

Brick Township Board of Education District Policy Manual

Instructional Program

Series 6000

High School Graduation Requirements

Policy 6146 [M]

Date Adopted: November 10, 1989

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March 4, 2010, March 21, 2013, March 17, 2016

Page 1 of 7

The Board of Education will recognize the successful completion of the secondary school instructional program by the award of a State-endorsed diploma certifying the pupil has met all State and local requirements for high school graduation. The Board will annually certify to the Executive County Superintendent each pupil who has been awarded a diploma has met the requirements for graduation.

High School Graduation Requirements

A graduating pupil must have earned a minimum of 130 credits in courses designed to meet all of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards including, but not limited to, the following credits:

1. At least twenty credits in language arts literacy aligned to grade nine through twelve standards.
2. At least fifteen credits in mathematics, including Algebra I or the content equivalent (“content equivalent” is defined at N.J.A.C.6A:8-1.3), including geometry or the content and including a third year of mathematics that builds on the concepts and skills of algebra and geometry and that prepares the pupils for college and 21st century careers;
3. At least fifteen credits in social studies, including satisfaction of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and 18A:35-2: five credits in world history, and the integration of civics, economics, geography, and global content in all course offerings;
4. At least fifteen credits in science, including at least five credits in laboratory biology/life science or the content equivalent, including one additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course which shall include chemistry, environmental science, or physics, and including one additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course;
5. Four years of successfully completed health, safety, and physical education during each year of enrollment, distributed as one hundred fifty minutes per week, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5,7 and 8 (or successful completion of an approved Option II program for physical education – see Policy 6142.4);
6. At least five credits in visual and performing arts;
7. At least five credits in world languages or pupil demonstration of proficiency as set forth in NJAC 6A:8-5.1(a)2ii(2);
8. At least two and one-half credits in financial literacy;
9. Technological literacy, consistent with the Core Curriculum Content Standards, integrated throughout the curriculum;

Brick Township Board of Education District Policy Manual

Instructional Program High School Graduation Requirements

**Series 6000
Policy 6146**

Page 2 of 7

10. At least five credits in 21st century life and careers, or career-technical education; and,
11. Electives as determined by the high school program sufficient to total a minimum of 130 credits.

A credit means the award for the equivalent of a class period of instruction, which meets for a minimum of forty minutes, one time per week during the school year or as approved through NJAC 6A:8-5.1(a)2.

The high school graduation 130 credit requirement may be met in whole or in part through program completion of a range of experiences that enable pupils to pursue a variety of personalized learning opportunities, as follows:

The district shall establish a process to approve individualized pupil learning opportunities that meet or exceed the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Individualized pupil learning opportunities in all Core Curriculum Content Standard areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Independent study;
2. Online learning;
3. Work-based programs, internships, apprenticeships;
4. Study abroad programs;
5. Pupil exchange programs;
6. Service learning experiences; and
7. Structured learning experiences.

Individualized pupil learning opportunities based upon specific instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the Core Curriculum Content Standards shall:

1. Be based on pupil interest and career goals as reflected in the Personalized Pupil Learning Plans as they are phased in according to the schedule of implementation set forth at NJAC 6A:8-3.2(a)1;
2. Include demonstration of pupil competency;
3. Be certified for completion based on the district process adopted according to 2 below; and
4. Be on file in the school district and subject to review by the Commissioner or his/her designee.

To earn credit toward high school graduation for individualized pupil learning opportunities, the pupil shall successfully complete assessments that verify pupil achievement in meeting or exceeding the Core Curriculum Content Standards at the high school level. Achievement may be verified by assessments including standards

Brick Township Board of Education District Policy Manual

Instructional Program High School Graduation Requirements

**Series 6000
Policy 6146**

Page 3 of 7

achieved by means of the individualized pupil learning opportunities. Such programs or assessments may occur all or in part prior to a pupil's high school enrollment. No assessments administered shall preclude or exempt pupil participation in applicable State-wide assessments.

Pupil Enrollment in College Courses – Option II

The Board of Education 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 Board of Education shall establish a process to approve post-secondary learning opportunities that may consist of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), or concurrent/dual enrollment at accredited higher education institutions. Pupils shall receive credit for successful completion of an approved, accredited college course that assures achievement of knowledge and skills that meets or exceeds the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Option II –Physical Education Graduation

Certain students may satisfy physical education requirements for graduation by participating in an approved Option II program in accordance with the provisions of Policy 6142.4 – Physical Education and Health.

Group programs based upon specific instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the Core Curriculum Content Standards shall be permitted and shall be approved in the same manner as other approved courses.

The district shall establish a process for granting of credits through successful completion of assessments that verify pupil achievement in meeting or exceeding the Core Curriculum Content Standards at the high school level, including those occurring by means of the individualized pupil learning opportunities enumerated as outlined in NJAC 6A:8-5.1(a)2. Such programs or assessments may occur all or in part prior to a pupil's high school enrollment; no such locally administered assessments shall preclude or exempt pupil participation in applicable Statewide assessments at grades three through twelve.

The district shall choose assessments that are aligned with or exceed the Core Curriculum Content Standards and may include locally designed assessments.

The district shall choose from among the following assessment options to determine if pupils have achieved the level of language proficiency designated as

Brick Township Board of Education District Policy Manual

Instructional Program High School Graduation Requirements

**Series 6000
Policy 6146**

Page 4 of 7

Novice-High as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and recognized as fulfilling the world languages requirement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards:

1. The Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) online assessment;
2. The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI); or
3. Department-approved locally designed competency-based assessments.

Additional Graduation Requirements

1. Attendance requirements as indicated in Policy No. 5113.
2. Any statutorily mandated requirements for earning a high school diploma.
3. Any state assessment graduation requirements as determined by the New Jersey Department of Education, and as outlined below:

Statewide Assessment Graduation Requirements

1. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is transitioning from the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) to the Partnership for the assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) End-of Course assessments for students, including students with disabilities, in the classes of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
2. Students in the classes of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 will be able to demonstrate proficiencies in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics required by State statute by either meeting the “cut score” on the PARCC assessments or meeting the “cut score” on a substitute assessment or by meeting the criteria of the NJDOE portfolio appeal process.
3. A student with a disability, whose Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) team determines the student is exempt from these requirements, would be required to achieve the alternative proficiency in his/her IEP.
4. The NJDOE has developed “concordant” cut scores for additional substitute assessments. For the classes of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in both ELA and Mathematics by meeting one of the criteria under English Language Arts and Mathematics as indicated below:

Brick Township Board of Education District Policy Manual

**Instructional Program
High School Graduation Requirements**

**Series 6000
Policy 6146**

Page 5 of 7

ELA

Math

PARCC ELA Grade 9 \geq 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>	PARCC Algebra I \geq 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>
PARCC ELA Grade 10 \geq 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>	PARCC Geometry \geq 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>
PARCC ELA Grade 11 \geq 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>	PARCC Algebra II \geq 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>
SAT Reading* \geq 400 <i>or</i>	SAT Math* \geq 400 <i>or</i>
ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading \geq 16 Or	ACT or ACT PLAN Math \geq 16 <i>or</i>
Accuplacer Write Placer \geq 6 or	Accuplacer Elementary Algebra \geq 76 or
PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading** \geq 40 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading*** \geq 22 <i>or</i>	PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math** \geq 40 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math*** \geq 22 <i>or</i>
ACT Aspire Reading \geq 422 <i>or</i>	ACT Aspire Math \geq 422 <i>or</i>
ASVAB-AFQT Composite \geq 31 <i>or</i>	ASVAB-AFQT Composite \geq 31 <i>or</i>
Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal	Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

Note: SAT taken prior to March 16 2016; ** PSAT taken prior to October 2015; ***PSAT taken after October 2015. The College Board will establish new “threshold scores” in May 2016 for the new SAT.

Attendance

Regular attendance is required for the successful completion of a course of study and graduation. Pupils are expected to be present in every scheduled class except as their attendance is excused in accordance with Board Policy 5113.

Pupils with Disabilities

1. The district, through the IEP process and pursuant to NJAC 6A:14-4.11 - Graduation, may, for individual pupils with disabilities as defined in NJAC 6A:14-1.3, specify alternate requirements for a State-endorsed diploma.
2. The district shall specifically address any alternate requirements for graduation in a pupil’s IEP, in accordance with NJAC 6A:14-4.11.
3. The district shall develop and implement procedures for assessing whether a pupil has met any alternate requirements for graduation individually determined in an IEP.
4. If a pupil with a disability attends a school other than that of the school district of residence, which is empowered to grant a diploma, the pupil shall have the choice of receiving a diploma of the school attended or a diploma of the school district of residence.
5. If the school the pupil is attending declines to issue a diploma to the pupil, the district of residence Board of Education shall issue the pupil a diploma if the pupil has satisfied all State and local graduation requirements, as specified in the pupil’s IEP.

Brick Township Board of Education District Policy Manual

Instructional Program High School Graduation Requirements

Series 6000
Policy 6146

Page 6 of 7

6. Pupils with disabilities who meet the standards for graduation according to the school district's graduation requirements shall have the opportunity to participate in graduation exercises and related activities on a nondiscriminatory basis.
7. A pupil with a disability whose individualized education program prescribes continued special education programs beyond the fourth year of high school shall be permitted to participate in commencement ceremonies with his/her graduating class and shall receive a certificate of attendance, provided the pupil has attended four years of high school.
8. When a pupil with a disability graduates or exceeds the age of eligibility, the pupil shall be provided a written summary of his or her academic achievement and functional performance prior to the date of the pupil's graduation or the conclusion of the school year in which he or she exceeds the age of eligibility. The summary shall include recommendations to assist the child in meeting his or her postsecondary goals.

High School Diploma

The Board of Education shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma to prospective graduates who have met all of the requirements adopted in accordance with State and local requirements.

The Board of Education shall not issue a high school diploma to any pupil not meeting the criteria specified in State and local requirements.

The district shall provide pupils exiting grade twelve without a diploma the opportunity for continued high school enrollment to age twenty, or until the requirements for a State-endorsed diploma have been met, whichever comes first.

The Commissioner of Education shall award a State-issued high school diploma in accordance with the provisions of NJAC 6A:8-5.2(c) and (d).

The Board of Education shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma to any currently enrolled pupil formally requesting an early award of the diploma in accordance with the provisions of NJAC 6A:8-5.2(e) and Board Policy 6146.1.

Brick Township Board of Education District Policy Manual

Instructional Program High School Graduation Requirements

Series 6000
Policy 6146

Page 7 of 7

Notification

Each student who enters or transfers into the high school and the student's parent(s) will be provided a copy of the school district's requirements for a State endorsed diploma, and the programs available to assist students in attaining the State-endorsed diploma, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-5.

Reporting

The Superintendent, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-7 and 18A:7E-3, shall report annually to the Board of Education and to the Commissioner of Education the number of students who completed the twelfth grade course requirements and were denied a diploma and the number of students who received State endorsed diplomas.

The Superintendent shall provide to the Executive County Superintendent the district's graduation requirements each year they are evaluated through the Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) and update the filed copy each time the graduation policy and requirements are revised.

Legal References

NJSA 18A:4-25 Minimum courses of study; approval of courses of study
18A:7C-1 Standards and guidelines
18A:7C-2 Establishment of standards
18A:7C-4.1 Recognition; purpose; eligibility; application procedures
18A:7C-8 State approved diplomas for adult high school programs
18A:7F-46 Review of CCCS, Educational Adequacy Report
18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
18A:33-1 District to provide suitable facilities; adoption of courses of study
18A:35-1 et seq Curriculum and courses
18A:48-1 et seq Public evening schools
18A:50-1 et seq Adult education
18A:54-20 Vocational board of education

NJAC 6A:8-1.1 et seq Standards and assessment
6A:8-5 et seq Graduation standards
6A:14-3.7 Individualized education program
6A:14-4.11 Graduation
6A:15-1.11 Graduation requirements for limited English proficient students
6A:23A-9.5 Achievement of CCCS
6A:30-1.1 et seq Evaluation of the performance of school districts
6A: 32-2.1 Definitions
6A: 32-12.1 et seq Annual reporting and planning requirement
6A: 32-13.1 et seq Programs and practices to support student achievement
6A: 32-14.1 et seq State and federally mandated programs and services

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, 20 USCA 6301 et seq
Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts
New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC)