

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to be graduated from the Township of Union School District high school, and receive a state-endorsed board of education diploma, a student must:

- A. Meet both state and district proficiency standards in the core curriculum content areas; achieve or exceed passing grade on HSPA;
- B. Complete successfully any 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 Core Curriculum Content Standards approved by the State Board of Education;
- C. Select and complete successfully enough elective credits to meet the district minimum of 260 credits.
- D. Complete twenty (20) hours of approved community service.

Successful completion means that the student 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 students must meet all state and local requirements in order to receive a Township of Union School District high school diploma.

The superintendent shall put into effect the procedures necessary to assess each student upon entry into the system, and, annually thereafter, to identify those students not meeting the state or district proficiency requirements. He/she shall develop the programs necessary to remedy these deficiencies at the lowest possible grade level.

Basic Skills

Students who achieve a score of partially proficient on the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge for grade eight (NJ ASK 8) shall be provided appropriate remediation.

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

Students with Limited English Proficiency

Students 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 Students

A disabled student 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 with the written approval of the superintendent.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

A student who qualifies may take the Alternate Proficiency Assessment, if alternate requirements for graduation have been specified in his/her IEP.

By June 30 of a disabled student's last year in the elementary program, the student's case manager, parent/guardian and teacher(s) shall meet to review the instructional guide and basic plan of the student'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 student 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 HSPA, along with the rationale for the exemptions. The exemptions must be approved in writing by the superintendent.

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 board of education shall have copies of this policy distributed to all ninth-grade (or otherwise entering) students 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.

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

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

Early Graduation

Students 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.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)Student Enrollment in College Courses

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

Reporting and Monitoring

The superintendent shall report annually at a public meeting, not later than September 30, to the board and to the commissioner:

- A. The total number of students graduated in the aggregate and disaggregated according to subgroups described in federal law;
- B. The number of students graduated under the Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA) process;
- C. The number of students 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 students denied graduation from the 12th grade class;
- E. The number of students denied graduation from the 12th grade class solely because of failure to pass the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) or Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA), 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.

The board shall review this policy annually and shall adopt all regulations required by law.

Adopted: June 1999
 NJSBA Review/Update: April 2012
 Readopted: April 29, 2014

Key Words

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

<u>Legal References:</u>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:4-25	Prescribing minimum courses of study for public schools; approval of courses of study
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:7C-1	Commissioner of education to develop a program of standards and guidelines
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:7C-2	Boards of education; establishment of standards
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:7C-4.1	Operation Recognition; purpose; eligibility; application procedure
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:7C-5.1	Boards of education prohibited from excluding students from graduation ceremony or from obtaining yearbook for inability to pay fees
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:7F-46	Review, update of the CCCS, Educational Adequacy Report
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:33-1	District to furnish suitable facilities; adoption of courses of study
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Curriculum and courses

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:36-17	Credit of seniors in active military and naval service, etc.
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:30-3.7	Graduation
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Standards and Assessment
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-1.2,-2.1,-3.1, -3.3,-4.1, -4.2, -4.3, -5.1, -5.2	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:14-3.7	Individualized education program
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:14-4.11	Graduation
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:15-1.11	Graduation requirements for limited English proficient Students
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:23A-9.5	Commissioner to ensure achievement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:30-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-2.1	Definitions
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-12.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Annual Reporting and Planning Requirement
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-13.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Programs and practices to support student achievement
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-14.1 <u>et seq.</u>	State and Federally Mandated Programs and Services

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

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*1120	Board of education 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