

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to satisfy the high school graduation requirements within the Rocky Hill Public Schools, a student must have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study, demonstrated proficiency in basic skills identified by the Rocky Hill Board of Education (the “Board”); satisfied the legally mandated number and distribution of credits required to graduate from high school; and if graduating in 2027 and thereafter, satisfied the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”) requirements detailed in this policy.

Required Coursework and Credits for Graduation

The Board conforms with state law regarding credits for graduation from high school.

Classes Graduating in 2025 & 2026

For classes graduating in 2025 & 2026, the following 25 credits are required:

1. Humanities - Nine (9) credits – including not fewer than
 - a. Four (4) credits in English, including composition
 - b. Three (3) credits in social studies
 - i. One (1) credit must be in U.S. history, and
 - ii. 0.5 credits must be in civics
 - c. One (1) credit in fine arts (Art/Music)
 - d. One (1) credit of humanities (Humanities/English/Social Studies/World Language/Personal Finance Management and Financial Literacy)

2. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) – Nine (9) credits – including not fewer than
 - a. Three (3) credits of mathematics
 - b. Two (2) credits of science – one (1) Physical Science and one (1) Biological
 - c. Four (4) additional STEM credits in any of the following: science, technology (CTE-FCS, Business Tech Ed), engineering and/or mathematics

3. Physical Education and Wellness - One (1) credit

4. Health and Safety Education - One (1) credit

5. World Languages - One (1) credit

6. Community Service - 0.5 credits
 A student may be granted one-half credit for fifty (50) hours of documented community service. Students must complete the community service form and get appropriate signatures. Such community service should not include partisan political activities.

7. Three and one-half (3.5) additional elective credits

Classes Graduating in 2027, and Thereafter

For classes graduating in 2027, and thereafter, the following 25 credits are required:

1. Humanities - Nine (9) credits – including not fewer than
 - a. Four (4) credits in English, including composition
 - b. Three (3) credits in social studies
 - i. One (1) credit must be in U.S. history, and
 - ii. 0.5 credits must be in civics
 - c. One (1) credit in fine arts (Art/Music)
 - d. One (1) credit of humanities (Humanities/English/Social Studies/World Language/Personal Finance Management and Financial Literacy)
2. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) – Nine (9) credits – including not fewer than
 - a. Three (3) credits of mathematics
 - b. Two (2) credits of science – one (1) Physical Science and one (1) Biological
 - c. Four (4) additional STEM credits in any of the following: science, technology (CTE-FCS, Business Tech Ed), engineering and/or mathematics
3. Physical Education and Wellness - One (1) credit
4. Health and Safety Education - One (1) credit
5. World Languages - One (1) credit
6. Personal Finance Management and Financial Literacy - 0.5 credits
7. Community Service - 0.5 credits
A student may be granted one-half credit for fifty (50) hours of documented community service. Students must complete the community service form and get appropriate signatures. Such community service should not include partisan political activities.
8. Three (3) additional elective credits

A student who presents written documentation from a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant, stating that participation in physical education is not advisable because of the physical condition of the student, shall be excused from the physical education requirement. In such a case, another subject must be substituted.

Any student who is deaf or hearing impaired may be exempted from any world language graduation requirement if the student's parent or guardian requests such exemption in writing.

A credit is defined as the equivalent of one forty (40) minute class period for each school day of a school year. One-half credit is granted for a course with a forty (40) minute class period each school day for one semester or ninety (90) days.

Only courses taken in grades nine to 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 above graduation requirements, except that the Board will grant a student credit:

Demonstration of Proficiency in Basic Skills

Graduation from high school requires (1) that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study in accordance with their respective abilities to achieve, (2) that students have satisfactorily passed the required examinations and demonstrated a satisfactory level of proficiency on the district’s performance standards (learning expectations), assessed in part by the results of statewide mastery examinations (SAT, NGSS) or successful completion of the Vision of the Graduate rubrics, and (3) that students have fulfilled the legally mandated number and distribution of credits.

FAFSA Requirement for Classes Graduating in 2027 and Thereafter

Students graduating in 2027 and beyond are required to have satisfied one of the following prior to graduation:

1. Completed a FAFSA;
2. For students without legal immigration status, completed and submitted to a public institution of higher education and application for institutional financial aid; or
3. Completed a waiver of completion of the FAFSA and/or financial aid application, as applicable, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, signed by the student’s parent or guardian or signed by the student if the student is eighteen or older.

On and after March 15 of each school year, a principal, school counselor, teacher, or other certified educator may complete the waiver on behalf of any student who has not satisfied the above requirements if such principal, school counselor, teacher, or other certified educator affirms that they have made a good faith effort to contact the parent/guardian or student about completion of such applications.

Graduation During Period of Expulsion

A student may graduate during an expulsion period if the Board determines that the student has completed the necessary credits required for graduation.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-14n

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16b

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221a

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221z

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223a

Public Act No. 24-45, “An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief, School Discipline, and Disconnected Youth”