

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to satisfy the high school graduation requirements within the New Milford Public Schools, a student must have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study; demonstrated proficiency in basic skills identified by the New Milford 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 below.

Pathways for the NMHS Graduate

Two Year College/Career Ready Pathway: Minimum requirement is a high school diploma and attainment of the distribution of credits as prescribed. It is recommended that the student take the most personally challenging course load during their high school tenure and integrate work in the field whenever possible (internships, job shadowing, work, etc.)

Four Year College Pathway: Minimum requirement is a high school diploma and attainment of the distribution of credits as prescribed. Most four-year colleges require that the graduate take four credits in English and math, three credits in science and social studies, and at least two credits in a world language.

Highly Competitive Colleges Pathway: Minimum requirement is a high school diploma and attainment of the distribution of credits as prescribed. Most highly competitive colleges require that the graduate take four credits in English, math, science and social studies, and at least three credits in a world language. It is also highly encouraged that the level of these courses be at the Advanced Placement level and at the very least honors level when available.

To graduate from the New Milford Public Schools, a student must earn a minimum number of credits, fulfill credit distribution requirements and meet district performance standards.

Required Coursework and Credits for Graduation

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

Classes Graduating in 2025, and Thereafter

For classes graduating in 2025, and thereafter, the following 25 credits are required:

Humanities Cluster: 9 Credits

- No less than 3 credits in English
 - English I, II, III/AP (3 Credits)
- No less than 3 credits in Social Studies
 - Must include 1.0 credit in US History and 0.5 credit in Civics)
 - 1.5 additional credits in Social Studies (See Program of Studies)
- 3 additional credits of student choice (additional English, Social Studies, Level 4 or above in World Language, Art History, History of Jazz, History of American Musical Theater etc.)

STEM Cluster: 9 Credits

- No less than 3 credits in Science
 - Integrated Science, Biology, Chemistry (3 Credits)
- No less than 3 credits in Math (See Program of Studies)
 - Maximum of 1 credit awarded for successful completion (B-/80) of Geometry taken at the middle school
- 3 additional credits of student choice (additional Science, Math, Tech. Ed., Intro to Business, Computer Literacy, Business Computer Applications, Website Design I&II, Intro to Computer Programming, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles etc.)

Health and Wellness Cluster: 2 Credits

- 1 credit in Physical Education and Wellness
- 1 credit in Health and Safety Education
 - Must include 0.5 credit in Health 1
 - Additional 0.5 credit of student choice (*Health 2, Allied Health, Medical Technology, Emergency Medical Technician, Sports Medicine, Early Childhood, Child Development etc.)

World Language Cluster: 1 Credit

- 1 credit of any World Language course at New Milford High School
 - 1 credit awarded for successful completion (B-/80) of Part A & Part B of the same World Language course from grades 7 & 8 (Not including Conversational World Language Courses)

Electives Cluster: 3 Credits

- 1 credit in Practical or Fine Arts (See Program of Studies)
- 0.5 credit in Personal Finance - Required by state law
- 1.5 additional credits of student choice

Mastery Based: 1 Credit

- 0.5 Credit in Assured Skills Experiences
- 0.5 Credit in Assured Content Experiences

25.0 TOTAL 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.

Exemptions: modifications and accommodations of graduation requirements will be made for any student with a disability as determined by the planning and placement team or 504 team.

A maximum of two credits (1 credit in Geometry and 1 credit in World Language) may be granted for successful completion of courses taken at the middle school level that align with the high school curriculum.

A credit is defined as not less than the equivalent of a forty (40) 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 Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line coursework that is completed satisfactorily in accordance with Board policy, 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 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 successful completion of courses taken at the middle school level that align with the high school curriculum.

Demonstration of Proficiency in Basic Skills

In addition to meeting the coursework and credit graduation requirements listed above, to graduate high school, each student must demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills:

Reading, Evidence-Based Writing, Communication, Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving

Problem-Solving

Students may demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills described above by achieving satisfactory results on:

Meet the State of Connecticut expectations for 11th Grade proficiency on the math portion of the PSAT or SAT;

Meet the ACT score for proficiency on the math portion of that test;

Pass a competency-based assessment to demonstrate proficiency in math;

Meet the proficiency standard on a district-developed problem-solving portfolio;

Complete a course internship in a field of study, employment opportunity, or volunteer role that requires the use of Algebra II level math at a minimum;

Provide evidence of proficiency on a nationally recognized math assessment;

Score a 3 or higher on Advanced Placement Calculus AB, Advanced Placement Calculus BC, or Advanced Placement Statistics;

Reading, Communication and Evidence-Based Writing;

Meet the State of Connecticut expectations for 11th Grade proficiency on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing portion of the PSAT or SAT;

Meet the ACT score for proficiency on the English, Reading or Writing portion of that test;

Pass a competency-based assessment to demonstrate proficiency in Reading;

Meet the proficiency standard on a district-developed literacy portfolio;

Complete a course internship in a field of study, employment opportunity, or volunteer Role that requires the use of junior year level English;

Provide evidence of proficiency on a nationally recognized Reading or Writing assessment;

For English Language Learners who have lived in Connecticut for fewer than five years, a score of proficiency or above on the State English Mastery exam designed for this population;

The district will offer intervention classes in these basic competencies for students making insufficient progress.

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 an 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.

Diplomas May be Awarded to Veterans Who Left School to Serve in the Armed Forces

In accordance with state law, the Board of Education may award a high school diploma to a veteran of World War II, the Korean hostilities, or the Vietnam Era who left high school to serve in the armed forces and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service as well as any person who withdrew from high school prior to graduation to work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II, did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such work and has resided in the state for at least fifty consecutive years.

Early Graduation

Students may finish in seven semesters provided all graduation requirements have been satisfied. Any student interested in being considered for early graduation must notify his/her counselor or his/her intentions by May 1 of the Junior year. Students applying for early graduation must obtain the Early Graduation Policy statement and related application from the School Counseling Office.

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"

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Revised:

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Milford, Connecticut