

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students generally earn a high school diploma through a combination of high school credit and proficiency or mastery of required District and Graduation competencies. Methods for earning credit are discussed in Board policy IK, while competencies are discussed in Board policy ILBAA. This policy outlines the specific courses, competencies and other specific requirements before a student will receive a diploma or other graduation credential. The Board reserves the right to impose additional academic requirements necessary to graduate and or receive a diploma.

A. Credit Requirements.

1. Awarding of Credit. Credit will be awarded in accordance with Board policy IK, Earning of Credit. Additionally, a unit of credit or fraction thereof shall be given upon satisfactory completion of a course or learning experience in compliance with the district-specified curriculum and assessment standards. In some cases, course credit may also be awarded based on demonstrated mastery of the required competencies for the course. Assessment of mastery will be the responsibility of the Principal and will be in accordance with Board policy ILBAA, High School Competency Assessments. Credit will be awarded only once for a specific required course with the same content during the secondary school experience.
2. Required Subjects and Credits. A minimum of twenty (24) credits are required to graduate and earn a Lin-Wood high school diploma*. All students who attend Lin-Wood Public School will be given equal opportunity and are expected to meet the graduation requirements to receive a Lin-Wood Diploma. Meeting such requirements may include individually determined modifications to instructional and assessment methods.

English	4 Credits
Math	4 Credits (integrated Math I, II, and III and math elective)
Science	3 Credits (2 physical, 1 biological)
Social Studies	
US & NH History	1 Credit
US & NH Government/Civics	1 Credit
World History, Global Studies, or Geography	1 Credit
Economics (including Personal Finance)	½ Credit
Physical Education	1½ Credits
Visual & Performing Arts Education	1 Credit
Online Course	½ Credit
Health Education	½ Credit
Information & Communication Technologies	½ Credit
Elective credits	5½ Credits
Totals	24 credits
	Plus 40 Hours of Community Service

***Lin-Wood Diploma with Honors:** A Lin-Wood Diploma with honors will be issued to students who meet the above criteria and are in the top 15 percent of the graduating class as determined by the weighted grade point average (GPA).

A minimum of twenty (20) credits are required to graduate and earn a NH standard high school diploma. The school Principal in conjunction with the student, parent(s)/guardian(s), and guidance counselor may recommend a student pursue a NH standard 20 Credit Diploma. The student must declare intention to receive a standard State of NH 20 Credit Diploma by the end of sophomore year. The State of NH required subjects and credits for high school graduation (including the requirements of Ed 306.27, Table 306-2) are:

Arts education:	½ credit
Information and communications technologies:	½ credit
English:	4 credits

Mathematics :	3 credits (including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential, integrated, or applied program)
Physical sciences:	1 credit
Biological sciences:	1 credit
US and NH history:	1 credit
US and NH government/civics:	½ credit
Economics, including personal finance:	½ credit
World history, global studies, or geography”	½ credit
Health education:	½ credit
Physical education:	1 credit
Open electives:	6 credits
Totals:	20 credits

In addition to necessary credits earned, 40 Hours of Community Service are required for all High School students prior to graduation.

The Diploma option will be recorded in the student’s cumulative file and noted on their final transcript as well as on the student’s diploma.

3. Alternative Credit Options. The Superintendent or Principal may approve the granting of credit earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction. Such alternative methods of instruction may include extended learning opportunities, distance education, alternative learning plans, or others approved by the Superintendent or designee. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation requirements will be determined by the high school Principal on a case-by-case basis. Such credit will be granted pursuant to the provisions of Board policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options and other applicable Board policies.
4. Commencement Exercises. Seniors who have completed departmental requirements and who have earned the appropriate number of credits for graduation are allowed to participate in commencement exercises.

- B. Required Graduation Competencies by Content Areas Credit(s).** In addition to the credits listed above required to graduate and earn a high school diploma, the district also requires students to demonstrate proficiency in competencies from the following content areas (including the requirements of Ed 306.27, Table 306-3):

Arts education:	½ credit
Information and communications technologies:	½ credit
English:	4 credits
Mathematics that encompasses algebra, mathematical modeling, statistics and probability, complex applications of measurement, applied geometry, graphical presentation and interpretation, statistics and data analysis:	3 credits
Physical sciences:	1 credit
Biological sciences:	1 credit
US and NH history:	1 credit
US and NH government/civics:	½ credit
Economics, including personal finance:	½ credit
World history, global studies, or geography:	½ credit
Health education:	½ credit
Physical education:	1 credit
Open electives:	6 credits
Totals:	20 credits

- C. Passage of Civics Exam.**

The district will develop a competency assessment of United States government and civics, consistent with pertinent and applicable law. This assessment will be administered to students as part of the high school course in history and government of the United States and New Hampshire. Students must attain a passing grade on this assessment to be eligible to receive a high school diploma or other graduation certificate.

Effective for students graduating after June 30, 2023, the district will also administer the 128 question civics (history and government) naturalization examination developed by the 2020 United States Citizen and Immigration Services ("U.S. Citizenship Test"). This exam may be modified for a student with a disability in accordance with the student's individualized education program. Students must earn a grade of 70 percent or better to be eligible to receive a high school diploma or other graduation certificate.

Under RSA 189:11, II, the Superintendent will submit the composite results of either the locally developed civics competency assessment or the U.S. Citizenship Test to the N.H. Department of Education.

D. Federal Student Aid Application.

Effective for students graduating after June 30, 2023, as a requirement for receiving a high school diploma, each student who is at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, or the parent/guardian of such a student who is under 18 years of age, shall either:

1. file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the U.S. Department of Education; or
2. file a waiver on a form created by the N.H. Board of Education with the District indicating that the parent/guardian or, if applicable, the student, understands what FAFSA is and has chosen not to file an application.

The District shall provide to each student and, if applicable, the parent/guardian, any support or assistance necessary to comply with the requirement above.

The District shall award a high school diploma to any student who is unable to meet the requirement above if the student has met all other graduation requirements and the building Principal attests that the District has made a good faith effort to assist the student or parent/guardian in filing an application or waiver.

The Board supports early graduation as a means to earn a high school diploma (see Board policy IKFA. Parental involvement for students under the age of 18 is required. The high school principal shall approve such requests if he/she determines that all state and local graduation requirements will be met and that early graduation is related to career and/or educational plans of the student making the request. Upon approval by the high school principal, the minimum 4-unit requirement per year for enrolled students shall be waived and the student shall be awarded a high school diploma.

E. Alternative Learning Plans

As an alternative to satisfying the provisions of this policy and related State requirements, students may also graduate from high school and obtain either a high school diploma or its equivalent by participating in an alternative learning plan or program. The provisions of Board policy IHBI, Alternative Learning Plans, shall apply in such an event.

Legal References:

RSA 189:11

RSA 193:26-a, Graduation Requirements: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

N.H. Dept. of Education Administrative Rule – Ed 306.27

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

First Reading:	January 24, 2012
Second Reading:	February 14, 2012
Revised:	February 14, 2012
First Reading:	July 22, 2014
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Revised:	August 26, 2014
First Reading:	December 8, 2021
Second Reading:	January 12, 2022
Revised:	January 12, 2022
First Reading:	June 22, 2022
Second Reading:	July 20, 2022
Revised:	July 20, 2022