

## Instruction

### Graduation Requirements

Graduation from our public schools implies (1) that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study for the several grade levels in accordance with their respective abilities to achieve; (2) that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and/or standards established by the faculty and approved by the CREC Council; (3) that they have fulfilled the legally mandated number and distribution of credits; and (4) that they have successfully completed their IEP as determined by the Planning and Placement Team. The adopted school calendar shall indicate a graduation date which is no earlier than the 180th day.

CREC conforms with state regulations regarding credits for graduation from high school.

For classes graduating in 2023 and thereafter, graduation requirements will be as follows:

	<b>Graduation Requirements (25 credits)</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Humanities</b></p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 English</li> <li>- 3 Social Studies               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-1 American History</li> <li>- 0.5 Civics</li> </ul> </li> <li>- 1 Fine Arts</li> <li>- 1 Humanities Elective</li> </ul>	<b>9 Credits</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)</b></p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-4 Mathematics</li> <li>-3 Laboratory Sciences</li> <li>-2 STEM Electives</li> </ul>	<b>9 Credits</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fitness, Health and Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 Physical Education and Wellness</li> <li>- 1 Health and Safety Education</li> </ul>	<b>2 Credits</b>
<b>World Languages</b>	<b>2 Credits</b>
<b>Mastery Based Examination</b>	<b>1 Credit</b>
<b>Open Electives</b>	<b>2 Credits</b>

For classes graduating in 2027 and thereafter, one-half credit in personal financial management and financial literacy will be required. This requirement may count towards the credits required for the humanities, technology, engineering and mathematics, or as an elective credit.

For classes graduating in 2027 and thereafter, one credit in mastery based examination will not be required.

In order to graduate or be granted a diploma, each student must (1) complete the FAFSA; (2) complete and submit to a public institution of higher education an application for institutional financial aid for students without legal immigration status; or (3) complete a waiver, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, signed by the student's parent or legal guardian, or by the student, if the student is a legally emancipated minor or eighteen years of age or older.

On and after March fifteenth of the school year, a principal, school counselor, teacher or other certified educator who affirms that they have made a good faith effort to contact the parent, legal guardian, or student about completion of the FAFSA or an application for institutional financial aid for students without legal immigration status, may complete a waiver on behalf of any student who has not satisfied any of the above requirements.

CREC will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students, beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements, listed above, if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education; (3) allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

Any student who presents a certificate from a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in their opinion, participation in physical education is medically contraindicated because of the physical condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may be fulfilled by an elective.

### **Credits**

A credit defined as the equivalent of one forty minute class period for each day of a school year. One-half credit is given for courses that complete work in one semester. If physical education is not taken because of medical excuse, another subject may be substituted.

Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, and that are in accordance with the statewide subject matter content standards, adopted by the State Board of Education, shall satisfy this graduation requirement except that a student may be granted credit:

- a) for the successful completion of coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited college or university;
- b) for the successful completion of a summer course or summer courses comparable (as determined by the Principal) to the subject(s) in which the student was deficient.
- c) for a study abroad course work that is deemed equivalent to the course work which the student would have completed had they not traveled abroad;
- d) for the successful completion of on-line course work, provided that: (1) the workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting; (2) the content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate; (3) the course engages students and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their teachers, participation in online demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs; (4) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and systematic; and (5) the courses are (i) taught by teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited;
- e) upon achievement of a passing grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education;
- f) for having satisfactorily completed community service, provided that such community service: is supervised by a certified school administrator or teacher; consists of no fewer than fifty hours of actual service that may be performed at times when school is not regularly in session, and no fewer than ten hours of related classroom instruction; and, provided further, no more than one-half credit may be granted for such service; or
- g) for successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter content achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, workbased learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college, internships and student-designed independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards.

These credits may be counted toward the required graduation total and satisfy course distribution requirements as determined by the Superintendent of Schools.

Students may use course work successfully completed in middle school to satisfy the distribution requirements for World Language and Mathematics, and may not be required to re-take a course they have already completed. However, those waivers from a specific course requirement do not count as credits toward the total credits required for graduation.

### **Awards of High School Diplomas**

Students who complete all graduation requirements shall receive a diploma at the June commencement.

Students who would otherwise be attending a CREC school/program but are in the juvenile justice system and are being educated under the oversight of the administrative unit of the Department of Children and Families shall receive a diploma if they are seventeen years of age or older and have earned the minimum credits required for graduation.

Students who have achieved a high level of proficiency in English and one or more foreign languages, including American Sign Language and any other language spoken by a Native American tribe, may have the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy affixed on their diplomas; and shall have included in their transcript a designation that they have received the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy.

(cf. 5121 - Examination/Grading/Rating)  
 (cf. 6111 - School Calendar)  
 (cf. 6146.2 - Mastery Examinations)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
 10-16l Establishment of graduation date.

10-221a High school graduation requirements, as amended by P.A. 24-45, An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief, School Discipline and Disconnected Youth; P.A. 24-78, An Act Assisting School Districts in Improving Educational Outcomes, Implementing the Recommendations of the Department of Education and the Technical Education and Career System and Establishing Early Start CT.

P.A. 22-42 An Act Concerning the Department of Children and Families' Recommendations for Revisions to the Statutes Concerning Children

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