

Graduation Requirements

I. Credit Distribution

To qualify for graduation, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of seven courses during each semester, each year of grades nine through eleven, with a minimum of five courses in grade twelve. Exceptions will be made for students who qualify under the approved criteria for special alternative programs or individualized programs approved by the high school administration. In order to maximize flexibility and offer student choice, students may select a graduation path that meets their individual needs. A Career Bound Plan will be offered beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Distribution Area	College Bound Plan		College Athlete Bound Plan NCAA Division 1 and 2 Approved Course List		Career Bound Plan	
Humanities (9 Credits Total)						
English	English	4.0	English	4.0	English- grades 9 & 10	2
Social Studies	Civics US History Modern World/Electives	3.0	Civics US History	1.5	Civics US History	1.5
Fine Arts	Fine Arts	.5	Fine Arts	.5	Fine Arts	.5
Humanities Elective Credits	Electives Any English, Art, Music, Theater, Social Studies and selected CTE Courses	1.5	Electives Any English, Art, Music, Theater, Social Studies and selected CTE Courses	3.0	Electives Any English, Art, Music, Theater, Social Studies and selected CTE Courses	5.0
Total		9.0	9.0		9.0	
STEM (9 Credits Total)						
Mathematics	Mathematics	4.0	Mathematics	3.0	Mathematics	2.0
Science	Science	3.0	Science (1 year with lab)	2.0	Science	2.0
Career Technical Education	Personal Finance	.5	Personal Finance	.5	Personal Finance	.5

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Distribution Area	College Bound Plan		College Athlete Bound Plan NCAA Division 1 and 2 Approved Course List		Career Bound Plan	
(CTE)						
STEM Electives	Math, Science, and Selected CTE Courses	1.5	Math, Science, and Selected CTE Courses	3.5	Math, Science, and Selected CTE Courses	4.5
Total		9.0		9.0		9.0
World Language, Physical Education, Health and Community Service Requirements (3.5 required)						
World Language	World Language	3.0	World Language	4.0	World Language	1.0
Physical Education	Physical Education	1	Physical Education	1	Physical Education	1.0
Health and Safety Education	Health Education	1	Health Education	1	Health Education	1.0
Capstone Project	Required for students participating in Career Pathways		Required for students participating in Career Pathways		Required for students participating in Career Pathways	
Approved and Documented Community Service	Approved and Documented Community Service	.5	Approved and Documented Community Service	.5	Approved and Documented Community Service	.5
Total		5.5		6.5		3.5
Additional Electives in Any Area						
Total	Electives	1.5	Electives	.5	Electives	3.5
Total Credits	25 Credits		25 Credits		25 Credits	

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*Students will have met the distribution of World Language credit if they have met course standards in grades 7 or 8, or earned at least one credit in World Language. In addition, high school graduation credit will be granted to students for World Language courses successfully completed, as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee, through online coursework and/or demonstration of mastery. High school credits are earned in the following manner:

Grades 7 & 8 World Language - 1 Credit

**Students who demonstrate mastery of Algebra 1 and/or take another high school equivalent mathematics course while in middle school will receive high school credit for courses taken.

Online Learning

The Bethel Board of Education recognizes the importance of technology in education and the growing popularity and use of online coursework. In that regard, and in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a, the Board sanctions the receipt of online course credit to be used toward high school graduation requirements, in accordance with this policy.

Pre-approval of Courses Identified by Students and Parents

To receive credit for online courses to be used toward high school graduation requirements, students must, prior to registering for the course, receive approval from the high school principal or his/her designee. The decision of the principal or his/her designee with regard to online course credit approval is final. Pre-approval for online course credit may be granted if the requirements set forth below are met.

District-Provided Distance Learning or Dual Enrollment Courses

Students may also earn credit for high school graduation by participating successfully in distance learning offered by the Board. Determination of successful participation will be made by the teacher teaching the course through district-provided distance learning.

Students may earn a maximum of 4 credits from courses successfully completed online or at an accredited institution of higher education. These courses need to be approved prior to enrollment to be considered for credit distribution requirements. These courses will appear on a student's transcript with a designation of "pass" not a letter grade. If a letter grade was given in the course, this grade will not be factored into a student's GPA.

For the purposes of earning credit in conjunction with Public Act No. 17-42, for the purpose of granting credit, a 3-credit course will be counted as the equivalent of .5 credits.

I. Requirements for Online Coursework or Dual Enrollment Course

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1. The workload required by the online course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting; The student must submit the course syllabus when making an application to receive credit.
2. The content of the online or dual enrollment course 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 online or dual enrollment coursework is planned, ongoing, and systematic;
5. The courses are:
 - a. overseen by teachers who are certified in Connecticut or another state and have received training on teaching in an online environment, or
 - b. offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or regionally accredited; and
6. The principal has determined, in his or her professional judgment, that, given the student's academic and disciplinary history, the student is appropriately suited to engage in online coursework.

Additional Requirements

Only students in grades 7-12 are eligible to receive credit toward high school graduation by taking online courses. Students who have been pre-approved shall receive such credit upon completing the online course and obtaining a passing grade.

Any expense incurred for taking an online course identified by the student and/or parent shall be the responsibility of the student and shall not be the responsibility of the Board of Education.

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:

- a. Completed a "FAFSA";
- b. For students without legal immigration status, completed and submitted to a public institution of higher education an application for institutional financial aid; or
- c. 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.

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II. District's Academic Performance Expectations

The District Academic Performance Expectations are defined in general terms, and students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate competency in one of several formats.

Reading and Writing Across the Disciplines - The student shall meet the Reading and Writing standards for achievement as defined by the district, as described in the handbooks.

- A. Meet standard on the Bethel High School Literacy Assessment; OR
- B. Achieve a standard of performance on the Advanced Placement English Literature or Advanced Placement English Language Assessment; OR
- C. Meet standard on the Bethel High School Literacy Portfolio; OR
- D. Meet standard on a mastery examination approved by the State Board of Education or another like standardized assessment in the area of literacy; OR
- E. Successfully complete an approved remediation course within the English department

Science - The student shall meet the science standards for achievement as defined by the district, as described in the handbooks.

- A. Meet standard on the Bethel High School Science Assessment; OR
- B. Achieve a standard of performance on the Advanced Placement science assessment; OR
- C. Meet standard on the Bethel High School Science Portfolio; OR
- D. Meet standard on a mastery examination approved by the State Board of Education or another like standardized assessment in the area of science.
- F. Successfully complete an approved remediation course within the science department

Mathematics -The student shall meet the mathematics standards for achievement as defined by the district, as described in the handbooks.

- A. Meet standard on the Bethel High School Mathematics Assessment; OR
- B. Achieve a standard of performance on the Advanced Placement mathematics assessment; OR
- C. Meet standard on the Bethel High School Math Portfolio; OR
- D. Meet standard on a mastery examination approved by the State Board of Education or another like standardized assessment in the area of math; OR
- E. Successful completion of a remediation course.

Special Education

Special Education students may be exempt from district Performance Expectations for graduation as described in this policy if so indicated in their Individual Education Plan. However, the Board strongly encourages Special Education students for whom it is appropriate to register for those remediation courses offered by the content area departments.

Graduation Requirements**5. Multilingual Learners (ML)**

Any new registrant qualifying for ML services is exempted from the district's Performance Expectations. However, the Board strongly encourages ML students for whom it is appropriate to register for those remediation courses offered by the content area departments.

6. Implementation

Students who have not met the Performance Expectations by the end of their senior year will not graduate. To obtain a Bethel High School diploma, they must return as a fifth-year student and complete the Performance Expectations outlined in these regulations.

Reporting Procedures/Notification for Students at Risk of Not Graduating**Teachers:**

- At the start of the school year, teachers will receive a list of all juniors who have not met graduation standards in the areas related to their teaching assignment.
- At the start of the school year, teachers will receive a list of all seniors who have not met the graduation performance standard in the areas related to their teaching assignment.

Students:

- Freshmen will be advised of the graduation requirements as part of the freshman orientation process and in the Bethel High School Program of Studies distributed to all incoming 9th graders and their parents/guardians.
- During the junior year, juniors who have not yet met the graduation standards in one or more of the identified areas shall be notified by their school counselor.

Parents/Guardians:

- Parents/Guardians of incoming freshmen will receive an explanation of graduation requirements as part of the Freshman Orientation. The same information will also be contained in the Program of Studies, which can be found online and will be shared with incoming 9th graders and students new to BHS and their guardians.
- At the start of the school year, parents/guardians of juniors who have not met the established graduation standards will be notified in writing by the school administration/school counselor. Notification will include the subject area sources of support the student is mandated to attend.
- At the end of the junior year, parents/guardians of rising seniors who have not met the established graduation standards will be notified in writing by the school administration/school counselor. Notification will include the subject area sources of support the student is mandated to attend.

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Regulation Approved: October 5, 1992

Regulation Revised: 11/6/95; 5/13/96, 11/18/96, 11/15/99

8/21/00, 9/19/02, 11/26/02, 9/27/07, 6/24/14, 11/21/13, 7/7/15, 1/10/19

4/3/2020, 2/20/2025, 8/2/2025

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BETHEL, CT