
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Required Coursework and Credits for Graduation

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

Classes Graduating in 2026

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

Humanities	9 credits (including Civics and the Arts)
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)	9 credits
Physical Education and Wellness	1 credit
Health and Safety Education	1 credit
World Languages	1 credit
Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment	1 credit

Classes Graduating in 2027 and Thereafter

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

Humanities	9 credits including: 4 credits in English, 1.0 US History, .5 Civics, 0.5 credit in the Arts
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)	9 credits including: 1 credit in Algebra, 1 credit in Geometry, 1 credit in Biology, 1 credit in Chemistry, and .5 credit in Personal Finance

Physical Education and Wellness **1 credit**

Health and Safety Education **1 credit**

World Languages **1 credit**

Mastery-Based **1 credit**
Diploma Assessment

A student who presents written documentation from a physician or 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 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 credit:

High school graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful demonstration of mastery of subject matter 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 (for credit recovery purposes only),
- Work-based learning,
- Service learning,
- Dual enrollment and early college
- Courses taken in middle school, and
- Internships and student-designed independent studies;

Provided that such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards.

Class of 2030

High school graduation credit will be granted to students for courses successfully completed with a [C] or better in grades seven and eight so long as the primary focus of the course corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement at the high school level.

Class of 2031 and Thereafter

A student shall be granted high school credit for successfully completing Algebra I, Geometry or World Language in the middle school when the courses are and exams are congruent with the same High School courses.

- To be eligible for high school credit, a student must take three years of mathematics in grades nine through eleven. Upon completion of the third year of mathematics at the high school level, that is at the end of the junior year, the credit for Algebra I and/or Geometry, taken while in grade seven or eight, will be awarded.
- To be eligible for high school credit, a student must take one or more years of a World Language in grades nine through eleven. Upon successful completion of one year of World Language at the high school level, that is at the end of the junior year, the credit for World Language, taken while in grade seven and eight, will be awarded.

High school graduation credit will be granted to students for coursework completed during the school year or summer months at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for purposes of this policy. Credit given pursuant to this provision is limited to one full credit.

High school graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful completion of on-line coursework for credit recovery purposes in accordance with the Board's on-line coursework policy.

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 as defined by the Vision of the Graduate: communication, collaboration & problem-solving.
- Class of 2030 and thereafter: complete twenty (20) hours of Community Service prior to graduation and submit documentation to Wethersfield High School.

Students may demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills described above by achieving

satisfactory results on either a portfolio or a capstone project, reviewed by a panel of teachers, staff & community members.

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 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“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.

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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