

PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY

IKF - HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION POLICY

Category: Priority

Pelham High School Diploma

A minimum of 26 credits and 40 hours of community service learning are required to graduate and earn a Pelham High School diploma. The required subjects and credits for high school graduation are:

<u>Area of Study</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English (Freshman English, Sophomore English, American Literature, and English elective(s))	4.0
Mathematics (3 math credits including Algebra I and a math credit or math-intensive course each year)	3.5
Science (3 lab sciences: physical science, biology, and chemistry)	3.0
Social Studies (World Studies - 1 credit, Civics - 0.5 credits, Economics - 0.5 credits, U. S. History - 1 credit.)	3.0
Fine Arts Education	0.5
Information and Communication Technology	0.5
Physical Education	1.0
Health Education	0.5
Personal Financial Planning or Managing your Money	0.5
Personal Choice Electives	9.5
Total	26.0

The Pelham High School Program of Studies will explain further the course sequences, prerequisites courses, and course descriptions.

In addition to the above requirements, the School Board may approve other academic requirements for graduation.

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Category: Priority

New Hampshire State Core Diploma

A minimum of 20 credits and 40 hours of community service learning are required to graduate and earn a New Hampshire State Core Diploma. The required subjects and credits for high school graduation are:

<u>Area of Study</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English (Freshman English, Sophomore English, and English electives)	4.0
Mathematics (3 math credits including Algebra I and a math credit or math-intensive course each year)	3.5
Science (two lab sciences: physical science and biology)	2.0
Social Studies (World Studies - 1 credit, Civics - 0.5 credits, Economics - 0.5 credits, U. S. History - 1 credit.)	3.0
Fine Arts Education	0.5
Information and Communication Technology	0.5
Physical Education	1.0
Health Education	0.5
Personal Financial Planning or Managing your Money	0.5
Personal Choice Electives	4.5
Total	20.0

AWARDING OF CREDIT

Credit will be awarded in accordance with 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 Policy ILBAA, High School Competency Assessments. Credit will be awarded only once for a specific required course unless specified otherwise in the Program of Studies with the same content during the secondary school experience.

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TRANSFER CREDITS

The Principal or designee shall evaluate the transcripts of students who transfer into Pelham High School from another educational program or school in or out of state in order to determine previous educational experiences toward meeting PHS graduation requirements.

ALTERNATIVE CREDIT OPTIONS

Alternative credit may be granted pursuant to the provisions of Policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options and other applicable Board policies.

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 who attain a passing grade on this assessment will be eligible to receive a high school diploma.

Effective starting with students graduating in 2024, the District will 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 (IEP). 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.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID APPLICATION

The Superintendent shall ensure each student eligible for graduation shall receive information on completing and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Initial information shall be provided no later than October 1 of a student's senior year, and shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Eligibility requirements for student financial aid that may be applied for using the FAFSA;
2. Application timelines and submission deadlines; and
3. The importance of submitting applications early, especially when student financial aid may be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Superintendent /Superintendent's designee shall ensure that any information shared under this section is handled according to applicable state and federal privacy laws, regulations, and administrative rules.

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GRADUATION OPTIONS

A. Pelham High School Diploma

All students, regardless of disability, must earn the credits required above and satisfy other academic requirements for graduation established by the School Board in order to receive a Pelham High School diploma or a New Hampshire State Core Diploma and be eligible for participation in graduation.

The Pelham High School Program of Studies will identify and explain further the Pelham High School Diploma options.

B. Certificate of Achievement

A Certificate of Achievement is not a diploma and is awarded to any student who has successfully completed an individual program of studies not leading to a standard diploma. Students eligible for special education that are pursuing a certificate of completion may participate in one graduation ceremony in the year determined most appropriate by the student's IEP team. For students eligible for special education, participation in graduation will not end the student's eligibility for a free appropriate public education. Students eligible for special education may continue in an approved program until such time as the student has earned a regular high school diploma or has attained the age of 21, whichever occurs first.

C. Other Options

Early Graduation is addressed under Board Policy IKFA.
Alternative learning plans are addressed under Board Policy IHBI.

District Policy History:

Adopted: May 25, 2011

Revised: December 21, 2016

Revised: March 3, 2021

Revised: January 5, 2022

Revised: January 8, 2025

Legal References:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(14), How Credit Can Be Earned

N.H. Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.14(f), Awarding of Credit for Required Subjects and Open Electives

N.H. Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.27(d), Mastery of Required Competencies

N.H. Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.27(m), Credits Required for Graduation