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Hermon School Department

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A CREDIT BASED DIPLOMA

Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program to meet that goal.

The superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents prior to the start of their ninth grade school year. The content of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in every edition of the high school Program of Studies.

The School Committee has approved the following schedule of minimum requirements for graduation, which includes minimum requirements specified by the State of Maine. The School Committee is aware that current law and regulations are subject to change.

The School Committee expects the superintendent/designee to inform students and parents as soon as practicable of any additional State-imposed standards that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma.

I. MINIMUM DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS BEGINNING WITH THE CLASS OF 2022

Graduation Standards and Requirements

*4 English credits

*3 Math credits plus 1 year math experience, as defined in the Program of Studies

*3 Social Studies credits, as defined by the Program of Studies (including 1 course that meets the American History/ Government standards,) plus 1 year Social Studies experience, as defined by the Program of Studies.

*3 Science credits including at least 1 Lab Science, plus 1 year Science experience, as defined by the Program of Studies

*1 credit Visual and Performing Arts

*.5 Health and .5 Physical Education during both Freshman and Sophomore year equaling 1 credit of each content area.

A course that meets the Personal Finance standards, as defined by the Program of Studies

*20 hours of Community Service

*State Assessment completion

The remaining credits may be selected by the student based on his/her interest, satisfaction of course prerequisites, and requirements of the field that he/she plans to enter upon graduation.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF EARNING CREDIT

A student who is deficient in these requirements or wishes to meet these requirements through alternative means may earn and apply credits in accordance with the provisions of this section.

A student who wishes to meet a credit requirement through an alternative method must have prior written approval as specified in this section.

A student who makes up credit(s) may participate in the next regular graduation ceremony following successful completion of all graduation requirements.

- A. A student may earn up to two credits through an Adult Education Program. The student must have prior written approval from the director of adult education, guidance counselor, department chair and principal.
- B. A student may obtain up to two credits through summer school in classes that he/she completed at Hermon High School but did not pass. The student must obtain prior written approval from the guidance counselor, department chair and principal.
- C. A student may earn up to two credits through distance learning/virtual courses provided (1) the course is approved in advance by the guidance counselor, department chair and principal, and (2) progress is monitored by a member of the High School's professional staff.
- D. Advanced courses or courses not available at Hermon High School may be taken at other secondary schools or at approved post-secondary institutions with the approval of the guidance counselor and principal.

E. Note: A total of 2 credits from A, B, C above.

STUDENT RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Students who have met the minimum graduation requirements through their I.E.P.s will be awarded diplomas.

With prior approval of the director, principal, and superintendent, students may also opt to pursue a high school diploma through multiple additional pathways including:

- Early college/dual enrollment process
- Career and technical education programming
- Online/virtual learning
- Apprenticeships, internships and/or field work
- Additional community service
- Exchange programs
- Independent study
- Alternative education / "At Risk" programming
- Adult education
- Any other program approved by the director, principal, and superintendent,

Hermon High School students who participate in the Self-contained Program may participate in graduation ceremony upon completion of their IEP goals as determined by the IEP team.

If the IEP team also determines that the student has completed his/her IEP goals to march with his/her four-year cohort, but also determines that the student may benefit from an additional year of attendance at Hermon High School's Self-contained Program, the following rules apply:

- The student will receive his/her diploma upon the completion of that additional year.
- The student may only participate once in the graduation ceremony and all other senior activities.
- Such IEP team determinations for student participation in graduation and all other senior activities, must be determined and notified by Written Notice no later than December 1st of the student's fourth year.
- Written Notification of the IEP teams determination will be issued to the Building Principal and Director of Pupil Services, by the student's case manager no later than December 1st of the student's fourth year.

II. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF A DIPLOMA FROM HERMON HIGH SCHOOL

This section applies to all students, in all graduation classes.

A. Transfer Students and Home-schooled Students

For students who transfer to Hermon High School from another educational institution (in or out of State) and home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Hermon High School, the Hermon High School principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation credit requirements. A home-schooled student must attend Hermon High School for a minimum of the final two semesters in order to receive a Hermon High School diploma.

A. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

A student who leaves Hermon High School to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education may upon satisfactory completion of the necessary credit(s) be awarded a high school diploma, provided that the student has notified the principal at the time of the early admission.

B. Early Awarding of Diploma

See Policy IKFA

C. Extended Study

Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan.

D. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must complete all School Committee requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed Rule)

Cross Reference: IHCDA – Post-Secondary Enrollment Options
IKFA – Early Graduation