

# Policy

NO. 519

## Board of Education Nutley

PUPILS

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Education will recognize the successful completion of the secondary school instructional program by the award of a state-endorsed diploma certifying that the pupil has met all state and local requirements for high school graduation. The Board will annually certify to the County Superintendent that each pupil who has been awarded a diploma has met the requirements for graduation.

#### Curriculum Requirements

Effective with the September 1987 ninth grade class, a graduating pupil must have earned a minimum of 120 credits. The minimum requirement for the September 1989 twelfth grade class is 105 credits.

A graduating pupil must have successfully completed the following courses of study:

1. One credit year of English for each year of enrollment, up to four credit years;
2. Two credit years of mathematics effective through August 1990; three credit years of mathematics effective with the September 1988 ninth grade class;
3. Two credit years of social studies including United States and New Jersey history as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and 35-2 through August 1988; one additional credit year of world history and cultures effective with the September 1988 ninth grade class;
4. One credit year of natural or physical science through August 1989; two credit years of natural or physical science effective with the September 1989 ninth grade class;
5. One credit year of physical education, health, and safety for each year of enrollment, as required by N.J.S.A. 18:35-7;
6. One credit year of fine, practical, and/or performing arts; and
7. One-half credit year of career education.

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Credit shall be assigned on the same basis to all high school courses offered by the Board; the Board may assign additional credit to curricular activities approved by this Board. All courses offered for credit toward a diploma must be at the high school level, and no single course may satisfy more than one of the requirements listed above.

Each course of study required for graduation shall include a statement of the proficiencies to be mastered by the pupils enrolled in the course. Credit for each required course shall be awarded on the successful completion of the program assigned and satisfaction of the proficiencies identified. Pupils shall be given every reasonable opportunity to remediate and satisfy failed proficiencies.

#### Basic Skills

A graduating pupil must demonstrate proficiency at or above the state levels in reading, writing, and mathematics on the state mandated High School Proficiency Test (HSPT). A pupil who performs below the state minimum level of proficiency in one or more of the HSPT areas, in any academic year, will be given a comprehensive evaluation and appropriate remedial services, which may include the development and implementation of an Individual Student Improvement Plan (ISIP). A pupil will be given the opportunity in each academic year to demonstrate mastery of a deficient skill and will be assessed at least once each year until all identified deficiencies have been remediated.

A twelfth grade pupil who has satisfied all other state and local graduation requirements but performs below the state minimum level of proficiency in one or more of the HSPT areas will be provided a special review assessment, the findings of which will be recorded on a student profile form. The findings will be independently evaluated by a review panel of at least three teaching staff members not currently instructing the pupil. A review panel's recommendation that the pupil's demonstrable skills meet state standards must be endorsed by the principal, the Superintendent, and the County Superintendent before the Board may award the pupil a diploma. This review procedure is intended to protect pupils who do not test well and shall not be used to excuse unmotivated or careless pupils or to elevate the number of diplomas awarded by this Board.

A person eighteen years of age or older not enrolled in a school who has attended the high school of this district and has met all state and local graduation requirements except the demonstration of basic skills

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may take the HSPT, at the time and place announced by this or another Board, and, on certification that he or she has passed the test, shall be awarded a state endorsed diploma by this Board.

#### Educationally Handicapped Pupils

Educationally handicapped pupils must take and pass the HSPT and satisfy the curriculum requirements established by this policy unless the pupil's individualized education program (IEP) sets goals and objectives inconsistent with these requirements or the pupil would be adversely affected by taking the HSPT and the pupil's exemption has been approved by the Superintendent. An IEP that does not include the proficiencies measured by the HSPT and the curriculum generally required for graduation must include a rationale for the exemptions and alternate proficiencies required for the pupil's graduation.

#### Pupils of Limited English-Speaking Ability

Pupils of limited English-speaking ability who have entered a New Jersey school district before grade 9 must satisfy all graduation requirements in the English language. Any such pupil who fails to pass the HSPT must demonstrate mastery of basic skills to the review panel in English. Pupils who have entered a New Jersey school district after the beginning of grade 9 must meet all credit, curriculum, and attendance requirements established by this policy and must take the HSPT until it is passed or, if unable to pass the state assessment test, must demonstrate basic skills in a review process conducted in English or the pupil's native language or both and demonstrate fluency in English.

#### Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to the successful completion of a course of study, and pupils are expected to be present in every scheduled class except as their attendance is excused in accordance with Board Policy. A pupil absent from a class scheduled for a course of study more than 19 of the days on which the class meets shall not receive credit for that course.

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Notification

The Superintendent shall report annually, at a public meeting not later than September 30, the numbers of pupils graduated, denied graduation, graduated under an IEP, and graduated under the special review assessment procedures..

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 et seq.; 18A:35-1, 35-5, 35-7; 18A:36-17  
N.J.A.C. 6:8-7.1