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### **Purpose**

The Board shall establish graduation requirements and acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program by awarding diplomas and certificates at graduation ceremonies.

### **Authority**

The Board shall adopt the graduation requirements students must achieve in accordance with state law and regulations. [\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]\[4\]](#)

The Board requires graduation requirements to be published and distributed to students and parents/guardians, and made available in each school building and posted on the district's publicly accessible website. All changes to graduation requirements shall be published and distributed to students and parents/guardians, and made available in each school building and posted on the district's publicly accessible website immediately following approval by the Board. [\[2\]\[5\]](#)

### **Diplomas**

The Board shall award a high school diploma to every student enrolled in this district who meets the requirements for graduation established by this Board. [\[2\]\[6\]\[7\]\[8\]\[9\]\[10\]](#)

A student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall not be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure, but the student may be denied participation in the graduation ceremony when personal conduct so warrants. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension. [\[11\]](#)

*Students Experiencing Educational Instability -*

The district shall provide supports to ensure that students experiencing educational instability graduate in a timely manner, in accordance with law and Board policy. A graduation plan shall be developed to facilitate this process for students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) who are experiencing educational instability.[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

#### *Students With Disabilities -*

The Board shall permit a student with a disability, whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) prescribes continued educational services, to participate in commencement ceremonies with their graduating class and receive a certificate of attendance, provided that the student has attended four (4) years of high school. The Board shall issue a high school diploma to each student with a disability who completes the graduation requirements established by the Board or the goals established in the student's IEP, as determined by the student's IEP team.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#)

#### *Part-Time Students -*

A student may qualify for graduation by attending a district school part-time when lawfully employed part-time or when officially enrolled part-time in a postsecondary institution.[\[20\]](#)[\[21\]](#)

#### *Full-Time Postsecondary Students -*

The fourth year of high school shall not be required for graduation if a student has completed all requirements for graduation and attends a postsecondary institution as a full-time student.[\[21\]](#)[\[22\]](#)

#### ***Children of Active Duty Military Families –***

**The district shall provide supports to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of active duty military families in accordance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, state law and Board policy.**[\[23\]](#)[\[24\]](#)

#### *Eligible Veterans -*

In order to honor and recognize honorably discharged eligible veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War, the Board shall grant a diploma to a veteran who meets the applicable requirements of law and completes the required application.[\[6\]](#)

Upon proper application, the Board may award a diploma posthumously to a veteran who meets the stated requirements.

The Superintendent shall submit to the Board for its approval the names of veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War who are eligible for a high school diploma.

#### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for ensuring the following:

1. Publication and distribution of graduation requirements to students and parents/guardians in the Academic Planner.[\[2\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

2. Counseling of students regarding expectations of graduation requirements. [\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[16\]](#)
3. Assessment of individual student attainment of academic standards to ensure the student's progress toward achievement of graduation requirements. [\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[16\]](#)
4. Accurate recording and reporting of each student's progress and accumulation of graduation requirements. [\[10\]](#)[\[25\]](#)
5. Provision of assistance to those students having difficulty attaining the academic standards. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)
6. Development of a list of individuals who qualify for the award of a diploma.
7. Planning and executing graduation ceremonies that appropriately recognize this important achievement.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually, no later than December 1, report to the PA Department of Education (PDE) graduation information and data, as required by law. [\[1\]](#)

### **Guidelines**

A list of all candidates for the award of a diploma shall be submitted to the board for approval.

A requirement for graduation shall be the completion of required Keystone assessments, projects, and studies representing the instructional program assigned to grades 9 through 12, which shall be aligned with established state academic and PA Standards. In addition, students must meet any other graduation pathway as approved and defined by the PA Legislature, PDE, or LEA. [\[1\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

The Board requires that each candidate for graduation shall have earned 22.25 credits:

- 4 credits English
- 3 or 4 credits Mathematics
- 3 or 4 credits Science (Science and Math total = 7 credits)
- 3 credits Social Studies
- 2 credits Computer/Technology
- 1.50 credits Wellness
- 4 credits Electives
- 0.25 credit Health
- 0.50 credit Community Service

Total Credits: 22.25

**PSBA Revision 12/23 © 2023 PSBA**

Legal

- [1. 24 P.S. 121](#)
- [2. 22 PA Code 4.24](#)
- [3. 22 PA Code 4.51](#)
- [4. 22 PA Code 4.52](#)
- [5. 24 P.S. 510.2](#)
- [6. 24 P.S. 1611](#)

[7. 24 P.S. 1613](#)

8. Pol. 102

9. Pol. 127

10. Pol. 212

11. Pol. 233

[12. 24 P.S. 1331.1](#)

13. Pol. 251

[14. 24 P.S. 1614](#)

[15. 22 PA Code 11.27](#)

[16. 22 PA Code 4.12](#)

[17. 34 CFR 300.102](#)

[18. 34 CFR 300.305](#)

19. Pol. 113

[20. 22 PA Code 11.5](#)

[21. 22 PA Code 11.8](#)

[22. 22 PA Code 11.4](#)

[23. 24 P.S. 7302](#)

24. Pol. 254

25. Pol. 216

[34 CFR Part 300](#)

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3)

[217-ATT-0 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - ACT 158 PATHWAY GRAPHIC 12 OCT 2023.pdf \(171 KB\)](#)

[217-AR-0-Grad-Comncmnt 08 FEB 2024.docx \(24 KB\)](#)

[217-AR-1-CnslingForSeniors 12 OCT 2023.docx \(22 KB\)](#)

[217-AR-2-EarlyGraduation 12 OCT 2023.docx \(25 KB\)](#)

[217-AR-3-ApplicForEarlyGrad 12 OCT 2023.docx \(26 KB\)](#)

[217-AR-4-ApplicForVetrnDiploma 12 OCT 2023.docx \(49 KB\)](#)

[217-AR-5-Pathways to Graduation 230113.doc \(35 KB\)](#)