

High School Graduation Requirements

To satisfy the high school graduation requirements within Waterford Public Schools, a student must have satisfactorily completed his or her prescribed courses of study; demonstrated proficiency in basic skills identified by the Waterford Board of Education (the “Board”); and satisfied the legally mandated number and distribution of credits required to graduate from high school; and if graduating in 2025 and thereafter, satisfied the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”) requirements detailed in Policy 5370.

Required Coursework and Credits for Graduation

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

Class Graduating in -2024

For classes graduating in 2024 the following 26 credits are required:

Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies—3.5 credits (including .5 in Civics and 1.0 in U.S. History) • English—4 credits • Humanities elective—1.5 (Includes courses in English, Social Studies, World Language, Art, and Music above the required minimum) 	9
Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics—3 credits (Including Algebra I) • Science—3 credits • STEM-related electives—3 credits (Includes courses in Math, Science, and Vocational Arts above the required minimum) 	9
Physical Education and Wellness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical education—1 credit • Health and safety education—1 credit 	2
World Language	1
Fine or Vocational Arts	1.5
Capstone Seminar and Project	1
Open Electives	2.5
Total Credits	26

Additionally, each student will be required to successfully complete - sixty hours (60) due to the COVID proration in the Learning Through Service Program (LTS) as a requirement for graduation. Students who transfer during their high school career will have Learning Through Service (LTS) hours prorated and will be informed of the number of hours required for graduation.

Classes Graduating in 2025, and 2026.

For classes graduating in 2025 and 2026, the following 26 credits are required:

Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies—3.5 credits (including .5 in Civics and 1.0 in U.S. History) • English—4 credits • Humanities elective—1.5 (Includes courses in English, Social Studies, World Language, Art, and Music above the required minimum) 	9
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Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics—3 credits (Including Algebra I) • Science—3 credits • STEM-related electives—3 credits (Includes courses in Math, Science, and Vocational Arts above the required minimum) 	9
Physical Education and Wellness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical education—1 credit • Health and safety education—1 credit 	2
World Language	1
Fine or Vocational Arts	1.5
Capstone Seminar and Project	1
Open Electives	2.5
Total Credits	26

Classes Graduating in 2027 and thereafter.

For classes graduating in 2027 and thereafter, the following 26 credits are required:

Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies—3.5 credits (including .5 in Civics and 1.0 in U.S. History) • English—4 credits • Humanities elective—1.5 (Includes courses in English, Social Studies, World Language, Art, and Music above the required minimum) 	9
Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics—3 credits (Including Algebra I) • Science—3 credits • STEM-related electives—3 credits (Includes courses in Math, Science, and Vocational Arts above the required minimum) 	9
Physical Education and Wellness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical education—1 credit • Health and safety education—1 credit 	2
World Language	1
Fine or Vocational Arts	1.5
Personal Financial Management and Financial Literacy	0.5
Open Electives	3
Total Credits	26

A student who presents written documentation from a physician or advanced practice registered nurse 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 his or her parent or guardian requests such exemption in writing.

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A credit is defined as not less than the equivalent of a forty (40) class period for each school day of a school year. One-half credit is granted for a course with a forty (40) minute class period each day for one semester or ninety (90) days.

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.

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. This will be measured through the Waterford Public Schools Vision of a Graduate.

Graduation During Period of Expulsion

A student may graduate during an expulsion period if the Board determines that the student has completed the necessary requirements for graduation.

Legal References:

Public Act 17-42, An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-5c Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-14n Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16b Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221a
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223a
Public Act No. 23-21, “An Act Concerning Financial Literacy Instruction”
Public Act No. 23-204, “An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefore, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget”
Public Act No. 23-167, “An Act Concerning Transparency in Education”

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy adopted: November 6, 2003,
Policy revised: August 28, 2014
Policy revised: June 27, 2019
Policy revised: February 27, 2020
Policy revised: December 19, 2023