

Instruction**STAFFORD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

In order to satisfy the high school graduation requirements within the Stafford Public Schools, a student must have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study, demonstrated proficiency in basic skills identified by the Stafford Board of Education and satisfied the legally mandated number and distribution of credits required to graduate from high school.

Required Coursework and Credits for Graduation

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

The following **25** credits are required:

Humanities**9 total credits****4** credits in English**3** credits in Social Studies including:

1.0 credit in U.S. History

1.0 credit in Government/Civics

2 elective credits in other Humanities coursework that may include:

English

Social Studies

World Language

Fine Arts (Music and/or Art)

**Science, Technology,
Engineering, and Math (STEM)****9 total credits****3** credits in Mathematics including Algebra I**3** credits in Science including 1 credit in Biology**3** elective credits in other STEM coursework that may include:

Science

Applied Arts (Technology)

Math

Business

Other Credits**7 total credits****1** credit in Physical Education and Wellness**1** credit in Health and Safety Education

1 credit in World Languages
3 Electives
1 Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment

Financial Literacy – each student must complete at least one (1) course, as defined within the Stafford High School Program of Studies.

Students are required to have a schedule carrying at least 7.0 credits each school year.

Students who have earned 21 credits at the conclusion of their junior year are only required to carry 6.0 credits during their senior year.

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 the student's parent or guardian requests such exemption in writing.

A credit is defined as the equivalent of one forty (40) minute 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 school day for one semester or ninety (90) days. All credits earned toward meeting any of the graduation requirements through the successful completion of on-line courses must fulfill the requirements established in accordance with Board policy #6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses.

Only courses taken 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.

High School graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful demonstration of mastery of subject matter achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that offer flexible and multiple pathways to learning provided that such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards.

High School graduation credit will be granted to students upon the successful demonstration of mastery of subject matter achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including:

- Virtual learning,
- Work-based learning,
- Dual enrollment and early college,
- Courses taken in middle school, and
- Internships and student-designed independent studies.

Stafford High School awards credit to students who successfully complete Algebra 1 or World Language at Stafford Middle School. These credits will appear on a Stafford High School transcript as courses taken at Stafford Middle School for credit. Students will receive credit as long as they meet the following criteria:

- Successfully complete the course requirements; and
- Earn a grade of a 70% or better on the final exam

Demonstration of Proficiency in Basic Skills

In addition to the fulfillment of the prescribed credit requirements above, graduation from Stafford High School requires that students demonstrate proficiency in basic skills. The methods of demonstrating such mastery of state-specific content standards can include, but shall not be exclusively based on, performance on the PSAT or SAT examinations, AP examinations, or achievement based on content specific rubrics, performance tasks, or assessments as indicated through the district curricula.

Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment – Students will display mastery of the various attributes outlined in the Stafford Public Schools Portrait of the Graduate. Students must earn proficiency in each criterion of the Stafford High School Portrait of the Graduate Rubric through completion of the following:

- The Active Citizenship Project submitted as part of the Government course designed to address all areas within the SHS Portrait of the Graduate Rubric;
- Coursework submitted to their faculty advisor and school counselor that displays mastery of criterion on the SHS Portrait of the Graduate Rubric;
- Successful completion of assignments in a Senior Seminar class that targets areas where proficiency was yet to be displayed on the SHS Portrait of the Graduate Rubric.

Graduation During Period of Expulsion

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

Legal References:

Public Act No. 21-144, An Act Implementing Recommendations of the Department of Education

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-14n

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16b

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221a

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223a

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STAFFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Stafford Springs, Connecticut