

Students generally earn a high school diploma through a combination of high school credit and mastery of required course level competencies. Methods for earning credit are discussed in Board policy [3529 \(IK\)](#), while competencies are discussed in Board policy [3537 \(ILBAA\)](#). This policy outlines the specific courses, competencies and other specific requirements before a student will receive a diploma or other graduation credential. The Board reserves the right to impose additional academic requirements necessary to graduate and/or receive a diploma. The Board supports early graduation as a means to earn a high school diploma (see Board policy [3535 IKFA](#)).

#### A. Credit Requirements

1. Awarding of Credit - Credit will be awarded in accordance with Board policy [3529 \(IK\)](#), Earning of High School Credit. Additionally, a unit of credit shall be given upon satisfactory completion of a course or learning experience in compliance with the district-specified curriculum and assessment standards. In some cases, course credit may also be awarded based on demonstrated mastery of the required competencies for the course. Assessment of mastery will be the responsibility of the Principal, and will be in accordance with Board policy [3537 \(ILBAA\)](#), High School Competency Assessments. Credit will be awarded only once for a specific required course with the same content during the secondary school experience.

2. Required Subjects and Credits:

a. A minimum of twenty (26) credits are required to graduate and earn a Milford High School diploma. The required subjects and credits for high school graduation are:

Arts education:	1 credit
Information and communications technologies:	1 credit (One credit in an Applied Technology course that meets advanced information and communication technology (ICT) standards chosen from a list of approved courses, or one credit in a non ICT Applied Technology course along with a .5 credit digital portfolio)
English:	4 credits
Mathematics:	4 credits (including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential, integrated, or applied program)
Physical sciences:	1 credit
Biological sciences:	1 credit
Elective Science	1 credit

US and NH history:	1 credit
US and NH government/civics:	½ credit
Economics, including personal finance:	½ credit
World history, global studies, or geography”	1 credit
Health education:	1 credit
Physical education:	1 credit
Career Focused Electives	2 credits
Open electives:	6 credits
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>26 credits</b>

b. A Milford High School State Standard Diploma may be awarded to any student who completes the state minimum required units of study as defined by Ed 306.27(l) as listed below. A total minimum of 20 credits and acceptance into the program is required.

**Milford High School State Standard Diploma Requirements:**

English	4 credits
Math (including algebra)	3 credits
Science (physical and biological)	2 credits
Social Studies (including civics, US and NH history, and economics/personal finance)	2.5 credits
Information & Communications Tech.*	0.5 credits
Arts Education	0.5 credits
Physical Education	1 credits
Health Education	0.5 credits
Electives	6 credits
Total	20 credits

\*Half credit in an Applied Technology course that meets advanced information and communication technology (ICT) standards chosen from a list of approved courses, or .5 credit digital portfolio independent study.

c. A Milford High School graduate may receive New Hampshire Scholars recognition on their diploma and transcript by completing the required units of study at a college preparation level and achieves a minimum grade point average as listed below. Attainment of such will be noted on a student’s diploma, transcript and in the graduation program.

A minimum grade point average of 3.0 at the time of graduation is required for NH Scholars,

and 3.25 is required for the STEM and Arts option. Courses must be taken at the College and Career Preparation, Honors or AP-level.

Milford High School New Hampshire Scholars Diploma Requirements:

English	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3.5 credits
World Language	2 credits
Information & Communications Tech.*	1 credits
Fine Arts*	1 credits
Wellness	2 credits
Electives	5.5 credits
Total	26 credits

\*An additional STEM and/or Art class is required for the STEM/Arts NH Scholars options.

Detailed information regarding coursework is available in the High School Program of Studies.

d. A Certificate of Completion may be awarded to students with individualized education programs (IEPs). These certificates shall not be equal to a Milford High School Diploma per the State of New Hampshire Department of Education. All students with disabilities shall be entitled to continue their high school educational program until such time as each student has earned a regular high school diploma or has attained the age of 22, whichever comes first.

The following conditions will apply to students earning a Certificate of Completion:

- The student is identified with an educational disability as documented in an Individualized Education Program (IEP),
- The student has spent a majority of their high school program in either non-credit granting courses or was unable to demonstrate competency in required courses and, therefore, was unable to attain sufficient credits for a standard diploma, and
- The student has completed a minimum of four years of high school.

The IEP Team will determine if the student has met the criteria for a Certificate of Completion as outlined in the IEP. An award of this certificate will be on or before the student's 22nd birthday.

The student may choose when to receive the Certificate of Completion on one of three predetermined opportunities:

- At the time of graduation with common age peers

- At the conclusion of IEP program, or
- Upon reaching the age of 22 (Graduation ceremony must be prior to their 22nd birthday).

If the student participates in the traditional ceremony, the student's name will be included in the written graduation publication(s) with no difference in listing from his/her peers awarded a regular diploma. . The granting of a Certificate of Completion and/or participation in the commencement activities does not negate the student's rights to services until the age of 22 as identified in the IEP.

3. Alternative Credit Options - The Superintendent or Principal may approve the granting of credit earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction. Such alternative methods of instruction may include extended learning opportunities, distance education, alternative learning plans, or others approved by the Superintendent or designee. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation requirements will be determined by the high school Principal on a case-by-case basis. Such credit will be granted pursuant to the provisions of Board policy 3528 (IMBC), Alternative Credit Options and other applicable Board policies.

## **B. Passage of Civics Exam**

The district will develop a competency assessment of United States government and civics, consistent with pertinent and applicable law. This assessment will be administered to students as part of the high school course in history and government of the United States and New Hampshire. Students must attain a passing grade on this assessment to be eligible to receive a high school diploma or other graduation certificate.

Effective for students graduating after June 30, 2023, the district will also administer the 128 question civics (history and government) naturalization examination developed by the 2020 United States Citizen and Immigration Services ("U.S. Citizenship Test"). This exam may be modified for a student with a disability in accordance with the student's individualized education program. Students must earn a grade of 70 percent or better to be eligible to receive a high school diploma or other graduation certificate.

Under RSA 189:11, II, the Superintendent will submit the composite results of either the locally developed civics competency assessment or the U.S. Citizenship Test to the N.H. Department of Education.

## **C. Federal Student Aid Application**

Effective for students graduating in 2024, as a requirement for receiving a high school diploma, each student who is at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, or the parent/guardian of such a student who is under 18 years of age, shall either:

1. file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the U.S. Department of Education; or
2. file a waiver on a form created by the N.H. Board of Education with the District indicating that the parent/guardian or, if applicable, the student, understands what FAFSA is and has chosen not to file an application.

The District shall provide to each student and, if applicable, the parent/guardian, any support or assistance necessary to comply with the requirement above.

The District shall award a high school diploma to any student who is unable to meet the requirement above if the student has met all other graduation requirements and the building Principal attests that the District has made a good faith effort to assist the student or parent/guardian in filing an application or waiver.

**D. Additional Mathematics Content**

In accordance with Ed 306.27(l), all students shall engage with mathematics competencies in each of their four years of high school in order to support college and career readiness. These competencies may be integrated into other courses or learning opportunities.

**E. Alternative Learning Plans**

As an alternative to satisfying the provisions of this policy and related State requirements, students may also graduate from high school and obtain either a high school diploma or its equivalent by participating in an alternative learning plan or program. The provisions of Board policy 3527 (IHBI), Alternative Learning Plans, shall apply in such an event.

**F. Interdisciplinary Credit**

A student may request that a credit earned in one content area be applied to another content area provided that the course in which the credit was earned has been approved for interdisciplinary credit by the high school administration. Interdisciplinary credit may be counted only once in meeting graduation requirements.

References:

Ed 306.27: High School Curriculum, Units of Credit, Graduation Requirements, and Co-curricular Program.

Ed 702: NH Adult High School Diploma Requirements.

Adopted: 10/1980

Revised: 3/1996, 3/2005, 4/2007, 2/2012, 5/2013, 10/2014, 4/2015, 1/2024.

***Related Policies: 3529 (IK), 3535( IKFA), 3537 (ILBAA) & 3528 (IMBC)***