

**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 his or her 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.

Classes Graduating in 2018 to 2022

For classes graduating in 2018 to 2022, the following **22** credits are required:

English	<b>4</b>		
Mathematics	<b>3</b>		
Science	<b>3</b>	including	1 credit in Biology
Social Studies	<b>3</b>	including	1 credit in U.S. History 1 credit in World Cultures 0.5 credit in Civics
Arts or Vocational Education	<b>1</b>		
Physical Education	<b>1</b>		
Health and Safety Education	<b>0.5</b>		
Technology Education	<b>0.5</b>		
Electives	<b>6</b>		

Classes Graduating in 2023 and Thereafter

For classes graduating in 2023 and thereafter, the following **25** credits are required:

Humanities	<b>9 total credits</b>
4 credits in English	
3 credits in Social Studies including:	
1 credit in U.S. History	
1 credit in World Cultures	
0.5 credit in Civics	
2 elective credits in other Humanities coursework that may include:	
English	
Social Studies	
Business	
Fine Arts (Music and/or Art)	

Science, Technology,  
Engineering, and Math (STEM) **9 total credits**

**3 credits in Mathematics including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II**

**3 credits in Science including 1 credit in Biology**

**3 elective credits in other STEM coursework that may include:**

Science

Applied Arts (Technology)

Math

Physical Education and Wellness **1**

Health and Safety Education **1**

World Languages **1**

Electives **3**

Mastery-Based District Assessment **1**

Financial Literacy – each student must complete at least one (1) of the following courses. Course credit will be counted toward either the Humanities or STEM elective credit, as identified below.

Personal Finance (0.5 credit - Humanities)

Money Management (1.0 credit - Humanities)

Financial Algebra (1.0 credit - STEM)

Students are required to have a schedule carrying at least 6.0 credits each school year.

Students who have earned 21 credits at the conclusion of their junior year are only required to carry 5.0 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 his or her parent or guardian requests such exemption in writing.

A credit is defined as the equivalent of one forty minute class period for each school day of a school year. One-half credit is granted for a course with a forty-minute class period each school day for one semester or 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 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.

The Board will also grant a student credit upon the successful demonstration of mastery of subject matter, which can be 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.

Multiple pathways to learning may include the following:

- 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 as per the following criteria:

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

Students will receive credit for Algebra I and/or World Language as long as they meet the performance criteria listed above. These credits will appear on a Stafford High School transcript as courses they took at Stafford Middle School for credit.

A student may be granted one-half credit for documented community service provided it is supervised by an administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty (50) hours of actual service that may be performed at times when school is not regularly in session and not less than ten (10) hours of related classroom instruction. Such community service does not include partisan political activities.

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 by achieving satisfactory results on the following:

#### 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 by achieving satisfactory results on the following:

**Literacy** – Students will demonstrate proficiency in reading and writing through any one of the following:

- Achieve at or above the state proficiency score on both the Evidenced-based Reading AND Writing on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
- Achieve at or above the state proficiency score (SAT equivalent) on both Evidenced-based Reading AND Writing on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT-NMQT)
- Standards as determined by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) for special education students
- Participate in a skills based program and/or alternative assessment and/or obtain a passing score in a departmental reading and/or writing experience.

**Mathematics** – Students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills required for applying mathematical ideas and techniques through any one of the following:

- Achieve at or above the state proficiency score on the math SAT
- Achieve at or above the state proficiency score (SAT equivalent) on the math PSAT
- Standards as determined by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) for special education students
- Participate in a skills based program and/or alternative assessment and/or obtain a passing score on a departmental mathematics assessment task.

**Science** – Students will apply the scientific process to solve problems as evidenced by any one of the following:

- Achieve at or above the state proficiency score on the state mandated assessment Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment
- Standards as determined by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) for special education students
- Demonstrate mastery on a NGSS-Aligned Science Performance Task.

#### 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.

#### Academic Advancement Program

Notwithstanding the graduation requirements in this policy, students shall be permitted to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the academic advancement program established by the State Board of Education.

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

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STAFFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Stafford Springs, Connecticut