

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

I. STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Brunswick School Board has an obligation to ensure that each student who graduates from its schools is adequately prepared for the challenges and opportunities in today's world. To accomplish this end, basic curriculum requirements are expected to have been met by every graduate. However, in consideration of the diverse opportunities, challenges and changing lifestyles which confront today's student, the curriculum should enable each student to pursue individual interests and needs to the greatest extent possible. Within reasonable limits, a course of study which is consistent with the individual's needs and maturity and circumstance should be provided.

To balance the minimum expectations by the school with maximum opportunity for each student, the requirements for graduation are designed to:

- A. Provide reasonable assurance that each student has acquired a minimum proficiency in basic academic skills.
- B. Provide reasonable assurance that each student has acquired the skills and values necessary for active citizenship.
- C. Place increasing responsibility for program planning and course selection on the individual student.
- D. Permit students who have met specific criteria and obtained the necessary approvals to design their schedule in such a way to permit completion of graduation requirements by nontraditional means.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

The following minimum requirements represent a basic program through which a student may earn a diploma from Brunswick High School: (21½ credits required)

<u>Diploma</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
*Science	2 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Physical Education	1 credit
Health	.5 credit
Fine Arts	1 credit
Electives	7 credits

Maine Studies is required of all students who have not completed this state requirement.

In addition to the 21½ credits, each student must meet computer proficiency standards established by the school. Students must also complete a community service requirement for graduation as outlined in FILE IKF-R.

*At least one science course shall be a laboratory course.

All students at Brunswick High School are eligible to receive special recognition for academic achievement. To attain honor roll status, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of five classes and pass each class with a grade of 80% or better. In addition, graduating seniors may be recognized by their class rank based upon a weighted grade point average calculated after seven semesters.

III. MINIMUM COURSE LOAD

All students must be enrolled in a minimum of five (5) courses exclusive of physical education. Students are, however, strongly encouraged to carry six (6) full credit courses or their equivalent. The Principal may waive this requirement when in his/her judgment extenuating circumstances warrant such a waiver. In cases where students are enrolled in a single course which will result in more than one credit per year (such as vocational course), this requirement shall be considered as being met if the students' course load will result in him/her being able to earn a minimum of five (5) credits in a given year.

IV. INCOMING TRANSFER STUDENTS

The Principal shall establish specific, written procedures for the review of transcripts for students who transfer to Brunswick High School after grade 9. It is the intent of the Board that transfer students meet all requirements of this Policy. After review of the transcript, however, the Principal may waive certain requirements for transfer students if he deems it is in the best interest of the student to do so. In such cases, a course load consistent with that of the students' peers will be designed.

V. ALTERNATIVE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Students placed in Alternative and Special Education programs shall be required to meet the basic requirements of this Policy. However, the means of attainment of the requirements shall be in accordance with an Individualized Alternative

Educational Plan or Individualized Educational Plan. The Principal of the school shall be responsible for the development of procedures and guidelines which assure that Alternative Education and Special Education programs meet State requirements.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

All requirements of this policy shall be effective with the start of the 2000-01 school year except the weighted grade point average calculation which becomes effective for the class of 2003 and the 3-credit social studies requirement for the class of 2004 and all classes thereafter.

Any future changes in graduation requirements are intended to affect only the incoming freshman class and all classes to follow.

Cross Reference: *FILE IKF-R*

Related Materials: *Procedures for Incoming Transfer Students*
 Procedure for Alternative and Special Education Students
 High School course description booklet

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