

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Rochester School Board includes different options for high school graduation.

The following the options are:

- ◆ Spaulding High School Diploma, with honors distinction
- ◆ Spaulding High School Diploma
- ◆ State of New Hampshire 20 Credit Diploma
- ◆ State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma
- ◆ Bud Carlson Academy Diploma
- ◆ Rochester Adult Basic Education Diploma

Spaulding High School Diploma

Subject	Credit
English	4 credits
Math	3 credits, including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential integrated, or applied program
US and NH History	1 credit
US and NH government/civics	½ credit
World history, global studies, or geography	½ credit
Economics, including personal finance	½ credit
Physical sciences	1 credit
Biological sciences	1 credit
Science elective	1 credit
Arts education	½ credit
Physical education	1 credit
Health education	½ credit
Information and communications technologies	½ credit or demonstrated competency
Open electives	11
Total	26

Honors Diploma requires a minimum of 75% of the credits completed at the CP level or higher and a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The normal program of instruction for seniors may be modified to make adequate preparations for graduation exercises.

The State of New Hampshire 20 Credit Diploma, is granted to skill-level students, foreign exchange students, and home education students who meet the criteria for successful completion of their respective requirements for graduation. Spaulding High School students awarded State of New Hampshire 20 Credit Diploma shall be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies and events.

The Board reserves the right to require additional academic requirements necessary to graduate from high school.

State of New Hampshire 20 Credit Diploma

Subject	Credit
Arts education	½ credit
Information and communication technologies	½ credit
English	4 credits
Math	3 credits, including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential integrated, or applied program
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	½ credit
Physical science	1 credit
Biological science	1 credit
Health education	½ credit
Physical education	1 credit
Electives	6 credit
Total	20 credits

Each skills level student in line for a State of New Hampshire 20 Credit Diploma will have an IEP meeting set up by the Special Education Department to acknowledge diploma eligibility as it meets the needs of the student. This meeting will give the parent, student and involved personnel the opportunity to make the necessary changes to a standard diploma program if appropriate.

The Bud Carlson Academy Diploma

Subject	Credit
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits, including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential integrated, or applied program
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	½ credit
Physical science	1 credit
Biological science	1 credit
Information and communication technologies	½ credit
Arts education	½ credit
Physical education	1 credit
Health education	½ credit
Electives	6 credits
Total	20 Credits

The Adult Basic Education Diploma

Subject	Credit
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits, including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential integrated, or applied program
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	½ credit
Physical science	1 credit
Biological science	1 credit
Information and communication technologies	½ credit
Arts education	½ credit
Physical education	1 credit
Health education	½ credit
Electives	6 credits
Total	20 Credits

State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma

The State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma is a graduation option for students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in the State's alternate assessment. The State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma, aligned to New Hampshire's alternate academic achievement standards, is not equivalent to a regular high school diploma and shall not preclude the student from working towards meeting the requirements for a regular high school diploma. The decision to award a State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma resides with the student's IEP team which shall include the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). This diploma option is not available to students with Section 504 plans or students without an IEP. Spaulding High School students awarded a State of New Hampshire Alternate Diploma shall be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies and events.

Graduation Certificate

The Certificate of Achievement and Certificate of Attendance are graduation alternatives granted to skill-level students, foreign exchange students, and home education students who meet the criteria for successful completion of their respective program requirements. Certificates of Completion and Certificates of Attendance are not equivalent to a regular high school diploma.

Each skills level student in line for a Graduation Certificate will have an IEP meeting set up by the Special Education Department to acknowledge certificate eligibility as it meets the needs of the student. This meeting will give the parent, student and involved personnel the opportunity to make the necessary changes to a graduation program as appropriate.

Awarding of Credit

A unit of credit or fraction thereof 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 building principal, and will be in accordance with Policy ILBAA, Competency Assessments. Credit will be awarded only once for a specific required course with the same content during the secondary school experience.

Alternative Credit Options

In some cases, credit may be earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction offered by the district schools. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation will be determined by the high school principal, and will be granted according to the provisions of Policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options and other applicable Board policies.

Maximum Annual Credits

The maximum number of credits a student may earn in one year is 10 credits at Spaulding High School and the Bud Carlson Academy. A student has a right to appeal this requirement to the Instruction Committee and the Board.

The normal program of instruction for seniors may be modified to make adequate preparations for graduation exercises.

- a. It is expected that graduation preparations will not dominate the operation of the school during the last few days of the school year.
- b. If local conditions necessitate the holding of graduation exercises prior to the completion of the standard school year, in no case shall graduation be scheduled prior to the 175th day of instruction. No school day shall be modified for preparation activities prior to the 175th day.
- c. It is understood that modifications in the schedule for the last few days of school shall apply only to seniors. All other classes shall complete 180 days of instruction and maintain their normal class schedules.

United States Government and Civics Assessment

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 who attain a passing grade on the competency assessment shall be eligible for a certificate issued by the school district. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) test may be used to satisfy the requirement of this paragraph.

Adoption Date: April 8, 1993

Amended: July 13, 2006, July 10, 2008, February 2020