

EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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March 21, 2005
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July 15, 2013
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October 19, 2015
February 27, 2023
February 26, 2024

217. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Purpose

The Board shall establish graduation requirements and acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program appropriate to the student's interests and needs by awarding a diploma at graduation ceremonies.

2. Authority

The Board shall adopt the graduation requirements students must achieve in accordance with state law and regulations.[1][2][3][4]

The Board requires graduation requirements to be published and distributed to students and parent(s)/guardian(s) and made available in each school building and posted on the district's publicly accessible website. All changes to graduation requirements shall be published and distributed to students and parent(s)/guardian(s) and made available in each school building and posted on the district's publicly accessible website immediately following approval by the Board.[2][5]

Diplomas

The Board shall award a high school diploma to every student enrolled in this school district who meets the requirements for graduation established by this Board.[2][6][7][8][9][10]

A student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall not be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure, but the student may be denied participation in the graduation ceremony when personal conduct so warrants. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension.[11]

Students Experiencing Educational Instability

The district shall provide supports to ensure that students experiencing educational instability graduate in a timely manner, in accordance with law and Board policy. A graduation plan shall be developed to facilitate this process for students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) who are experiencing educational instability.[12][13]

Transfer Students

Students who transfer into the school district who have successfully completed a portion of their high school graduation requirements under the School Code of a state other than Pennsylvania, or under the policies of a Board of Education other than the East Stroudsburg Area School District, shall be awarded, at minimum, the equivalent number of credits required to enter the same grade level from which they transfer provided that all of the following conditions are met:

1. The student has successfully earned the total number of credits at their previous/sending school to be on target for graduation at the completion of one year in grade 12.
2. The student will be able to meet the East Stroudsburg Area School District core course graduation requirements (i.e., number of required English, Math, Science and Social Studies) with the completion of one year in grade 12.

The Board authorizes the building Administrator to review the transfer student records and certify that the above conditions have met Chapter 4 requirements and those set forth in Title 22, Education; Part I, State Board of Education; Chapter 4, Academic Standards and Assessments; § 4.24, High school graduation requirements.

Students With Disabilities –

The Board shall permit a student with a disability, whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) prescribes continued educational services, to participate in commencement ceremonies with their graduating class and receive a certificate of attendance, provided that the student has attended four (4) years of high school. The Board shall issue a high school diploma to each student with a disability who completes the graduation requirements established by the Board or the goals established in the student’s IEP, as determined by the student’s IEP team.[1][2][14][15][16][17][18][19]

Part-Time Students –

A student may qualify for graduation by attending school part-time when lawfully employed part-time or when officially enrolled part-time in a postsecondary institution.[20][21]

Full-Time Postsecondary Students—

The fourth year of high school shall not be required for graduation if a student has completed all requirements for graduation and attends a postsecondary institution as a full-time student.[23][24]

Children of Active Duty Military Families –

The district shall provide supports to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of active duty military families in accordance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, state law and Board policy.[23][24]

Diplomas for Eligible Veterans --

In order to honor and recognize honorably discharged eligible veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War, the Board shall grant a diploma to a veteran who meets the applicable requirements of law and completes the required application.[6]

Upon proper application, the Board may award a diploma posthumously to a veteran who meets the stated requirements.

Candidates or family representatives shall submit a completed Application For Diploma to the Superintendent to request a diploma for an eligible veteran.

The Superintendent shall submit to the Board for its approval the names of veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War who are eligible for a high school diploma.

3. Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for ensuring the following:

1. Publication and distribution of graduation requirements to students and parent(s)/guardian(s).[2][5]
2. Counseling of students regarding expectations of graduation requirements.[2][3][4][8][9][10][16]
3. Assessment of individual student attainment of academic standards to ensure the student's progress toward achievement of graduation requirements.[2][3][4][8][9][10][16]
4. Accurate recording and reporting of each student's progress and accumulation of graduation requirements.[10][25]
5. Provision of assistance to those students having difficulty attaining the academic standards.[1][2]
6. Development of a list of individuals who qualify for the award of a diploma.
7. Planning and executing graduation ceremonies that appropriately recognize this important achievement.

Students who graduate earlier than their scheduled graduation may have a separate commencement event or may participate in the scheduled commencement with their classmates.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually, no later than December 1, report to the PA Department of Education (PDE) graduation information and data, as required by law.[1]

Legal References:

1. 24 P.S. 121
 2. 22 PA Code 4.24
 3. 22 PA Code 4.51
 4. 22 PA Code 4.52
 5. 24 P.S. 510.2
 6. 24 P.S. 1611
 7. 24 P.S. 1613
 8. Pol. 102
 9. Pol. 127
 10. Pol. 212
 11. Pol. 233
 12. 24 P.S. 1331.1
 13. Pol. 251
 14. 24 P.S. 1614
 15. 22 PA Code 11.27
 16. 22 PA Code 4.12
 17. 34 CFR 300.102
 18. 34 CFR 300.305
 19. Pol. 113
 20. 22 PA Code 11.5
 21. 22 PA Code 11.8
 22. 22 PA Code 11.4
 23. 24 P.S. 7302
 24. Pol. 254
 25. Pol. 216
 - 34 CFR Part 300
- Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3)