

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT – Graduation Requirements

Graduation Requirements

Upon completion of a prescribed high school course of study, each student shall receive a diploma which carries the signature of the President and Secretary of the School Board, the Superintendent, and the Principal of the school.

In addition to the requirements specified below, each student must take the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE), unless the student is exempt according to 105 ILCS5/2-3.64.

For the Class of 2010 and Thereafter

The Board of Education of District 218 requires 23.50 credits.

The minimum units of 12 credits required for graduation include:

1. English - Four units of credit (Students must take English I, II and III. The fourth unit of credit may come from one of the following courses: English IV, English IV Honors, AP English Language and Composition, AP English Language and Literature, Literacy Workshop, Modern English, Writing for Yearbook, and Writing for Newspaper).

Writing – Two units of credit (The writing credit will be fulfilled freshman year through English I, English I Honors, or English I CORE; sophomore year through English II, English II Honors, or English II CORE).
2. Mathematics - Three units of credit (from the approved list of courses).
3. Science - Two units of credit (from the approved list of courses).
4. Social Studies - Two and one-half units of credit as follows:
 - a. Geography - One unit of credit.
 - b. American History - One unit of credit.
 - c. U. S. Government - One-half unit of credit--Shall satisfy Section 27-3 of The Illinois School Code, 1977. This requires that a student will satisfactorily be examined on the following subjects: principles of representative government, the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, proper use and display of the American flag, and the method of voting and counting votes by use of the Australian ballot. Students will complete this requirement by successfully passing the required course in American Government.
5. Consumer Education -- One-half unit of credit (Consumer Ed credit may come from one of the following courses: Introduction to Economics, Economics, AP Economics, Introduction to Business, Interrelated Coop Education or Cooperative Work Training).

The additional 11.50 credits will include the following distribution:

6. Physical Education - Health - Driver Education
 - a. Six semesters of Physical Education one-half unit of credit each semester
 - b. One semester of Driver Education, one-half unit of credit
 - c. One semester of Health, one-half unit of credit.
7. Selective Elective -- Two units of credit chosen from music, art, foreign languages or vocational education (Family and Consumer Sciences, Business Education, Industrial Technology program).
8. Electives - Five and one-half (5.5 units of credit).

9. Total units 23.50 units of credit required for graduation.
10. A minimum of one semester of attendance and a minimum of two units of credit or equivalent earned in Community High School District 218. Work transferred from other high schools not recognized and not approved by the Illinois State Board of Education will be individually evaluated for credit.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for: (1) maintaining a description of all course offerings that comply with the above graduation requirements, (2) notifying students and their parents/guardians of graduation requirements, (3) developing the criteria for determining when a student accomplishes number 5 as well as a method for recording that fact in the student's school record, and (4) taking all other actions to implement this policy.

Early Graduation

A student with a disability who has an Individualized Education Program prescribing special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services beyond the student's 4 years of high school, qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student has completed 4 years of high school. The student is encouraged to participate in the graduation ceremony of his or her high school graduation class. The Superintendent or designee shall provide timely written notice of this requirement to children with disabilities and their parents/guardians.

Veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict

Upon application, an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict will be awarded a diploma, provided that he or she: (1) resided within an area currently within the District at the time he or she left high school, (2) left high school before graduating in order to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, and (3) has not received a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) diploma.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64, 5/22-27, 5/27-3, 5/27-22, and 5/27-22.10.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440.

CROSS REF.: 6:320 (Credit for Proficiency), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers
To and From Non-District Schools)

ADOPTED: October 9, 2007

REVISED: November 14, 2011; October 9, 2012