

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

With the implementation of Maine's system of Learning Results, local assessment systems to measure student progress toward achievement of the content standards of the Learning Results, the phasing in of standards-based diploma requirements, and heightened community expectations for student learning, the Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee recognizes the need to establish minimum standards for the awarding of a high school diploma that are consistent with State law and regulations and with community educational values and expectations.

Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential educational program to meet that goal.

Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D has adopted a proficiency-based system of learning consistent with Maine law, which means that after January 1, 2021, the awarding of a diploma will be contingent on the demonstration of proficiency in the content areas and Guiding Principles and the Learning Results rather than the accumulation of credits.

To be awarded a high school diploma from the Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D schools, students graduating in the Class of 2021 and beyond must demonstrate proficiency in the content areas identified in Maine's system of Learning Results, meet the cross-content performance standards set forth in the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results, and fulfill all additional graduation requirements set by the School Committee.

Students graduating in the Classes of 2017-2020 must meet the credit and other graduation requirements specified in this policy.

A student who would have graduated with the Class of 2020 and have been awarded a diploma at commencement but for his/her failure to earn sufficient credits or meet other requirements set by School Committee policy will have until December 31, 2020 to fulfill the graduation requirements applicable to the Class of 2020.

The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents prior to the start of their ninth grade school year. A copy of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in every edition of the high school student handbook.

The School Committee has approved the following schedule of minimum requirements for graduation, which includes minimum requirements specified by the State of Maine. The School Committee is aware that current law and regulations are subject to change.

The School Committee expects the Superintendent/designee to inform students and parents as soon as practicable of any additional State-imposed standards that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma.

### I. DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE CLASSES OF 2017, 2018, 2019 OR 2020

- A. Students who anticipate graduating in the Classes of 2017, 2018, 2019, or 2020 must meet the following minimum requirements in order to be

awarded a high school diploma The student must successfully complete a total of 24 credits. One-half credit is assigned for each trimester of course work successfully completed. Of these credits, 12 ½ (twelve and one-half) must be those specified by the State of Maine, and the additional credits required by the School Committee as follows:

1. English/Language Arts – 6 credits;  
English 9 and English 10 plus any two of the following:  
American Literature, World Literature, AP English Literature & Composition or AP English Language & Composition
2. Mathematics – 3 credits;  
CP Algebra/Geometry I and CP Algebra/Geometry II
2. Social Studies – 4.5 credits;  
World Studies and The World After 1945 or AP European History plus U.S. History/Government or AP Government & Politics
4. Science – 3 credits;  
Physical Science and Biology or AP Biology
5. Visual and Performing Arts – 1 credit;  
Student may choose any combination of the following to fulfill their credit:  
any Art course, Drama I & II, Film Study, Video Production, any Music course
6. Health – 1/2 credit; and
7. Physical Education – 1 credit
8. Electives – 5 credits
9. In addition to the State requirements, students must meet the following graduation requirement established by the School Committee: 40 hours of Community Service

The remaining credits may be selected by the student based upon the student's interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.

- B. The State also requires that students demonstrate computer skills according to the District's standards for computer literacy, proficiency, and performance.
- C. A student who is deficient in requirements may meet requirements through a postsecondary course, a State-approved adult education course, a State-approved summer school program, or a distance learning or correspondence course approved by the school principal in advance of registration, at no cost to the District. Up to two (2) credits, if needed, earned in correspondence courses may be applied towards graduation. The student may participate in the next regular graduation ceremony following successful completion of the requirements. Students who have been accepted as early admission at the collegiate level may graduate

with their class if they so inform the high school principal at the time of their acceptance into the early admissions program.

- D. Additional considerations applicable to the awarding of standards-based diplomas:
1. Transfer Students: For students who transfer to Wells High School from another state or from an educational program that is not required to meet the content standards of the system of Learning Results, the Wells High School principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience towards achieving the standards in a manner consistent with the school unit's local assessment system and applicable School Committee policies.
  2. Students Receiving Special Education Services: Students who successfully meet the content standards of the Learning Results, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP), will be awarded diplomas.
  3. Early Awarding of Diplomas: A student who has met the State's and the School Committee's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma as outlined in District Policy IKFA.
  4. Extended Study: Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma if they have not reached the age of 20 at the start of the school year. Students eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other resources suitable to young learners. Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan.
  5. Participation in Graduation Ceremony: A student must complete all requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises.

## II. DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE CLASS OF 2021 AND BEYOND

In accordance with Maine law and Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D.'s proficiency-based system of learning, after January 1, 2021, the awarding of a diploma from Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. schools will be contingent on the demonstration of proficiency in the content areas of Maine's system of Learning Results and meeting the cross-content performance standards of the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results, rather than the accumulation of credits. The student must also fulfill any other requirements specified in this policy in accordance with PD 1627.

Students who anticipate graduating in the Classes of 2021 and beyond must meet the following requirements in order to be awarded a high school diploma.

- A. Demonstrate proficiency in meeting standards in the following content areas of the Learning Results. Meeting the standards entails demonstrating proficiency for each standard within each content area.

English Language Arts

Mathematics

Science and Technology

Social Studies

Health Education and Physical Education

Visual and Performing Arts

World Languages

Career and Education Development (embedded in the other content areas)

- B. Meet the cross-content performance standards set forth in the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results.

A student graduating from Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. schools is expected to be a:

Clear and effective communicator;

Self-directed and life-long learner;

Creative and analytical problem solver;

Responsible and involved citizen; and an

Integrative and informed thinker.

- C. In addition to the State requirements, students must meet the following graduation established by the School Committee: 40 hours of Community Service.

### III. MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO THE AWARDING OF A PROFICIENCY-BASED DIPLOMA

Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D.'s high school educational program is designed to enable students to satisfy graduation requirements in four years through a sequence of educational (learning) experiences/courses providing opportunities to gain and demonstrate proficiency in all of the content areas of the Learning Results and in the cross-content Guiding Principles of the Learning Results.

Students following a traditional pathway will:

- A. Engage in educational experiences in the content areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology in each year of their high school program.

**[NOTE: The requirement in "A" above is for the purpose of alignment with Maine law and the adoption of Common Core and national science standards.]**

- B. Engage in at least two educational experiences in the content area of social studies during their high school program.

- C. Engage in at least one educational experience in each of the content areas of visual and performing arts during their high school program.

- D. Engage in at least one educational experience in world languages during their high school program
- E. Engage in at least one health and physical education experiences during their high school program.
- F. Engage in educational experiences that integrate career and education development into other content areas of the Learning Results.

Students following a traditional pathway must be enrolled in the equivalent of five full year learning experiences/courses or integrated equivalents in each of their high school years.

Students may also opt to pursue a high school diploma through multiple additional pathways including:

- Early college/dual enrollment courses
- Career and technical education programming
- Online/virtual learning
- Apprenticeships, internships and/or field work
- Community service
- Exchange programs
- Independent study
- Alternative education/“At Risk” programming
- Adult education

Each pathway must provide a quality learning experience comparable in rigor to the school unit’s own educational experience (course) offerings.

In order to pursue one or more of the multiple/alternative pathways, a student must have a Personal Learning Plan detailing how the pathway will provide exposure to the content standards of the Learning Results and how the student will demonstrate proficiency in meeting the standards. The personal learning plan must be approved by the Principal or his/her designee.

#### IV. STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Students who achieve proficiency in the content standards of the Learning Results and Guiding Principles, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP) will be awarded diplomas.

#### V. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF A DIPLOMA FROM WELLS HIGH SCHOOL

This section applies to all students, in all graduation classes.

##### A. Transfer Students

For students who transfer to Wells High School from another state or from an educational program that is not required to be aligned with the content standards of the system of Learning Results, the Wells High School Principal shall determine the value of the student’s prior educational experience towards meeting graduation requirements.

B. Home-schooled Students

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Wells High School, the Wells High School Principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation credit requirements. A home-schooled student must have attended Wells High School for a minimum of one trimester in order to receive a Wells High School diploma.

C. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

A student who leaves Wells High School to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education may upon satisfactory completion of the freshman year be awarded a high school diploma, provided that the student has notified the principal at the time of the early admission.

D. Early Awarding of Diplomas

A student who has met the State's and the School Committee's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma.

E. Extended Study

Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma if they have not reached the age of 20 at the start of the school year. Students eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other resources suitable to young learners. Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan.

F. Certificate of Completion

The School Committee may provide a certificate of completion to a student who leaves school having completed four years attendance as a full-time high school student and who has earned the required credits but has not met Learning Results proficiency standards that may be mandated by the State

G. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must complete all School Committee requirements for a high school diploma or certificate of completion in order to participate in graduation exercises.

H. Honors and Awards at Graduation

In order to be eligible for honors or awards based wholly or in part on academic achievement (e.g., valedictorian, salutatorian, class speaker, "Top 10"), a student must have been enrolled full time at Wells High School during the year two years preceding graduation. Students who do not meet this enrollment requirement will not be "ranked" for the purpose of determining eligibility for graduation honors, awards, or scholarships.

**[NOTE: “Honors” at graduation is a different issue than “honor roll” or “class rank,” which may have different eligibility requirements and may be addressed in other School Committee policies.]**

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722  
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: IHCDA – Post-Secondary Enrollment Options  
IK – Student Achievement  
IKFA - Early Graduation

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