



WELLS-OGUNQUIT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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.

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 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. The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee has approved this schedule of minimum requirements for graduation:
 - A. For students graduating in the Class of 2021 and beyond, diplomas will be awarded only to students who 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
 3. 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;
Students 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;
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 high 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.

II. Additional considerations applicable to the awarding of standards-based diplomas:

- A. 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 WOCSD's assessment system and applicable School Committee policies.
- B. 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.

- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. Participation in Graduation Ceremony: A student must complete all requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises.
- F. 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, “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.

* “Top 10” refers to WHS graduating seniors who hold the highest ten (10) Final Weighted Ranks in the Class. A tie in the top ten rankings could result in eleven (11) students being included in this group in a given year.

[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: IGCDA – Post-Secondary Enrollment Options
IK – Student Achievement
IKFA - Early High School Graduation

Adopted by the WOCSD School Committee: 12/07/88

Revised by the WOCSD School Committee: 09/20/89, 9/11/91, 10/02/96, 11/05/03, 05/09/07

Revised by the WOCSD School Committee: 06/18/08, 06/07/17, 11/04/2020