

No. 218

SECTION: Students

TITLE: Graduation Requirements

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CATASAUQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

	218. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	1
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1. Purpose	The Board will acknowledge each student’s successful completion of the instructional program appropriately to the student’s interests and needs by awarding a diploma at the graduation ceremonies.	3
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2. Authority	The regulations instituted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Catasauqua Area School District shall be the minimum requirements for graduation from Catasauqua High School.	7
School Code §§		8
1611, 1613; 22		9
Pa. Code §§ 4.24		10
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22 Pa. Code §	The credit and other requirements for graduation from Catasauqua High School are specified in the Catasauqua High School Career Planning Guide and Catasauqua High School Handbook approved by the Board of School Directors. The Career Planning Guide and Handbook will be reviewed and updated annually. A copy of the requirements shall be published and distributed to students, parents and guardians. Copies of the requirements also shall be made available in each school building or on the School District’s publicly accessible web site.	12
4.24; School Code		13
§ 121		14
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	Changes to high school graduation requirements shall be published and distributed to students, parents and guardians and made available in each school building or on the School District’s publicly accessible web site immediately following approval by the Board of School Directors.	21
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	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.	26
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	Seniors not meeting the requirements for graduation are not permitted to participate in the commencement program.	31
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Policy #218 – Graduation Requirements

School Code § 1614(b); 22 Pa. Code § 4.24(g), ch. 14

A special education student may earn a regular high school diploma by either meeting the graduation requirements established by the state and the School Board or satisfactorily completing a special education program developed by an individualized education program team under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and 22 Pa. Code ch. 14 (relating to special education services and programs).

22 Pa. Code § 11.27(4); School Code § 1614(a)

Any student with a disability whose individualized education program as established pursuant to 22 Pa. Code §14.131 (relating to IEP) prescribes continued special education programs beyond the fourth year of high school, shall be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremonies with the student’s graduating class and receive a certificate of attendance, provided that the student has attended four (4) years of high school, regardless of whether the student has completed the individualized education program.

School Code § 1614(b)

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to preclude a student with a disability from receiving a high school diploma when the student satisfactorily completes an individualized education program as required under 22 Pa. Code §14.131.

The fourth year of high school shall not be required for graduation if the student has completed all requirements for graduation and attends a postsecondary institution and/or enters the work force.

22 Pa. Code § 4.51d

The Superintendent, in his sole discretion and upon referral by the High School Principal, may waive the requirements for demonstrations of proficiency on the Keystone Exams or alternative graduation requirements for a student in grade 12 or to accommodate a student who experiences extenuating circumstances (*e.g.*, serious illness, death in the student’s immediate family, family emergency, frequent school transfers, transfer from out-of-state in grade 12). Each student granted a waiver under this subsection shall complete locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam. All such waivers shall be on a case-by-case basis for good cause and in accordance with the requirements of 22 Pa. Code § 4.51d.

3. Delegation of Responsibility

The High School Principal (or his/her designee) shall be responsible for ensuring the following:

1. Publication and distribution of graduation requirements to parents/guardians.
2. Counseling of students regarding expectations and graduation requirements.
3. Assessment of individual student attainment of academic standards to ensure progress toward achievement of graduation requirements.
4. Accurate recording and reporting of each student’s progress and accumulation of graduation requirements.

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5. Provision of assistance to those students having difficulty attaining the academic standards.
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.

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