

No. 218

SECTION: Students

TITLE: Graduation Requirements

# CATASAUQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADOPTED: 1985 State Policy  
REVISED: November 11, 2005  
REVISED: November 10, 2014  
REVISED: December 5, 2017

	218. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	1
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.	2 3 4 5 6
2. Authority School Code §§ 1611, 1613; 22 Pa. Code §§ 4.24	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 8 9 10 11
22 Pa. Code § 4.24(a)	The credit and other requirements for graduation from Catasauqua High School are specified in the Catasauqua High School Career Planning Guide approved by the Board of School Directors. The Career Planning Guide 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 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
	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.	20 21 22 23 24
22 Pa. Code § 4.24(c); School Code § 121(b)(1); Act 2017-55, § 1	Effective with the graduating class of 2018, graduation requirements include the following:  1. Course completion and grades. 2. Proficiency, as determined by the School District, in each of the state academic standards.	25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37

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22 Pa. Code § 4.24(c), (d), (e)	Effective with the graduating class of 2020, graduation requirements include the following:		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
22 Pa. Code § 4.51c	1. Course completion and grades.		6
22 Pa. Code § 4.52	2. Proficiency, as determined by the School District, in each of the state academic standards not assessed by a state assessment.		7 8
22 Pa. Code § 4.24(m)	3. Proficiency in English Language Arts (Literature and Composition), Mathematics, Science and Technology and Environment and Ecology, and Civics and Government. Proficiency shall be determined by:		9 10 11
22 Pa. Code § 4.24(c)(1)-(iii)(C)	A. the Keystone Exams or related Project-Based Assessment under 22 Pa. Code § 4.51c, if applicable, and completion of secondary level coursework in the associated areas; or		12 13 14
22 Pa. Code § 4.24(f)	B. Locally approved and administered assessments which satisfy the requirements of 22 Pa. Code §§ 4.24(c)(1)(iii)(B) and 4.52. However:		15 16 17
	C. If a student successfully completes a course in an academic area covered by this item 3, and neither the associated Keystone Exam nor a locally approved assessment was available at the time the course was completed, the student shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of this item 3 in that area.		18 19 20 21 22
	D. A student may also satisfy the requirements of this item 3 in a particular area without taking the Keystone Exam and without completing secondary level coursework by completing an Advanced Placement exam or International Baccalaureate exam that includes academic content comparable to the appropriate Keystone Exam, at a score established by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education to be comparable to the proficient level on the appropriate Keystone Exam.		23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
	However, in the case of a student enrolled in a career and technical education program approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the student need not demonstrate proficiency in Composition and Civics and Government if the student achieves a score of competent or advanced on a Pennsylvania State Skills Assessment required under 22 Pa. Code § 4.31(a).		31 32 33 34 35 36
	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.		37 38 39 40 41
	Seniors not meeting the requirements for graduation are not permitted to participate in the commencement program.		42 43 44
School Code § 1614; 22 Pa. Code § 4.24(g)	A special education student may earn a regular high school diploma by either meeting the graduation requirements established by the Board or the student’s IEP Team can decide to adopt the goals and objectives from the student’s IEP as graduation requirements.		45 46 47 48

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22 Pa. Code § 11.27(4)	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.		3 4 5 6 7 8 9
	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.		10 11 12 13
22 Pa. Code § 4.24(1)	In the case of a student who transfers from an out-of-State school, the High School Principal may waive the requirement to obtain proficiency on a Keystone Exam in an academic area covered by item 3 above if the Principal determines that the student has demonstrated proficiency in that academic area in coursework and assessments aligned with the academic standards assessed by that Keystone Exam.		14 15 16 17 18 19
22 Pa. Code § 4.51d	The Superintendent, in his sole discretion and upon referral by the High School Principal, may waive any or all of the graduation requirements set forth in this policy on a case-by-case basis for good cause in accordance with the requirements of 22 Pa. Code § 4.51d.		20 21 22 23 24
3. Delegation of Responsibility	The High School Principal (or his/her designee) shall be responsible for ensuring the following:		25 26 27 28 29
	1. Publication and distribution of graduation requirements to parents/guardians.		30 31
	2. Counseling of students regarding expectations and graduation requirements.		32
	3. Assessment of individual student attainment of academic standards to ensure progress toward achievement of graduation requirements.		33 34
	4. Accurate recording and reporting of each student’s progress and accumulation of graduation requirements.		35 36
	5. Provision of assistance to those students having difficulty attaining the academic standards.		37 38
	6. Development of a list of individuals who qualify for the award of a diploma.		39 40
	7. Planning and executing graduation ceremonies that appropriately recognize this important achievement.		41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48