

**Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut**

POLICY

**Series 6800
Academic Achievement**

Policy 6840

Graduation Requirements

I. REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

- A. In order to graduate from Darien High School, a student must acquire a minimum of 22 academic credits as shown in the Credit Distribution Requirements listed in Sections II, III, and IV below. In addition, a student must meet the Performance Standards Requirements for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, as explained in Section V.
- B. A student will be required to take a minimum of six subjects per semester in addition to physical education, except for a senior who is taking three or more 400 level courses, who may take a minimum of five courses per semester.

II. CREDIT DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS*

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| English | 4 |
| English 9 | 1 |
| English 10 | 1 |
| American Literature | 1 |
| Senior Literature (designated literature elective) | .5 |
| World Literature Seminar | .5 |
| History & Social Science | 3.5 |
| Western Civilization (Grade 9) | 1 |
| World Studies (Grade 10) | 1 |
| American History (Grade 11) | 1 |
| Law & Government (Grade 12) | .5 |

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| Laboratory Science | 2 |
| Biology (Grade 9) | 1 |
| Earth Science or Chemistry (Grade 10) | 1 |
| Mathematics | 3 |
| Fine and/or Practical Arts | |
| Art, Music, Drama, Humanities, Technology | 1 |
| Physical Education/Health — 4 years | 1 |
| Including Jogging, Weight Training, CPR, and Health | |
| Elective Credits | 7.5 |
| Total Credits for Graduation | 22.0 |

**Credit earned in any course requires a final course grade of 60 or greater*

III. TRANSFER OF CREDITS

Credits awarded by secondary public and private high schools that have been accredited by state accrediting agencies will be accepted toward fulfillment of the required twenty-two (22) credits.

IV. ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

Students, to be eligible to receive a Darien High School diploma and participate in the graduation ceremony, must have been fully enrolled and meet the attendance requirements of Darien High School for the full and final semester before graduation. This requirement may be waived for seniors whose families moved to Darien after the start of the final semester. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the Superintendent of Schools after reviewing each case with the high school administration.

V. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

A. The Reading and Writing Performance Standard Criteria

As evidence of meeting the Reading and Writing Performance Standard Criteria, students will read and respond to a literary text in individual, literal, critical, and evaluative ways. They will edit their writing using standard English conventions. While academic courses are designed to prepare students to meet these expectations, attaining the Reading and Writing Performance Standard Credit requires students to demonstrate, under specific conditions, that they can both read and understand a literary work and respond to it by producing a focused, organized, adequately supported essay that meets standard English conventions. For specifics, please refer to the accompanying regulations.

B. Mathematics Performance Standard Criteria

As evidence of meeting the Mathematics Performance Standard Criteria, the student must show proficiency in the following mathematical areas: problem solving and reasoning; communicating; and computing and estimating. These skills should be attained in the four content areas: algebraic functions and variables; geometric measurement and shape manipulation; statistics; and probability and data analysis. Much of the assessment focuses on generalized abilities and an integrated understanding of key mathematical concepts drawn from everyday experiences. For specifics, please refer to the accompanying regulations.

Legal References: Conn. General Statutes, Section 10-221*a* and Section 10-223*a*

Prior Policy Approvals: HL5 Approved October 23, 1979
HL5.1 Approved October 9, 1984
HL5 Approved September 24, 2002
HL5 Approved March 27, 2007

APPROVED: November 10, 2009

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Administrative Regulations

Graduation Requirements

I. OPTIONS FOR MEETING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- A. To earn the **Reading and Writing Performance Standard Credit**, a student must demonstrate the performance standard by successfully producing, under timed and supervised conditions, an essay that responds to the reading of literature and that meets the quality standards of the English Department's Writing Assessment Rubric. This standard may also be considered met if the student meets any one of the following options of performance standards:
1. Achieve a score of 8 or better on either the Response to Literature or Interdisciplinary Writing I or II subtests of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test administered in the sophomore year.
 2. Achieve a score of 8 or better on either the Response to Literature or Interdisciplinary Writing I or II subtests of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test administered in the junior year.
 3. Achieve a score of 50 or better on the Writing subtest of the PSAT.
 4. Achieve a score of 500 or greater on the Writing subtest of the SAT.
- B. To earn the **Mathematics Performance Standard Credit**, a student must demonstrate the performance standard by successfully completing, under timed and supervised conditions, a departmental mathematics performance exam that incorporates the topics of basic algebra, geometry, and statistical concepts in tasks that require the use of problem solving skills and arithmetic operations. This standard may also be considered met if the student meets any one of the following options of performance standards:
1. Achieve a score at the Goal level 4 or higher on the CAPT Mathematics Test administered in the sophomore year.

2. Achieve a score at the Goal level 4 or higher on the CAPT Mathematics Test administered in the junior year.
 3. Achieve a score of 48 or higher on the Mathematics subtest of the PSAT or 480 or higher on the Mathematics subtest of the SAT.
- C. When a student successfully completes a performance standard, a notation of that successful completion will be posted on his/her transcript by the end of the marking period.

II. EXEMPTIONS

- A. Students who transfer to Darien High School from out of district after completing at least three years in another school or district may, at the discretion of the Darien High School principal, be exempted, in whole or in part, from the performance standard credit requirements.
- B. In most instances, special needs students are required to meet the performance standards required of all students. However, in unique circumstances, some special education students with severe cognitive impairments may be exempted from the district performance standard credit requirement, but only if such is determined by a legally constituted Planning and Placement Team and indicated in their Individualized Education Plan. This information will be reported to Administration, Guidance, and English and/or Math Department.

III. NOTIFICATION

- A. Upon receipt of the CAPT test scores (usually in September) the Guidance Department will prepare for the administration and respective teachers a list of all juniors who have not met the performance standards in Reading and Writing and/or in Mathematics.
- B. In January of the junior year, the Guidance Department will notify in writing the parents of juniors who have not yet met Reading and Writing or Mathematics Performance Standards and inform them of options available to meet those standards. (See Section V, above)
- C. For the Senior year, the Guidance Department will enroll in Writer's Workshop any senior who has not yet earned the Reading and Writing Performance Standard Credit, and enroll in a fourth year of mathematics any senior who has not yet earned the Mathematics Performance Standard Credit.
- D. Additional Reading/Writing/Mathematics Notification
1. Parents will be notified by the school of their child's CAPT results in the fall of their junior year.

2. Parents will be notified by the school when their child has met the Reading, Writing and Mathematics Performance Standard requirement.
 3. Parents whose child has not yet met the reading, writing, or mathematics performance graduation requirement(s) will be notified by the school by certified mail after the CAPT results are received in the fall of his/her junior year.
 4. Notifications will include a description of opportunities for alternative assessments available. (See Section V, above)
 5. Parents whose child has not yet met the reading, writing, or mathematics performance graduation requirement(s) will be notified by the school through certified mail by October 15th of his/her senior year.
 6. Parents whose child, as of March 31st of his/her senior year, still has not met the reading, writing, or mathematics performance requirement(s), will be notified through certified mail by April 15th of his/her senior year, that the student does not qualify to graduate.
- E. When a student meets the graduation requirement in Reading and Writing and/or in Mathematics, it will be entered on his/her transcript at the end of the next marking period.

IV. OPTIONS IF REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT MET

- A. Return in September as a fifth year student.
- B. For reading and writing, enroll in a summer school session of Writer's Workshop and successfully complete the Reading and Writing Performance Standard.
- C. For mathematics, enroll in a summer school session of a mathematics course and successfully complete the Mathematics Performance Standard.

Administrative Regulations Revised: November 10, 2009