

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Appleton Area School District awards high school graduation diplomas to recognize those students who have fulfilled the academic requirements of the District. In order to graduate from high school and to receive a diploma, a student in the District must meet the requirements set out in this policy. The policy requirements are grounded in the District's standards, curriculum, and Wisconsin State Statute 118.33.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2004, no student may be granted an Appleton Area School District diploma unless the student has been enrolled in a Board-approved activity for each class period of each school day during the high school grades, has satisfied the following criteria, and has been recommended to the School Board for a diploma by the District Superintendent.

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|--|----|---|
| <p>1. At least <b>22</b> high school credits for the graduating classes of 2004, 2005, and 2006.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Arts      4.00 credits</li> <li>• Physical Science          1.00 credit</li> <li>• Life Science                1.00 credit</li> <li>• Government                1.00 credit</li> <li>• American History          1.00 credit</li> <li>• Global Requirement        1.00 credit</li> <li>• Mathematics                2.00 credits</li> <li>• Health                        .50 credit</li> <li>• Fine Arts                     1.00 credit</li> <li>• Physical Education        1.50 credits</li> <li>• Electives                     8.00 credits</li> </ul> | OR | <p>At least <b>23</b> high school credits for the graduating classes of 2007 and beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Arts      4.00 credits</li> <li>• Physical Science          1.00 credit</li> <li>• Life Science                1.00 credit</li> <li>• Government                1.00 credit</li> <li>• American History          1.00 credit</li> <li>• Global Requirement        1.00 credit</li> <li>• Mathematics                2.00 credits</li> <li>• Health                        .50 credit</li> <li>• Fine Arts                     1.00 credit</li> <li>• Physical Education        1.50 credits</li> <li>• Pers. Financial Management .50 credit</li> <li>• Electives                     8.50 credits</li> </ul> |
| <p>2. A score of “Meets or Exceeds State Standards” in all assessed areas (Communication Arts, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics) on the Wisconsin High School Graduation Test.</p>   |    |   |
| OR   |    |   |
| <p>3. Successfully meet other academic criteria as specified.</p>  |    |   |
| OR   |    |   |
| <p>4. Have the recommendation of the Building Consultation Team.</p>   |    |   |

A student may be eligible for a diploma if he/she does not satisfy these credit requirements if he/she has been enrolled in a Board-approved alternative program and the District Superintendent determines that the student has demonstrated a level of proficiency in English, social studies, mathematics, science, physical education, and health education, equivalent to the proficiency that the student would have attained if he/she had completed the regular credit requirement.

Recognizing that some students may require special consideration in their efforts to achieve a high school education, the Board may grant a diploma upon satisfactory completion of Board-approved equivalent or accommodation programs, which meet such student needs and are in conformance with Wisconsin State Statute 118.33.

Successful completion of a student's IEP, which may include alternative assessments, supercedes all other requirements.

**Legal References:** Wisconsin State Statutes 118.01, 118.33 and 121.02(1)(p)  
Wisconsin Administrative Code PI 18

**Adoption Date:** January 23, 1989

**Amended Dates:** November 27, 1989, April 23, 2001, and April 14, 2003

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### Procedures

Students in the Appleton Area School District have access to courses that provide a balanced academic background, which meet a broad array of interests and needs. Students in grades 9-12 will be expected to successfully complete those courses (required and elective) necessary to meet the 22 (*graduating classes of 2004, 2005 & 2006*) or 23 (*graduating classes of 2007 and beyond*) required credits as established by the Board and listed in the policy.

In addition, beginning with the Graduating Class of 2004, students will be required to:

1. Attain a score of “meets or exceeds state standards” in all four areas (Communication Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics) assessed on the high school graduation test.
2. If a student does NOT successfully achieve the standards set for the high school graduation test, the following criteria must be met:

- Score basic or higher in all of the academic content areas assessed on the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination.

OR

- Exhibit proficiency on the MECCA test (ELL only).

OR

- Attain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 for the first 7 semesters of high school.

IEP recommendation for students receiving special education services supercedes all requirements listed in #2.

3. Should a student NOT meet the criteria identified in #1 or #2 above, a Building Consultation Team will determine if that student has fulfilled sufficient criteria to be granted a high school diploma.

For each student that proceeds to this point in the graduation process, a special Building Consultation Team comprised of a building administrator and not fewer than 3 teachers appointed by the building principal, will be created.

Information considered by the Building Consultation Team for possible recommendation for graduation may include, but is not limited to:

## 345.6-Rule (cont.)

- Receipt of a passing grade in a subject
- Development of a portfolio that illustrates proficiency and growth
- Attainment of model academic standards
- Completion of preparation to move to either post-secondary education or workplace
- Testimony to a student's success in classwork, co-curriculars, and community service
- Completion of a course sequence
- Demonstration of citizenship qualities necessary for life in the community

School administrators and staff shall help prepare students to satisfy the criteria, consistent with established District policies and procedures. The high school principal shall provide for a regular review of a student's progress toward meeting the established diploma criteria and shall keep students and their parents/guardians informed of the student's progress.

Before a student is granted a high school diploma, the high school principal shall determine whether the student has satisfied the diploma criteria outlined in the policy and any other District policy applicable to high school graduation. The high school principal shall submit a list of students meeting the graduation requirements to the Board.

The high school and middle school principals shall be responsible for informing students and their parents/guardians of the requirements of this policy. The policy and its implementation procedures shall be published in the high school and middle school student and parent handbooks annually.

**Legal References:** Wisconsin State Statutes 118.01, 118.33 and 121.02(1)(p)  
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