

SUBJECT: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY:

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: January 2010

CANCELS POLICY CODE:

REVISION DATE: January 2005

JURISDICTION: Poland Regional High School

PHILOSOPHY:

It is the philosophy of the Poland Regional High School Committee that graduation indicates a level of achievement that is supported by evidence of mastery of the requirements of the Poland School Department and the State of Maine.

POLICY:

As a minimum for graduation from high school, the prospective graduate must successfully complete a total of 24 course credits and 4 roundtable credits one-year course equivalents (credits) at the secondary level (grades 9 through 12). (see page 3)

The state also requires that students demonstrate knowledge of computer skills according to the school unit's standards for computer literacy, proficiency and performance.

In addition to the state requirements, the Poland Regional High School Committee has the graduation requirements as listed in the Amplifying Instructions, page 3, of this policy:

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.

A student who is deficient in the above-listed requirements may meet those requirements through a post-secondary course(s), or another means (i.e.: an online course) approved by the principal in advance of registration. The student may participate in the next regular graduation ceremony following successful completion of the requirements.

Students who have accepted early admission at the collegiate level may graduate with their class if they inform the principal at the time of their acceptance into the early admissions program.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:

The Poland Regional High School Committee delegates authority to implement this policy to the Superintendent of Schools who may delegate to the principal of the Poland Regional High School.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE POLICY:

- 1) Union #29 operates the Bakerstown Alternative Program and Adult Education that may award diplomas in keeping with state requirements for Adult Education diplomas.
- 2) Diplomas may be awarded to Special Education students upon completion of the PET process, and the student's Individualized Education Program.

POLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

CODE: IKF

Page: 2

SUBJECT: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

REPORTS:

None

DEFINITIONS:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

None

LEGAL REFERENCES:

20-A MRSA § 4722

AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES:

See attached - PRHS Graduation Requirements

SIGNATURE BLOCK:

Poland Regional High School Committee

Ike Levine

DATE

Kim Moody

DATE

Jack Conway

DATE

Norman Davis

DATE

Laurie Levine

DATE

Karen Whalen

DATE

David Griffiths

DATE

PRHS Graduation Requirements

PRHS is transitioning away from a graduation system based on accumulating credits and towards a system where students must demonstrate competencies – a certain depth of skill, knowledge and understanding – within each subject area. These competencies are necessary for students to achieve the expectations of the Maine State Learning Results.

LEARNING AREA	COURSES THAT MUST BE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE GRADUATION LEVEL COMPETENCY
English	Humanities 3 and Senior English
Math	Math 3-4, Math 4 OR Math (4)/Physics
Science	Integrated Science 2 and 2 additional science credits
Social Studies	Humanities 3 & (beginning with class of '07) Comparative Government and Economics
World Language	French 2, Latin 2 OR Spanish 2
Visual/Performing Arts	2 credits of Visual and Performing Arts
Health/Physical Ed	Health: Trends for Teens OR Championship Health; Physical Ed: fitness for Life OR Fitness and Conditioning; Wellness 1
Technology	1 credit in Technology courses (Introduction to Technology is required).

Additional Requirements and Notes

- **24 course credits** and **4 Roundtable credits** are required for graduation.
- All students must pass **Roundtable** each year, including the **Sophomore Core Portfolio**, the **Junior Career Portfolio** and the **Senior Celebration**.
- All students must actively participate in at least **four (4) co-curricular activities** over the course of their enrollment.
- Maine's 1 year US History requirement is integrated within Humanities 1, 2 and 3.
- Students may earn credit toward graduation for completing an approved equivalent to one or more of the requirements listed above.

Feedback from the Southern Governor's Association following their visit to PRHS Spring 2004

"I was impressed that you are addressing the academic needs of students, as well as the intrapersonal & interpersonal aspects of your students' development. Your students will be better prepared for success in life when compared to other high school students."

Jeanne Bions, Louisiana Governor's Office

"Students were engaged, classes exemplified high expectations/rigor, teachers were qualified and demonstrated respect for all students."

Connie Bull, South Carolina Governor's Office

Maine State Learning Results Requirements

Beginning with the class of 2008....

In order to receive a high school diploma, students must demonstrate that they have met the content standards of Maine State Learning Results, as determined by the local assessment system adopted by the School Committee for the following content areas: English Language Arts, Health and Physical Education, Mathematics, Science and Technology and Social Studies.

(Note: The Maine Legislature is currently revising these requirements).