

CANON-MCMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS

ADOPTED: April 23, 2007

REVISED: February 16, 2010

217. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	
1. Purpose	The Board will acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program appropriate to the student's interests and needs by awarding diplomas and certificates at graduation ceremonies.
2. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.24, 4.52	The Board shall adopt the graduation requirements students must achieve, which shall include course completion and grades, completion of a culminating project, and satisfactory results of district and/or state assessments aligned with academic standards.
SC 1611, 1613 Title 22 Sec. 4.13, 4.24 Pol. 100	The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this district who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board as part of the district's Strategic Plan.
SC 1614 Title 22 Sec. 11.27 Pol. 113	The Board shall permit a student with a disability, who has attended four (4) years of high school, to participate in commencement ceremonies with his/her graduating class and receive a certificate of attendance, even if the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) prescribes continued educational services. The student may receive a high school diploma when s/he completes his/her Individualized Education Plan (IEP). A list of all candidates for the award of a diploma shall be submitted to the Board for its approval.
SC 1613 Pol. 102, 127	A requirement for graduation shall be the completion of required assessments, work, and studies representing the instructional program assigned to grades 9 through 12, which are aligned to established academic standards. The Board requires that each candidate for graduation shall have earned twenty-six (26) credits.

The following are the course requirements:

English	Four (4) sequential course units* - minimum one (1) course per year.
Math	Four (4) course units – Algebra & Geometry units required, continuous enrollment in math all eight (8) semesters in high school (see Note 1).
Social Studies	Four (4) required course units.*
Science	Three (3) course units* - Biology required.
Physical Education	One (1) course unit in Physical Education*. Yearly program in P.E. – at school or contracted P.E.*.
Health	.5 course unit (one (1) semester course).
Arts and/or Humanities	Four (4) course units* (see Note 2).
High School Graduation Project	Satisfactory completion of the High School Graduation Project.
Elective	5.5 course units.
Full-time enrollment for four (4) years.	

*Each course unit is two (2) semesters.

Note 1 – Courses in Computer Programming, unless specifically designated as qualifying for math credit, are offered as elective credit only.

Note 2 – Arts include Visual Arts, Music, Dance, Theatre Arts, Video Communication, Technology Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Speech Communication. Humanities include the courses in Humanities and those courses listed as approved for Humanities credit in the areas of literature, world language, and social studies.

Effective beginning with the Class of 2011, any student who graduates from the Canon-McMillan School District, must demonstrate minimum competency skills in the areas of mathematics, reading, and writing. Demonstrating these minimum competencies can be achieved through the following means:

1. Earning an Advanced or Proficient rating on the required state mandated assessment in the junior (11th grade) year.
2. Earning an Advanced or Proficient rating on the state mandated assessment in the senior (12th grade) year.

The Commonwealth defines proficient **performance** as “a solid understanding and adequate display of the skills identified in the academic standards.”

Students failing to earn an Advanced or Proficiency rating on the state mandated assessment during the junior year may be required to take a remediation program during their senior year for each area of deficiency as deemed by the respective assessment and assigned by the high school administration.

Any student failing to earn an Advanced or Proficient rating on the required state mandated assessment during their junior year may not be permitted to schedule an advanced and/or honors course during their senior year.

Any student who fails the required course during the senior year and does not graduate will have additional options available to them during the summer. A diploma will be issued to these students upon successful completion of the options.

The 11th grade required state mandated assessment scaled scores will appear on the student's transcript. Students who do not achieve an Advanced or Proficient rating on the 11th grade required state mandated assessment are mandated to retake the examination in their senior year. Improved scores will be updated on the student's transcript.

The documentation includes the following:

1. Students who fail to take the state mandated assessments in mathematics and reading and writing shall have the reason documented on their transcripts.
2. Students who fail to achieve an Advanced or Proficient rating on state mandated assessments in mathematics and reading and writing may be required to take remedial instruction.
3. Students who refuse to complete the required state mandated assessments, who disrupt the testing process, or who cheat or otherwise distort test performance, shall immediately be excluded from school for a period of not less than one (1) day and not more than ten (10) days. If no legitimate score can be recorded, students shall be considered as failed with an appropriate notation made on the transcript.
4. Students' exemption from state assessments by the school principal for reasons authorized and promulgated by the State Board of Education regulation shall be considered excused.
5. The high school principal and the high school faculty shall advise the student body and their parents/guardians of the importance of the annual state assessments in mathematics, reading, writing or other subjects.

	<p>An IEP team will determine the appropriate placement for students identified with special needs.</p> <p>Students in Alternative School Programs will graduate upon the requirements set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and/or as determined by the principal. Special education identified students may graduate upon completion of an IEP as determined by the IEP team. The design of the IEP will supercede the regular education requirement.</p> <p><i>Types of Diplomas Offered</i></p> <p>Regular High School Diploma - satisfy graduation requirements.</p> <p>Diplomas of Distinction</p> <p>Summa cum laude Diploma - issued to those students with a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 or more.</p> <p>Magna cum laude Diploma - those students with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.7 but less than 4.0.</p> <p>Cum laude Diploma - those students with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 but less than a 3.7.</p> <p>Title 22 Sec. 11.4, 11.8</p> <p>The fourth year of high school shall not be required for graduation if a student has completed all requirements for graduation and attends a postsecondary institution as a full-time student.</p> <p>Title 22 Sec. 11.5, 11.8</p> <p>A student may qualify for graduation by attending a district school part-time when officially enrolled part-time in a postsecondary institution.</p> <p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for planning and executing graduation ceremonies that appropriately recognize this important achievement.</p> <p>4. Guidelines Pol. 213, 216</p> <p>Accurate recording of each student's achievement of academic standards shall be maintained, as required by law and state regulations.</p> <p>Students shall be informed of graduation requirements they are required to complete.</p> <p>Pol. 212</p> <p>Periodic warnings shall be issued to students in danger of not fulfilling graduation requirements.</p>
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<p>SC 1611</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><u>Graduation Exercise</u></p> <p>All students who have successfully met the graduation requirements are expected to participate in the commencement exercise. If a student is unable to attend the commencement exercise and has notified the high school principal of the pending absence and the reason thereof, the student's name will be read, and proper recognition given at the ceremony. The student and/or family may arrange to have a person receive the diploma as a part of the commencement exercise.</p> <p>Students who voluntarily elect not to participate in the commencement exercise will not be recognized at the graduation ceremony.</p> <p>Those students may obtain their diploma by making arrangements with the high school principal at a convenient time following the graduation ceremony.</p> <p><u>Diplomas For Eligible Veterans</u></p> <p>In order to honor and recognize eligible veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in World War II or the Korean War, the Board shall grant a diploma to a veteran who meets the applicable requirements of law and completes the required application.</p> <p>Upon proper application, the Board may award a diploma posthumously to a veteran who meets the stated requirements.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall submit to the Board for its approval the names of veterans of World War II and the Korean War who are eligible for a high school diploma.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1611, 1613, 1614</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.13, 4.24, 4.51, 4.52, 11.4, 11.5, 11.8, 11.27</p> <p>Board Policy – 100, 102, 113, 127, 212, 213, 216</p>
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