

Graduation Requirements

To be awarded a high school diploma from the Auburn School Department, students will be required to demonstrate achievement of all cross-curricular and content-area graduation requirements. These graduation requirements will ensure that each learner provides evidence that they have achieved expected learning standards and acquired the knowledge, skills and work habits that will prepare them for postsecondary experiences. Our schools will provide the interventions, support systems and personalized-learning experiences that each learner needs to meet the expected standards and graduate ready to be successful in pursuing postsecondary pathways.

Communicating Graduation Requirements

To ensure that every learner and family has the information and resources they need to appropriately plan and sequence the learner's educational decisions, our schools, educators, and staff will communicate, prior to entering high school and throughout the learner's high school educational career, the graduation standards and diploma requirements that must be met to earn a high school diploma. The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for ensuring that accurate, up-to-date information concerning all graduation standards and diploma requirements are (1) readily available to all incoming learners and their families in the spring preceding the start of each school year, and (2) published on the district and/or high school websites. A detailed guide to graduation standards, academic expectations, and diploma requirements will be disseminated to all incoming ninth-grade learners at the time of course selection. This policy will also be referenced in each edition of the high school student handbook and on the district and/or high school websites. As soon as practical and feasible, the School Committee expects the Superintendent or designee to inform all learners and their families of any modifications made to the district's graduation requirements, which extends to all applicable changes in relevant state law, rules or regulations. The School Committee has approved the following schedule of minimum requirements for graduation, which encompasses minimum graduation requirements specified by the state and described in relevant laws, rules and regulations.

Diploma Requirements

Core Areas (18 credits)

Core areas include all state and local standards. A credit is defined as a set of learning experiences that meet district standards (for example, classroom work, course work or approved alternative). Core area committees will define credit by aligning learning experiences with district standards.

Core Credits

5 credits Communications (English/Modern & Classical Language)

*4 credits must be in English

3 credits Math

3 credits Science

*One credit must be in Physical Science; one credit must be in Life Science

3 credits Social Science

*Required courses in American History, Government and Civics

2 credits Health/Fitness

*One credit must be in Physical Education; 1/2 credit must be in Health

1 credit Fine Arts

.5 credit Personal Finance

.5 credit Career Planning

Students in the Class of 2020 will graduate with the minimum required credits of 20. This is a reduction

of 4 credits from the current 24 required credits.

Core Areas: (Minimum of 16 credits)

Core areas include all state and local standards. A credit is defined as a set of learning experiences that meet district standards (for example, classroom work, course work or approved alternative). Core area committees will define credit by aligning learning experiences with district standards.

Core Credits

Minimum 4 Credits Communications (English/Modern & Classical Language)

*4 Credits must be in English

3 Credits Math

3 Credits Science

*One credit must be in Physical Science; one credit must be in Life Science

3 Credits Social Science

*Required courses in American History, Government and Civics

Minimum 1.5 Credits Health/Fitness

*One credit must be in Physical Education; 1/2 credit must be in Health

1 Credit Fine Arts

.5 Credit Career Planning

.5 Credit Personal Finance (Not required for Class of 2020)

Additional Learning Experiences (6 credits) (Class of 2020 - Minimum 4 credits)

Students will select a cluster of learning experiences (for example, vocational experiences, the arts, business and office technologies) totaling at least six credits.

Community Involvement (Waived for Class of 2020)

After securing pre-approval through a written proposal process, students will complete at least 24 hours of community service during high school.

Senior Exit Demonstration (Waived for Class of 2020)

A. Senior Exit Demonstration includes;

1. Individual Course Grid Sheet;
2. Community Service Documentation; and
3. A Written Reflection.

B. Seniors will present their Senior Exit Demonstration.

District and State Assessments (Waived for Class of 2020)

Students are required to take all assessments mandated by and in accordance with district guidelines and State statutes.

Educational Experiences (Waived for Class of 2020)

Learners must engage in educational experiences in English Language Arts; Mathematics; and Science and Technology in each year of high school.

Multiple Pathways

The Auburn School Department values all learning and provides access to a wide range of learning experiences, including but not limited to:

- Academic courses offered by the school
- Dual enrollment or early college courses
- Career and technical education programming
- Online or blended learning options
- Alternative or at-risk programming
- Independent study
- Apprenticeships, internships, field work or exchange experiences

- **Adult education**

In addition, the Auburn School Department encourages its learners to explore learning options outside of the school building. To pursue independent, outside-of-school learning options, learners must have an approved plan, which describes the learning experience, including how it satisfies diploma requirements.

Student Status

To be considered full-time, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) learning experiences. For learners who transfer to Edward Little High School from another school, state or home-schooling situation, including educational programs that are not aligned with Auburn School Department's cross-curricular and content-area graduation standards, the Principal or designee shall evaluate the learner's prior educational experiences and determine to what degree the learner has met the high school graduation requirements. Once enrolled in Edward Little High School, these learners shall satisfy graduation requirements as determined by the Principal or designee.

A home-schooled learner must be enrolled as a full-time student at Edward Little High School for a minimum of one school year prior to graduation in order to receive an Edward Little High School diploma. For previously home-schooled learners wishing to receive a diploma from Edward Little High School, the Principal/designee shall evaluate the learner's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation requirements in accordance with Policy IHBGA.

The Superintendent shall determine whether a student is eligible to receive a diploma.

Graduation Requirements for Learners Receiving Special Education Services

Learners who successfully meet the content standards of the Learning Results, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Programs (IEP), shall be awarded diplomas. The IEP team can identify accommodations and pathways for a learner with a disability, but the team cannot lower the graduation requirements to receive a diploma

Early Awarding of Diplomas

A learner who has met the graduation requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma. Learners who wish to exercise this option must file their intention with the Edward Little High School Principal by October 15th of the school year in which they plan to graduate.

Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

A learner who has satisfactorily completed the freshman year in an accredited degree-granting institution of higher education may receive a diploma provided Edward Little High School is the school last attended and the learner has notified the principal at the time of admission. A diploma may be awarded even though the learner does not meet all the Auburn School Department graduation requirements. Such decision shall be at the discretion of the Superintendent in accordance with the policies of the Auburn School Department School Committee.

Extended Study

Learners are eligible for extended years of study to complete the graduation requirements if they have not reached the age of 20 as of July 1st of the enrolling year. Extended study for learners with disabilities shall be specified in a learner's IEP.

Participation in Graduation Ceremony

Learners must complete all requirements of graduation in order to participate in commencement exercises.

Cross Reference: IHBGA - Equivalent Instruction Through Home Schooling
IHCD - Advanced College Placement
IHCDA - Post-Secondary Enrollment Options
IKFA - Early Graduation

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 4502(8), 4722-A, 6209
Chapter 101, 125, 127, 131, 132 (Maine Department of Education Rules)

Adopted: June 10, 1998

Revised: February 27, 2002, February 1, 2006, July 14, 2010, December 19, 2018, April 22, 2020