

Instruction

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

6146(a)

Introduction

To graduate from the Fairfield Public Schools a student must earn a minimum of 43 credits and meet the credit distribution requirement. A student must demonstrate the designated computer applications proficiency.

Beginning with the graduating Class of 2006, a student must also meet designated levels of academic proficiency in mathematics, reading across the disciplines, and writing across the disciplines. Beginning with the Class of 2008, a student must also meet designated academic proficiency in science.

Credit Requirements for Graduation

To meet the minimum requirements for a high school diploma, a student must earn 43 credits and achieve the following credit distribution:

English	8 credits
Math	6 credits
Science	6 credits
Social Studies	6 credits
	(7 credits beginning with the class of 2015)
Physical Education & Health	3.2 credits (16 units)
Arts / Vocational	2 credits

The 3.2 credit requirement in Physical Education & Health will be applicable with the class of 2014.

Both the 6 credit requirement in Science and 43 credit minimum requirement will be applicable to the class of 2009.

Demonstrate Computer Applications Proficiency

Demonstrate Academic Proficiency

Score at or above the Proficiency Level on each of four areas of The Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT): Mathematics, Reading Across the Disciplines, Writing Across the Disciplines and Science;

OR

Demonstrate proficiency on performance assessments, which correspond to any areas of CAPT, which fall below the designated score levels.

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High School Performance Standards

Math: A student who has not met the CAPT mathematics criterion must demonstrate proficiency in one of the following ways.

a. The student will be retested on the CAPT the following year in order to demonstrate proficiency by meeting the district's identified standard;

OR

b. The individual sub-tests of CAPT that do not meet the above criteria will be identified. Open-ended math problems, which correspond to these sub-tests and are appropriate to the content of the course in which the student is enrolled, will be constructed. Student work on these assessments will be retained in an electronic folder or in a work folder maintained by the student and monitored by the student's teacher. During the summer between junior and senior year, a committee of math teachers will examine this collective work, rate each assessment against an established rubric, and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.

c. Additional performance tasks will be provided during the fall of the senior year for those students who did not demonstrate proficiency on their junior demonstration folder. By the second week in January, a committee of mathematics teachers will examine this work against the established rubric and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.

d. A student who does not demonstrate proficiency in his senior demonstration folder must successfully complete a performance-based Senior Exit Program.

Reading Across the Disciplines consists of two sub-categories: Response to Literature and Reading for Information. A student who has not met the CAPT Reading Across the Disciplines criteria must demonstrate proficiency in one of the following ways.

a. The student will be retested on the CAPT the following year in order to demonstrate proficiency by meeting the district's identified standard;

OR

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Reading Across the Disciplines (continued)

Assessment instruments will be constructed by English teachers (Response to Literature) and social studies teachers (Reading for Information) to allow students to demonstrate proficiency in reading based on the CAPT criteria:

b. The individual sub-tests of CAPT, which do not meet the above criteria, will be identified. Reading assessments, which correspond to these sub-tests and are appropriate to the content of the course in which the student is enrolled, will be constructed. (The English department will be responsible for the subset of Response to Literature and the social studies department will be responsible for Reading for Information.) Student work on these assessments will be retained in an electronic folder or in a work folder maintained by the student and monitored by the student's teacher. During the summer between junior and senior year, a committee of English and social studies teachers will examine this collective work, rate each assessment against an established rubric, and determine if the work meets performance standards.

c. Additional performance tasks will be provided during the fall of the senior year for those students who did not demonstrate proficiency on their junior reading assessments. By the second week in January, a committee of English and/or social studies teachers will examine this work against the established rubric and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.

d. A student who does not demonstrate proficiency in his senior demonstration folder must successfully complete a performance-based Senior Exit Program.

Writing Across the Disciplines consists of two (2) subcategories, which are: Interdisciplinary Writing and Editing and Revising. A student who has not met the CAPT Writing Across the Disciplines criteria must demonstrate proficiency in one of the following ways.

a. The student will be retested on the CAPT the following year in order to demonstrate proficiency by meeting the district's identified standard;

OR

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Writing Across the Disciplines (continued)

Assessment instruments in English and social studies will be constructed to allow students to demonstrate proficiency in writing based on the CAPT rubrics. Internal assessment prompts will be constructed to allow students to demonstrate proficiency in writing in the following manner:

b. The individual sub-tests of CAPT, which do not meet the above criteria, will be identified. Writing assessments, which correspond to the two sub-tests and are appropriate to the content of the course in which the student is enrolled, will be constructed. Student work on these assessments will be retained in an electronic folder or in a work folder maintained by the student and monitored by the student's teacher. A committee of English and social studies teachers will examine this collective work, rate each assessment against an established rubric, and determine if the work meets performance standards.

c. Additional performance tasks will be provided during the fall of the senior year for those students who did not demonstrate proficiency on their junior writing assessments. By the second week in January, a committee of English and/or social studies teachers will examine this work against the established rubric and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.

d. A student who does not demonstrate proficiency in his senior demonstration folder must successfully complete a performance-based Senior Exit Program.

Science: A student who has not met the CAPT Science criterion must demonstrate proficiency in one of the following ways:

a. The student will be retested on the CAPT the following year in order to demonstrate proficiency by meeting the district's identified standard;

OR

b. The individual CAPT science standards that do not meet the above criteria will be identified. Performance tasks that correspond to these standards and are appropriate for the course in which the student is enrolled, will be constructed. Student's work on these tasks will be retained in an electronic folder or in a work folder maintained by the student and monitored by the student's teacher. During the summer between junior and senior year, a committee of science teachers will examine this collective work, rate each task against an established rubric, and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.

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Writing Across the Disciplines (continued)

c. Additional tasks will be provided during the fall of senior year for those students who did not demonstrate proficiency on their junior demonstration folder. By the second week in January, a committee of science teachers will examine this work against the established rubric and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.

d. A student who does not demonstrate proficiency in his/her senior demonstration folder must successfully complete a performance-based Senior Exit Program.

Procedures for Review of Student Work

The Headmaster(s) of Fairfield high school(s) and the appropriate curriculum leaders will appoint a committee of teachers. Student work will be submitted and reviewed at the end of the student's junior year. Students who do not meet the standards on either the CAPT retest(s) or the submitted demonstration folder will be allowed to submit another demonstration folder at the conclusion of the first semester of their senior year. Students who do not demonstrate proficiency will enroll in a designated senior project course and/or a designated math course.

Transfers

If a student transfers to a Fairfield high school after completing three (3) years of high school elsewhere, he may be exempt from Fairfield High School Performance Standards.

Notification: Teachers, Students, and Parents

The guidance department will formally notify students, their teachers, and their parents or guardians if the district's standard on the CAPT has not been met in the areas of Mathematics, Reading Across the Disciplines, and Writing Across the Disciplines. Students who have not met the district's standard will be encouraged to retake designated CAPT areas in the spring of their junior year and to submit a demonstration folder of their work by June 1st as indicated above. The results of the assessment of the student work will be communicated to students who have demonstrated proficiency on their folder of work by the second week of September. The results of the CAPT retest and the scoring of the folder of student work from the first semester of the senior year will be communicated by the guidance department via certified mail to the student and parent or guardian by the second week of January of the senior year.

Successful completion of a performance-based Senior Exit Program will be communicated to the students and parent or guardian by June 1st of the senior year.

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Options

If a student does not demonstrate proficiency as described, he may return to the high school for a fifth year, enroll in summer school, or register for appropriate night school classes.

Appeals

The headmaster(s) shall design and implement an appeals process. The final authority to determine proficiency on appeal will rest with the headmaster(s).

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-14n Statewide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination.
Limitation on use of test results
10-16(l) Graduation exercises (as amended by PA 96-108 An Act
Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the
Establishment of Graduation Dates)
10-221a High school graduation requirements (as amended by PA 00-156
An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II

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